

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Draft Minutes of 4/1/2011 State Board Meeting
 Introducing BCHC Youth Coordinator, Karen Lopes
 Insurance Update
 SEKI Status Report by Dick Cochran
 Rendezvous 2011 Highlights and Awards
 Unit News
 Events and Announcements

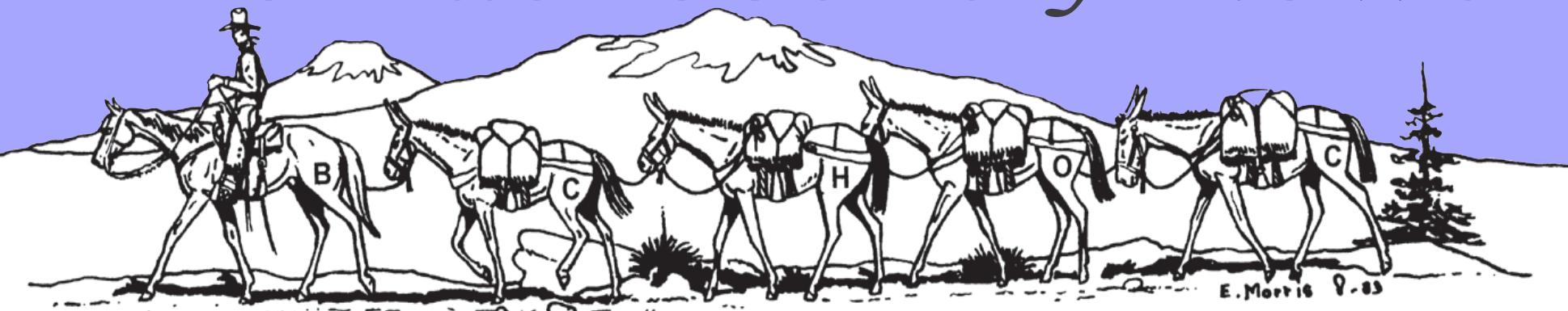
For more BCHC information, see our website:
[**bchcalifornia.org**](http://bchcalifornia.org)

NON PROFIT
 Organization
 U.S. Postage
 PAID
 Manteca, CA
 95336
 No. 43

BCHC

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN
 OF CALIFORNIA
 13061 Rosedale Hwy
 Suite G, Box 217
 Bakersfield, CA 93314
 ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

The Backcountry News



Volume 18, Issue 2

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

Spring/Summer 2011

SERPA WINS FIRST EVER PCTA DIAMOND HITCH AWARD!

Dave Harrison and Val Sokolowski, representatives of the Pacific Crest Trail Association, presented BCHC President Dennis Serpa the first ever Diamond Hitch Award at Rendezvous 2011's Saturday night dinner. Serpa and his pack stock logged over 400 hours on the PCTA in the past couple years, from Yosemite Valley to Carson Pass in the Emigrant Wilderness.

The Diamond Hitch Award recognizes packing services provided by a volunteer packer whose passion and ongoing commitment assists with maintenance of the PCT in Wilderness Areas and remote locations. Serpa was nominated for the award by a large contingent including Hank Magnuski, Daniel Morris, Bill Holt, Robert Ballou, Dave Harrison, Dolly B. Chapman, Justin Kooyman, Jan Le Pouvoir, John Le Pouvoir, and Adam Barnett.

The Pacific Crest Trail Association's mission is to protect, preserve and promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail as an internationally significant resource for the enjoyment of hikers and equestrians, and for the value that wild and scenic lands provide to all people. The annual awards serve as a means to recognize volunteers, partners and supporters for extraordinary achievement in helping fulfill the mission.

Traditionally these awards are presented at Trail Fest. Since Trail Fest is on hold, the PCTA announced the winners at their Annual Meeting on April 2 and is presenting the awards at local events or projects in each region.



LOS PADRES UNIT EARNS VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD SECOND YEAR IN A ROW! OVER \$1.2 MILLION! See Pages 16-19 for more Rendezvous winners

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor • Carol Jo Hargreaves

1229 Maple Hill Ct, Manteca, CA 95336-5125

(209) 823-3538 or (209) 988-5831

Email: news@bchcalifornia.org or cjhargreaves@verizon.net

Backcountry Horsemen of California Official Website:

www.bchcalifornia.org

Printed by The Manteca Bulletin and distributed by The Oakdale Leader

Publication Information: The Backcountry News is the official journal of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., published four times per year (three times 2008 - 2011). All rights reserved. It is an independent publication with news and information of interest to Backcountry Horsemen members, with an average circulation of approximately 4,000 per issue. Annual subscriptions are \$15.00 for non-members. Non-Profit postage paid at Manteca, CA.

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 may not be returned.

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

Deadline

August 19, 2011

December 16, 2011

April 20, 2012

Publication Date

September 2011 - Fall

January 2012 - Winter

May 2012 - Spring/Summer

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.

2011 Executive Committee

President

Dennis M. Serpa • (209) 848-4017 • dmserpa@cwnet.com

1st Vice-President

Sam Burrows • (530) 547-5975 • sburrows@frontier.com

2nd Vice-President

Carrie Johnen • (209) 245-5617 • CJubilee@comcast.net

Secretary

Kaye Bruns • (661) 944-4927 • kowgrl@juno.com

Treasurer

Lynn Joiner • (661) 747-6347 • lynnjoiner@sbcglobal.net

Co-Vice Presidents of Public Lands

Bruce DeMott • (209) 599-2620 • demott9@aol.com

Ruth Gerson • (818) 991-1236 • ruthgerson@aol.com

Co-Vice Presidents of Education

Lisa Deas • (831) 402-7482 • muledaze@yahoo.com

Dan Horn • (707) 544-4543 • bearstrap@msn.com

BCHA National Directors

Ann Lange • (760) 378-2113 • kvvet@onemain.com

Michael Murphy • (707) 332-1195 • m_murphy@sonic.net

BCHA Alternate Director

Dan Clifford • (619) 659-3038 • bigeasycowboy@mac.com

Past President

Larry Shuman • (530) 526-0590 or (530) 941-8529 • lshuman62@gmail.com

2011 State Coordinators

Accounting

Weir and Associates • (661) 323-1514

Annual Meeting

Kaye Bruns • (661) 944-4927 • kowgrl@juno.com

Editor

Carol Jo Hargreaves • (209) 988-5831 or (209) 823-3538 • news@bchcalifornia.org

Insurance

Sam Burrows • (530) 547-5975 • sburrows@frontiernet.net

Membership

Chip and Linda Herzig • Toll Free: (866) 748-2033 • membership@bchcalifornia.org

Rendezvous 2011

General Chairman: Larry Shuman • (530) 526-0590 or (530) 941-8529 •

lshuman62@gmail.net

Web Coordinator

Lisa Deas • (831) 402-7482 • muledaze@yahoo.com

Membership Matters

Contact Membership Coordinators, Chip & Linda Herzig. Chip or Linda will be happy to address your questions or concerns.

Chip & Linda may be reached Monday through Friday.

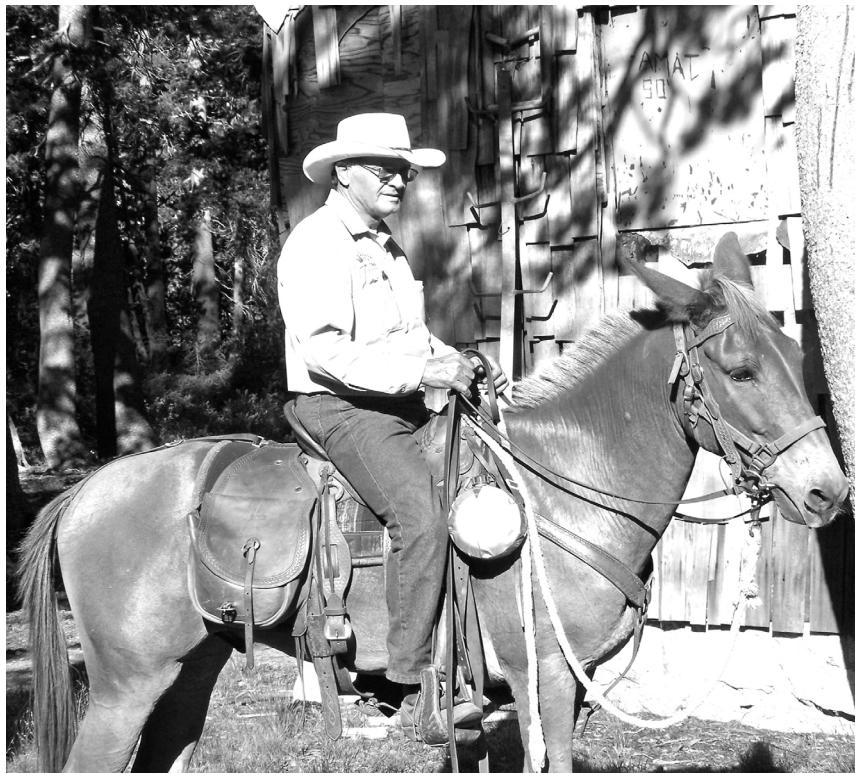
By mail: BCHC Membership

PO Box 535, Beaumont CA 92223

By email: membership@bchcalifornia.org

By toll free phone: (866) 748-2033. In 951 area code: 769-3781

President's Page



Greetings,

If you missed the 2011 Rendezvous you missed a great show. Larry [Shuman] and company did a great job and returned us to a very successful Rendezvous. We had some very interesting classes and sold out both dinners. Looks like a welcome return to profitability!

Have you ever thought about what you're going to do with your tack and animals when you get too old to still ride and pack? As I age I think about how many years I have left to pack - is it 20, 15, 10 (or less)? We never know what the future holds. What will I do with the thousands of dollars I have invested in tack and animals? Will our traditions fade away gradually with our aging membership? These thoughts lead me to thoughts of our youth, kids, grandkids, and friends' kids. What are you doing to bring these kids into BCHC and teach them our heritage? We need to instill in these children an appreciation of the beauties Mother Nature has to offer. If we don't do this, who will? Our youth will lose a great national treasure, one that built this country! Think and talk about this at your next family gathering! Let's not lose our greatest resource for the future!

We could spread the word of BCH traditions to local 4H, FFA, and any other youth groups. We could contact college age young adults. There are horse groups at many colleges and also natural resource classes that are training our nation's future public lands managers. These are key targets for our BCH message. UC Davis has a packing class - how can we interface with them? Maybe mutual benefits could be gained by both groups through a cooperative venture?

I know many units are already doing their share of programs for youth but with the many activities that today's youth are bombarded with; we all have to try harder to replace our BCHC ranks.

That brings me to membership numbers. Over the past few years our membership roster has been rather static. All units need to make gaining new members a priority to build our ranks and help us to continue with our goals. If we find youth that might have some interest in BCHC then we need to go after their parents for a Family Membership and we solve two problems - BCHC membership and future packers.

I propose a friendly contest among BCHC units to see which unit can gain the most members based on the highest percentage of their roster on 12-31-2010. We will develop a prize for the unit with the highest percentage gain in membership in 2011 and award the prize to that unit at Rendezvous 2012. More to come as we search for the right prize!

In my recent letter to Unit Presidents, I mentioned I was looking for a fund raising chairman. I have not received much interest in this very important task. Everyone seems to be afraid to step forward. If you have *any* interest, maybe not as chairman but to serve as part of a committee, we need your help! I foresee this committee as a sounding board between the state and the units for fund raising ideas. Both levels of the organization need funds to operate. Some units need help and the state Education Fund needs funds to distribute back to the units for educational projects. If we can help the units help the state we all win. This would help alleviate the pressure on the Rendezvous to be our main fund raiser. We plan to utilize some professional help to get this committee off to the right start.

'Tis the season to plan summer projects. I know my summer is already full! I hope you all get involved in some very rewarding projects. It always gives me a feeling of accomplishment when I do a project for the good of all!

I hope our trails meet soon,
Dennis



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
BCHC Fall State Board Meeting
Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA
October 14-15, 2011

BCHC Rendezvous 2012
Tehama District Fairgrounds, Red Bluff, CA
March 30 - April 1, 2012

Continued at top of next column

BCHC

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

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

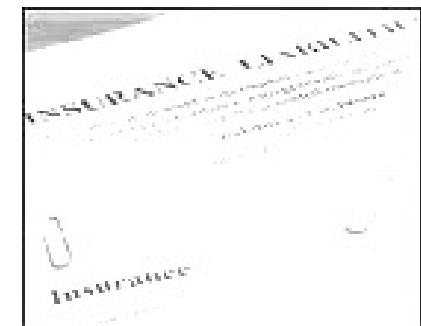


The deadline for submissions for the Fall 2011 edition of The Backcountry News is:
FRIDAY, AUGUST 19, 2011

Send submissions to news@bchcalifornia.org OR
cjohargreaves@verizon.net
OR mail to
1229 Maple Hill Ct., Manteca, CA 95336-5125

INSURANCE, WHAT CAN I SAY?

*By Sam Burrows, BCHC 1st VP/
Insurance Coordinator*



Please let me introduce myself. My name is Sam Burrows and my wife and I have been members of the BCHC for over 20 years. We originally signed up with the Redwood Unit way back when. Then we moved to the Redding area 16 years ago and have been with the Shasta-Trinity Unit since.

Anyway, somehow I volunteered to run for the 1st V.P. position of BCHC and I won by a landslide. Or was it that somebody threw my name in the hat and I couldn't find any place to hide when the vote happened? I'm not sure which. Seriously though, I will do everything that I can to help with your Insurance Requests and I am glad to be of service to you! Being the Insurance Director for BCHC is one of the responsibilities of the 1st V.P. Please don't forget that I am a volunteer, just like you.

The Insurance that we have is "Liability Only". The policy protects us as BCHC members from being sued by a non member for injuries or damage to property. Public Days should be requested any time that a Unit is doing something with riding or pack stock that involves non members. An example would be activities such as a parade or a pack clinic for members of the public. Additional Insured Certificates should only be requested when a landowner or government agency requests one. Nothing need be requested for Unit Rides or Unit Activities that are limited to BCHC Members Only.

Members cannot sue members and our insurance is not about paying your medical bills if you get hurt. The coverage is basically One Million Dollars Liability Protection. Last year it cost approximately \$3.31 per member for that protection. In my opinion that is a heck of a deal. Where else can you buy a million dollars worth of Liability Protection for less than \$4 a year? The good news is that our insurance rate did not go up this year. That is almost unheard of in the economy we are in. I believe part of that is due to the fact that we are all very careful in what we do and we don't have any claims for our Insurance Carrier to pay out. Keep up the good work!

Stay safe and I hope to see you on the trail, Sam Burrows

See Page 8 for the Insurance Report Sam provided at the State Board Meeting, 4/1/2011.

Draft State Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Friday, April 1, 2011
Tehama District Fairgrounds
Red Bluff, California

A. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1:24pm by President, Dennis Serpa.

B. Roll Call: Attendance was taken as Unit Directors signed in.

The following members were not present:

1. Ruth Gerson, Co-VP of Public Lands (medical)
2. Dan Clifford, BCHA Alt. Natl. Director
3. High Sierra Unit Directors
4. Sierra Freepackers Unit Director

C. Minutes: Steve Rennebu made the motion to accept the Minutes of October 16, 2010. Second by Maris Hawkins. Motion carried.

D. Secretary's Report/Correspondence: Kaye Bruns reported the correspondence since the October 16, 2010 State meeting (attached to the minutes).

E. REPORTS:

Treasurer's Report:

Lynn Joiner reported:
 -we gained a little bit in the 501(C)4 account
 -there will be a savings of \$6,000 this year because the Membership Coordinator is now a volunteer position
 -motion to approve the report was made by Toby Horst, second by Michael Murphy. Motion carried.

BCHA Action Report:

Michael Murphy reported on:
 -Wilderness Society: questions and answers available on the BCHA website
 -what is so special about being on a horse in the back country?
 -BCHA and Wilderness Society, agree to disagree
 -BLM: non-motorized travel management
 -Forest Service Planning Rule: check the BCHA website for more information
 -Public Land issues: check the BCHA website
 -Dennis Daly: monitoring trail classifications with the Forest Service
 -How do we co-exist with bicycles?
 -we need to get proactive
 -need to get along with other user groups
 -Jackson Hole is so crowded with bikes that you can't ride your horse there

Ann Lange reported on:

-BCHA volunteer hours: 2009 dollar value = \$7.5 million
 2010 dollar value = over \$8 million
 * copy of BCHA hours attached to minutes in Secretary's notebook
 -Kern Sierra Unit proposed a resolution to present to BCHA regarding airline travel to the yearly national meeting. Motion was made by Dave Rigoli to have this presented at the Board of Directors meeting. Second by Toby Horst. Motion carried.
 * copy attached to minutes in Secretary's notebook
 -American Horse Trails: budget process, can't wait to see funding decrease
 -budget cuts in Congress: effecting trails, BLM, wild horse and burros
 -RAC committee: this could be the last year
 -BCHA: Executive Committee is advisory only. When critical issues arise, they call all national directors. Ex. Committee has conference calls four times a year.
 -looking for 4-5 people to be on the Executive Committee, need to be a BCHA member. Need a resume and application. Goal: to organize BCHA as a business. Contact Ann Lange if you are interested.
 -Trail Classification System: Ann has a packet for those interested. Meet at the Fairgrounds office from 9:00-noon on Saturday. Dennis Daly has simplified the process to help make it easier to get this done.

Alan Hill, Public Liaison for BCHA reported on:

-three areas of concern: communication, organization and financing
 -December 2010: looked at the Constitution of BCHA- will allow changes to how things run.
 -plans to strengthen the organization, executive officers of BCHA are members of committees, assigned specific responsibilities, save money and be more efficient.

Insurance Report:

Sam Burrows reported on:
 -our insurance rates will remain the same as 2010
 -he reviewed our policy with the insurance carrier
 -insurance form is on our website: bchcalifornia.org
 -number of free public days:
 250 members or more = 3 free days
 200-249 members = 4 free days
 101-199 members = 5 free days
 100 members or less = 6 free days
 -you can buy extra free days at \$51.00, parades are a different rate
 -copy of the insurance policy will go to the Unit President, keep it secure.
 -requests go to Sam, and please try to give him a couple of weeks to prepare
 -a copy of Sam's report will be sent to Unit Presidents.

Membership Report:

Chip Herzig reported on:
 -2239 data base entries, 558 email notifications, saving \$612/year
 -requesting all unit members' emails to Chip

Draft State Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, *continued from Page 5*

- Feb/March: sent out 500 renewal notices
- Dennis Serpa made the comment that we need 4,000 members to help solve the budget issue
- we have picked up 300 new members since January
- working on a website link to renew membership
- there is a new password for 2011, to gain access to membership data

Education Committee: Dan Horn reported on:

- membership brochure-use as a sales tool to recruit members. Eventually the information will be available on a CD with music and narrative. The DVD will cost approx. \$1.50 per copy to the units. Power point presentation can be emailed now.
- membership booklet: generic version has state information, custom version you will add your own unit information.
- tri-fold membership: same set-up with generic and custom versions
- presentation of program that will show how to report volunteer hours. We are looking for consistency in gathering information for BCHC.

Public Lands: Bruce DeMott reported on:

- objective and purpose on the website is accurate, need to clean up the information in the directory.
- this was the third meeting discussing Coordination
 - first meeting, professional presentation
 - second meeting, DVD and Primer
 - third meeting, 190 page book and we highlighted information
- Public Lands is not a protest group, we have meaningful tools where we can get their attention.
- Forest Plan is using the word "collaborate" instead of "coordinate"
 - when making a comment, put it in the form of a question, by law they have to record and comment on it.

** motion made by Toby Horst and second by Becky Wolk:

The Public Lands Committee, with review by the Executive Committee, to respond to the Forest Service Planning Rule, before the deadline date with assistance from Stan Sylva.

Other speakers:

- Bonnie Davis spoke on the American Disability Act, allowing motorized vehicles on public land trails.
- Mother Lode: Wilderness Society concerns
- Alan Hill spoke on BCHA and Wilderness Society- agree to disagree. We are also getting real support from the top.

New Planning Rule, May 16, 2011 final time to get in comments.

-Thor Bodtke: presented his informational book on contacts. He asked that each unit complete as much information for their area as possible.

-Carole Polasek: May 16th deadline for Forest Service Planning Rule, how do we respond?

-Bob Magee: Utilization of Freedom of Information Act

**see agenda from this meeting, attached to minutes in Secretary's notebook

Public Service: Carrie Johnen reported on:

- 2010 volunteer hours from all but two units= \$4,124,566.64
- 41,311 contacts
- 5,270 trail miles

-BCHC represents 14-35% of the volunteer hours presented to BCHA

Youth Coordinator: Karen Lopes reported on:

- her responsibilities for BCHC
- has been gathering ideas to better involve our youth
- will create handouts for our units
- will assist the Education Committee on how to get youth involved
- gave her email address: karenlopeshorses@att.net
- we need to get youth to our activities so they have fun
- ideas she has received from other units:
 - participate in local fairs with displays
 - youth groups on work projects
 - annual boat and ride campout
 - packing demonstrations and clinics
 - presentations with scouts, 4-H, FFA
 - FFA has a contest where they need to tie a diamond and box hitch
- recruit whole families, and have activities for the kids
- will write articles for the newsletter on kids activities

Website: Lisa Deas reported on:

- buckles will be sold on the site
- site is updated and a work in progress. Let Lisa know if there are any problems.
- Wilderness Riders applications are at the State Booth

Newsletter: CJ Hargreaves reported on:

- newsletters going to several events:
 - Equine Affaire, No. Cal Expo, Rendezvous, Clovis Rodeo, Mule Days, Vaquero Days, Horse Expo, LA County Fair.
- deadline for the next edition will be April 15th

Travel Site: CJ Hargreaves reported on:

- BCH Getaway, down slightly
- reminder of Zamzoo link with over 700 stores to shop.

F. Old Business:

1. Reminder that President and/or Directors need to make sure the Secretary has their voting changes on time.

G. New Business:

1. Lynn Joiner presented the recommendation from the Executive Committee to the BOD, regarding a Certificate of Deposit. Discussion was held. Motion to approve was made by Lloyd Erlandson, second by Carole Polasek. Motion carried.
2. Membership changes: Chip Herzig wanted to know if we should put the data base on line? BOD's said yes. Access will be unit specific, and is different than we use now. It will be much easier for Chip and Lisa, plus you can get information 24/7.

Newsletter "Address Service Requested" this means when a newsletter is returned, it costs \$0.75. We need to make sure we have correct addresses for our unit members.

Bill Chaides made a motion to have a dues increase, with the State paying insurance. Second by Nancy Kimmel. Discussion was held, there was a call for the question. Motion was not

Ccintined at top of next column

Ccintined on Page 7

Draft State Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, *continued from Page 6*

approved.

3. Policy Review: CJ Hargreaves, Lynn Joiner and Kaye Bruns will review the BCHC Policy Manual to evaluate/analyze information so that it can be a working manual.

4. PO Box change for the State Address: motion made by Toby Horst with a second by Carole Polasek. New address will be 13061 Rosedale Highway, Suite G, Box 217, Bakersfield, California 93314. Motion carried. This change does not require a revision of the BCHC Bylaws.

5. Dismissal of members: Policy Manual of 1993 states how to dismiss a member

Idea is to change from the Policy Manual to Bylaws so that it doesn't get lost. Policy is not enforceable, Bylaws are. Will need to change some language. Motion made by Paul Villanueva, second by Thor Bodtker.

First Reading: Discipline- Proposed Bylaw Revision

This provision is a means by which a Unit Board may suspend or expel any member of the organization whose conduct is deemed in conflict with the organization's goals and purposes. This action requires a two-thirds (2/3) vote of the members present at a regular meeting.

The member shall be given written notice of removal for cause thirty (30) days in advance of the intended suspension or expulsion.

Written notice shall include instruction that the member may submit a written response to the Unit Board and shall specify the time and place such written response may be submitted. The member must be given at least ten (10) days to submit a written response.

If the Unit Board decides in favor of suspension or expulsion, both the member and the BCHC Membership Coordinator shall be notified, in writing, within ten (10) days, of the action taken.

Vote taken: 1 opposed Motion carried

Second reading will take place at the October State Board of Director's Meeting. A copy of this Proposal will be sent to all Unit Presidents.

6. Unit Fundraising: Dennis Serpa is looking for someone to chair this position. Contact him if you are interested.

7. Idea of a Life Time Membership: there would be a sliding fee as you get older.

8. Bylaws: North Bay and Santa Ana River had their Bylaws reviewed by the Executive Committee. Motion to approve by Steve Rennebu, second by Becky Wolk. Motion carried.

H. Announcements/Other Business:

1. Rendezvous 2012: rural venue at Woodlake, east of Visalia
-less education in classrooms, more hands-on, working

Ccniued at top of next column

with PCT

- ranch adjacent to grounds to have trail trials
- no hook-ups
- geared for BCHC members only
- very few buildings
- cost \$500.00/day
- lots of Forest Service involvement
- third weekend in March
- other venues being checked out too

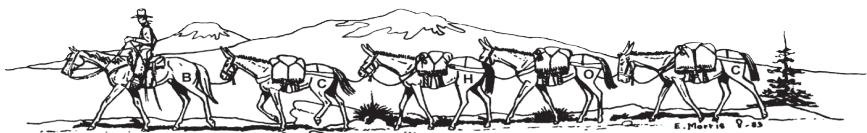
2. New mailing address for Antelope Valley Unit: PO Box 84, Pearblossom, CA 93553

3. Roland Schmitz, Santa Ana River Unit: Best of America By Horseback coming to Norco, May 6-7-8, 2011. BCHC will be getting some national television coverage on RFD TV.

I. Adjournment: Meeting was adjourned at 5:17pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Bruns
BCHC Secretary



THE BCHC EDUCATION FUND IS A 501c3 NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

A donation in the amount of your choice is tax deductible.

You can now donate easily and quickly, using a major credit card or PayPal.

Simply go to the BCHC website (bchcalifornia.org), scroll down to the bottom of any page, press the DONATE button and help us in our many efforts.

THANK YOU!

BCHC



BCHC LIABILITY INSURANCE REPORT

By Sam Burrows, BCHC 1st Vice President and Insurance Coordinator

The rate charged BCHC for Liability Insurance for 2011 will remain the same as it was in 2010.

The insurance policy is due for renewal as of 4/1/11. I have copies of the Renewal Application that will need to be signed by someone from each of the Units.

Breakdown of our coverage:

Underwritten by ACORD Insurance.

Our Insurance Agent is: Jorene Mize, P.O. Box 340, North Fork, CA 93643. Phone # (559) 877-7631 Fax # (559) 877-7634

The actual coverage is \$1,000,000 each occurrence/\$50,000 each occurrence-to rented premises/\$5,000 Medical Expenses-any one person/\$2,000,000 General Aggregate.

Request for Public Days:

Public Days should be requested when the BCHC participates in any ride such as a parade, fair exhibits, packing demonstration, etc. where there is any chance that animals could make contact with anyone who is not a member of the BCHC. The Public Day should also be requested for any ride where non members will be participating in the ride.

An Insurance Certificate is not needed for an event where there is no chance of the public being in the proximity of any of the animals such as meetings, dinners, parties, etc.

The top portion of the BCHC Insurance Request Form is for Public Day Requests. Please fill out this portion of the form with as much information as possible.

Units are eligible for "Free" Public Days on the following basis:

- Units with up to 100 members are eligible for 6 Free Public Days.
- Units with membership between 101 and 199 are eligible for 5 Free Public Days.
- Units with membership between 200 and 249 members are eligible for 4 Free Public Days.
- Units with membership of 250 members or more are eligible for 3 Free Public Days.

After the Free Public Days have been used up I believe the charge for each additional Public Day is \$51. This will be paid to our Insurance Carrier by our BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner.

Request for an Agency or Individual to be named "Additional Insured":

Each Unit is eligible for one (1) free Additional Insured Certificate per year. The Additional Insured Certificate is sometimes referred to as "Coinsured or Insurance Certificate". Each time a Unit requests an Additional Insured Certificate beyond the free one the cost is \$25. All billing for our Liability Insurance is paid through our BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner.

Government Agencies, Parks Departments and sometimes private land owners will request to be named as Additional Insured. Let them make the request and our insurance carrier will be glad to supply the document. *When an agency or individual asks to be named as Additional Insured, please fill out the bottom portion of the BCHC Insurance Request Form with as much information as you can provide.* The wording is very specific when dealing with Government Agencies. If they have a copy of how they want the wording done it is a good idea to get it from them.

We should never suggest to someone that they request to be named as Additional Insured because that puts our insurance carrier on the line to provide them with an attorney in the event of a claim.

Jorene Mize has stated that she will send copies of our insurance policy after it has been renewed. She also pointed out that we should never give anyone a copy of our insurance policy. That is what the Additional Insured Certificate is for.

BCHC Insurance Request Form:

There is a form available on the BCHC website. It is the last form in the "Forms" link. It cannot be filled out on the computer from our website. I have a "Word" copy of the form that Lisa Deas was kind enough to convert for me and I am more than glad to send it via email to anyone who wants to use it. This form hasn't been used for several years and there are only a few people who knew that it exists. It kind of slipped through the cracks for a while.

Insurance Request Process:

Jorene Mize would like to have all of the requests sent to me so that I can look them over and request more information from the requesting Unit if needed. I have a much better idea of what to look for now than I did a few weeks ago.

Page 42 of the BCHC Leadership Training Manual has been updated to correspond with these instructions. Also on page 42 of the Leadership Training Manual is the paragraph that reads: "Each Unit should establish an insurance coordinator known to the BCHC Insurance Director."

I sent an email out to all of the Unit Presidents asking for input about the BCHC Insurance Form and the main concern was the need to clarify the line that reads "Approx. number of public attendees:" I changed this to "Approx. number of public attendees/non members." on the Word Document that I have. This was done in response to the requests and to reflect the need to update the form.

Public Lands

PUBLIC LANDS REPORT

By Bruce DeMott, BCHC Co-Vice President of Public Lands

Friday, April 1, 2011 at the Tehama District Fairgrounds in Red Bluff the Public Lands Committee meeting convened. A full agenda included representatives from the Mother Lode, Shasta Trinity, Ohlone Riders, North Bay, Redwood and Mid Valley Units. These units made presentations on concerns regarding the Forest Service proposed new Planning Rule and the response deadline date of May 16, 2011; BCHA and BCHC'S relationship with the Wilderness Society; the Americans With Disabilities Act; a comprehensive guide to various Wilderness areas with contact information, and a progress report on Tuolumne County's implementation of Coordination with agencies. All Unit Public Lands Liaisons present received a 193-page booklet of detailed examples from counties in Texas, Kansas and Fremont County, Wyoming that had successfully implemented the Coordination process.

The Tuesday following Rendezvous a model of a previous, detailed DEIS response was e-mailed to all Unit Public Lands Liaisons. The previous DEIS response was intended as a model for those struggling with how to respond. The model suggests including:

- What do you support
- What do you not support
- State the areas of conflict (refer to DEIS numbering system to help follow up with your document).
- State the areas of support for the particular alternative you have chosen
- Make reference to what the particular alternative choice means to you.

During the State Board Meeting held Friday, 4/1/2011, the BCHC Board of Directors mandated an official response from BCHC. That process is a work in progress by a Public Lands Co-VP.

For those wishing information on the relationship of BCHA with The Wilderness Society, you may e-mail me and I will forward a copy of the BCHA position statement. The statement clearly establishes that BCHA and The Wilderness Society (TWS) will support each other on issues when they can and disagree when they have to.

Also available is a copy of TWS's Sustainable Recreation Principles. "They apply not only to remote wilderness areas set aside by Congress for more primitive recreation but also to our most popular parks visited by people from around the world in cars, campers and recreational vehicles. These principles address competing concepts. The art of making them work is to balance recreation needs and trade-offs to make sure that public lands are used and enjoyed frequently and responsibly now and into the future."

Contact information for the presentations made are:

- Bonnie Davis, horsecamping@comcast.net for information on the Americans With Disabilities Act.
- Alan Hill, athill01@charter.net for BCHA and the Wilderness Society.

Continued at top of next column

- Thor Bodker, thunder.t@hotmail.com, Guide to Various Wilderness areas with Contact Information.
- Bob Magee, sanbobs1@live.com, Tuolumne County Coordination progress.

An on-line forum has been developed for those wishing to exchange and keep track of information under a topic headline. Rather than search e-mail for previous discussions, the forum can be utilized with all the discussions kept under the particular topic. This forum can be a great tool for sharing with each other and a learning process for those working in similar areas and subjects. If you want to progress through others and benefit from their experiences you can utilize this tool by contacting Bruce De Mott, demott9@aol.com.

Thanks for a wonderful Rendezvous!!

ON-LINE PUBLIC LANDS FORUM

BCHC Public Lands Chairs now have a group forum in which to share, learn from each other's experiences, ask questions and understand. The first topic for discussion is the process of "Coordination". Go to the Public Lands page of the BCHC website (www.bchcalifornia.org) to participate. If you have questions about how the forum works, contact Bruce DeMott or Ruth Gerson, Co-VPs of Public Lands for BCHC.

THANK YOU!!

Backcountry Horsemen of California thanks

**Lynn Joiner
Nancy Kimmell
Kathryn Matthews**

for using the BCH Getaway Travel Site.



Thanks to this support (and that of previous site users), the BCHC Treasury is earning almost \$80 each year!! WE COULD BE EARNING MORE! Remember to use the travel site every time you take a trip, send a gift, or shop!

Public Lands

HIGH SIERRA HIKERS ASSOCIATION REQUESTS ELIMINATION OF PACK STATION IN SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK

*Submitted by Richard H. (Dick) Cochran,
Public Lands Liaison, High Sierra Unit*

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, located in Central California, are presently engaged in developing a management plan and an environmental assessment for an area of Sequoia National Park named Mineral King. Mineral King is a high alpine valley in which the Walt Disney Corporation once contemplated building a massive ski resort. Mineral King, before it was brought into Sequoia National Park, at various times in the historical past had as many as four commercial pack stations and was the embarkation point for numerous private stock users.

The commercial pack station at Mineral King is not presently in operation. The previous operator of the station also operated a commercial pack station in the area of Sequoia National Park called Wolverton. That commercial pack station is also presently closed.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are presently in the process of working on a new management plan for Mineral King. In that regard, they have initiated and concluded public scoping on the plan. After the scoping period ended Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks published a report about the comments received by them from various individuals and entities. The comments received from the High Sierra Hikers Association (HSHA) are particularly disturbing to stock users. One of the comments made by the HSHA regarding stock use reads as follows:

"It is our understanding that the MKMP [Mineral King Management Plan] will not include any action(s) related to the former Mineral King pack station. In brief, the High Sierra Hikers Association is very concerned that any action(s) to re-open or relocate the pack station, or to otherwise establish or re-establish commercial packing services in or near the Mineral King Valley would create significant, adverse environmental impacts both in Mineral King and in the surround [sic] fragile wilderness areas."

The HSHA, however, do not stop there in their request to SEKI. The HSHA comment goes on to say that SEKI should consider and adopt an alternative to remove all structures at the former pack station site. The comment also states that SEKI should not consider any action to reopen or relocate the former pack station. The comment states that there is no need for commercial pack and saddle stock services in Mineral King or surrounding areas. The comment concludes by stating that the easy thing for SEKI to do in its Mineral King Management Plan would be to raze the ugly, decrepit structures, and restore the former pack station site to natural conditions.

The HSHA has sued SEKI multiple times over stock-related issues. The HSHA is presently involved in litigation with SEKI over its General Management Plan. That lawsuit is grinding along in United States District Court in San Francisco.

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks commenced work on a Wilderness Stewardship Plan several years ago but stopped work on the plan. The parks have now started working on the Wilderness Stewardship Plan again and have commenced their scoping for the plan. It is expected that the HSHA will insist that SEKI consider, as an alternative for the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, an alternative that eliminates stock use. Stock use is less than five (5) percent of the use in SEKI.

In their effort to augment the administrative record in their lawsuit against SEKI regarding the General Management Plan, one of the documents the HSHA wanted added to the administrative record was a letter written by a hiker to SEKI. The letter complained that stock users in an adjacent camp were enjoying their use of the SEKI back country by bringing along a folding aluminum table, a two burner Coleman stove, and cold beers.

PCTA ANNUAL AWARDS

Congratulations, Chip and Linda Herzig, for being selected as 2010 Above & Beyond Award winners in honor of your extraordinary efforts to preserve and protect the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. Thank you for your passion and hard work. You do so much for the Trail and we at the Pacific Crest Trail Association think it is time to recognize your achievements.

Traditionally these awards are presented at Trail Fest. Since Trail Fest is on hold, the winners were announced at our Annual Meeting last Saturday. Anitra Kass will work with you to find a local venue at which to be presented your award.

Thanks again for all that you do for the Trail. Together we are making a difference – one mile at a time.

Best Wishes ~ Jen

Jennifer Tripp
Trail Operations Manager

Pacific Crest Trail Association
1331 Garden Highway
Sacramento, CA 95833
(916) 285-1853 (direct line)
(916) 243-9923 (cell)
<http://www.pcta.org>



Continued at top of next column

Public Lands



California Equestrian Trails & Lands Commission (CET&LC) 2010 IN REVIEW

By John Keyes, CET&LC Chairman

To begin with we all were very busy fighting to save historic trails, stop dangerous trails and make sure that the Public Land Agencies did their jobs in maintaining the land they operate.

The effort by the membership of CET&LC is not just one or two people but many people dedicated to the efforts and guidelines of CET&LC.

- 1) CET&LC was again involved with USFS Water Quality Management program meetings
- 2) Sent a letter concerning the Tahoe Rim Trail
- 3) Sent a letter to Bruce DeMott (BCHC Public Lands VP) so he could give a report from CET&LC
- 4) CET&LC worked with the Common Ground Group on trails in the Santa Barbara Area
- 5) Sent a letter concerning the Folger Barn Issue in the San Mateo Parks Department
- 6) Working on the Emigrant Trail Project in Nevada County
- 7) Sent a letter to John Mercurcol, Chair of the California Trails Committee, concerning the five openings on this Committee and the relevance of this Committee
- 8) Green Valley Family Equestrian Camp is now open by State Parks in the Cuyamaca Valley, California State Parks
- 9) Sent a letter endorsing the area called River Ridge Ranch in the Springville California area
- 10) Sent a letter to Mary B. Reents concerning the horse staging area in the Pismo Beach area. Also contacted Ms. Reents and relayed the message that CET&LC hopes that she will not go against the promises made to the equine stakeholders about having a trail head in the Pismo Beach Area.
- 11) Sent a letter via BCHC Public Lands VP to the Deputy Chief of the National Forest Service concerning the National Forest Service Wilderness Management Manual

CET&LC 2010 IN REVIEW, continued

- 12) Worked with Donna Williams on the South Fork of the American River Trail
 - 13) Lynn Brown, Southern California VP CET&LC has been working with many members in Los Angeles to help stop the destruction by mountain bikes on trails on Los Angeles trails
 - 14) Hired Mr. Bill Davis and Ms. Tara Steele to help form and deliver a letter to California State Parks concerning their new Change-In Use Forms that can cripple access to trails on State Parks lands. The two did a marvelous job.
-

AHC RELEASES REPORT ON EQUESTRIAN ACCESS ON FEDERAL LAND

On April 19, 2011 the American Horse Council released its [2010 Report on Equestrian Access on Federal Land](#). The 2010 report is intended to provide a brief overview of the responses the AHC received from equestrians to its ongoing access survey in 2010.

In July, 2009 the American Horse Council launched its effort to collect information regarding equestrian access issues on federal lands. The center piece of this initiative is a online form riders can use to report their personal experiences regarding trails on federal lands that have been closed to them or other access issues. Anyone wishing to participate in the study may find the online form on the AHC website at <https://www.horsecouncil.org/survey.php>.

This effort was prompted by a growing concern among recreational riders around the country that they were seeing a reduction in the number of trails and trail heads open to equestrians on federal land.

In March, 2010 the AHC released its first report on equestrian access, the [2009 Report Equestrian Access on Federal Land](#), which can be viewed on the AHC website.

The 2009 report has been used successfully by the AHC to inform members of Congress, federal land mangers and other recreational users of the issues some equestrians have experienced. “The 2009 report was a great success and has been used by the AHC to inform members of Congress, federal land mangers and other recreational users of the issues some equestrians have experienced,” said AHC Legislative Director Ben Pendergrass.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans use horses and pack stock to enjoy America’s great outdoors each year. However, it is an experience that cannot be enjoyed without access to public land, trail systems, and trailheads.

“The AHC uses these reports to illustrate some of the challenges facing recreational riders,” said AHC President Jay Hickey. “Our federal land mangers work hard and there are many great recreational opportunities on federal land. However, the equestrian community needs to be vigilant concerning any loss of access to federal land.”

The AHC plans to continue its effort to collect information regarding equestrian access. The AHC encourages all recreational riders to report their experiences to the AHC using this electronic form.

Continued at top of next column

BCHC Youth Coordinator



INTRODUCING NEW BCHC YOUTH COORDINATOR

By Karen Lopes, BCHC Youth Coordinator

Hello! I'm your new "Youth Coordinator" for BCHC. I am excited about the task I have been assigned...to assist local units with getting their younger members more involved within their units. To get started, I will simply share with you the great youth-oriented activities that are already taking place at our local units around the state! We don't have to re-invent the wheel...there are activities out there that are excellent ways for our youth members to get involved. I will be featuring several ideas in each State Newsletter, and how they could be implemented. Hopefully you will find an idea that can work for your unit, and incorporate one of these activities into your existing events that will bring more focus on your younger members. I sent a survey to the Education Chairs prior to the Rendezvous, and that is where I will start...sharing the ideas from the survey results.

Let me give you just a brief personal background. I teach science at Yosemite High School in Merced. I also teach a Western Riding/Horsemanship class at Merced College. I love teaching...and even more so when I can share my love and passion for the wilderness and horses with others. I completed the Wilderness Rider program in 2007, and enjoy working with our local agency during the summers to educate other users about LNT and Gentle Use. I also enjoy clearing trails in the backcountry, and I am learning about packing from some of the best! I am hopeful that through some of my efforts, you will explore new ways to get the next generation of backcountry

Ccntinued at top of next column

users excited about preserving the wilderness, and the right to ride our stock in the backcountry, for generations to come.

So...here are a couple of ideas to get started!

#1: County Fairs—What an opportunity! Fair season is just getting started! Call the livestock superintendent of your local fair, and ask if you could put on a pack clinic and/or educational table display for a day, or even longer. Depending on your space, and number of volunteers, you could possibly put on a Youth Pack Clinic...using iron mules of course, for the 4-H and FFA kids that are showing at the fair. You may be able to set up a "Gentle Use" campsite, with signage to describe the setting. If you could put up a highline...even better! You might be able to have livestock there...in an enclosed pen...so they get the kids/visitors attention; but they won't be "in-contact" with them. One unit actually has a small saddle on a sturdy stand for the little kids to sit on for a picture. And...to get every visitor's attention...have those Dutch Oven's cooking up something tasty! This could be a one day, 2-3 volunteer activity; or you could be there for the entire length of your fair, and have 20 volunteers working on this event. If you don't already have some type of involvement with your local fair...**TRY THIS!!**

#2: Scavenger Hunt—Simple!! At your next Trail Ride, or Camp-Out...plan a little scavenger hunt for the youth! Depending on the age, you may have them work in pairs or teams...mixing the younger kids with the older kids works too. Make up a list of simple things...hoof pick, Gentle-Use Pin, trash, rock with particular color/shape, leaf, etc... Of Course...these items would all have to be returned to their original location! Let the adults know that the kids will be asking to borrow some items, but they will be returned. You could incorporate a smidgen of LNT into this activity by making sure that the kids return the rock and leaf to their original locations. The only thing that they can physically take from nature is the trash! This is a fun event...caution the kids about rattlesnake safety...they shouldn't be sticking their hands on the cool side of a rock on a sunny day if they are in rattlesnake territory reaching for a piece of trash! You may even begin with some basic safety around horses...kids love to run...tell them they have to walk when they are in camp and around the horses.

These ideas came from various units, but if you would like to know more about how a particular unit is already using this activity, send me an e-mail and I will get you connected with the people who are already doing these activities! My home phone number is (209) 357-3055, and my e-mail is karenlopeshorses@att.net. Please send me suggestions, questions, or any concerns you have about "How to get our youth more involved with BCHC!" Hope to hear from you!! Karen

Have ideas, questions or concerns about youth activities?

Please contact Karen Lopes, BCHC Youth Coordinator.
Home: (209) 357-3055
Email: karenlopeshorses@att.net

Education

BCHC EDUCATION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

April 1, 2011, Rendezvous 2011

By Lisa Deas/Dan Horn, BCHC Co-Vice Presidents of Education

In the last 10 years BCHC membership has gone from around 5000 down to under 3500. So this fall we decided to try and develop some new tools to assist you all with finding and keeping new members.

We have revised and up dated some of the old hand outs. The “Who We Are and What We Do” document has been up dated with some structure language, Web info and our new mailing address. This revised document is on BCHC Web Site under BCHC Forms.

The BCHC Informational Tri-fold brochure with membership application we have up dated and revised. There are two versions available for your use. The PDF version is generic with all the basic information, full list of all the units and membership application. There is a Word version of the same document except the text box where the full list of units was blank. This blank text box is the only area in this document that a unit is authorized to modify. If you would like to insert your unit information, please use only the text box. We like to keep consistency in State documents, so please do not modify this document out side of the text box. There is a sample of custom unit info that North Bay inserted.

We have created a New Member Booklet. There are two generic versions for those units that do not want to do any customizing. One is a short version with just general information about BCHC and one is a long version with all the Educational Flyers in it. There is also a short and long version with blank pages if you would like to customize either for your unit. Lisa and I will help you with customizing for your unit. We can put a picture of your unit activity on the front cover and assist with inserting pictures and story that you provide. Feel free to contact us.

Over the last three years I have been collecting pictures and information from all our California units to create a Power Point Presentation with the sole purpose of being used as a sales tool for letting the public know about Backcountry Horsemen. It is only about 40 slides long and will work great for presentations to other organizations or groups. This is way to big a file to email, so contact me if you would like a copy. The cost is \$0.75 plus \$1.50 shipping. The end goal is to convert this to a DVD with music and narration so units can use at information booths or hand out to perspective new members. We hope to keep the cost down to under \$1.50 per disk plus shipping. We also plan to convert to something like a U-tube video to put up on web sites.

We also have a new instructional tool on how to fill out a Volunteer Hours Report form. There is one for the general membership and one for Wilderness Riders. This works for even those that have never opened an Excel file before. Try It! We have revised the instruction and definitions page with up dates as to where hours are posted, mostly concerning Contacts and Educational time. Please review this document.

Ccntinued at top of next column

Along with Volunteer reports we have created a new saddle bag version that prints on a single 8.5 x 11 format. Carry in your truck or use as a sign in sheet for projects. Then just enter information in your Excel Volunteer Report work book once you get home. Life is simple.

After two years we finally were able to get the Officers Leadership Manual converted to a document file that we could work in. The Public Land and the Educational sections have been updated and thanks to CJ the spelling has been corrected. The latest version is now available on the State Web Site under BCHC Forms. Thanks to Ruthie Heuer, Jo Johnson, Bruce Demott and CJ Hargreaves for their hard work.

We would like to thank all of you for your efforts with BCHC Education in making 2010 an exceptional year.



WILDERNESS RIDER STEERING COMMITTEE

*By Lisa Deas/Dan Horn,
BCHC Co-Vice Presidents of Education*

2010 was a very productive year for BCHC Wilderness Riders. For a small group of around 35 active members, the Wilderness Riders totaled \$324,763.87 in volunteer value, including 1103 total stock days and 54,948 combined travel miles.

As in every group there is always one person that stands out every year. For this accomplishment each year we give a Wilderness Rider of the Year Award. The top nomination for 2010 read, “The Western Divide Ranger District, Sequoia National Forest would like to recognize Rick Jacobsen for his work in the Golden Trout Wilderness. Rick is a big guy who can mend, repair, and move anything. Priscilla Summers, District Ranger.”

Congratulations Rick Jacobsen, Wilderness Rider of the Year 2010!

Thanks to Lisa Deas, Donna Meier, Lynn Joiner, Bonnie Searcy, Carolyn Gilmore, and Bill and Laurie Knispel for the outstanding job teaching our Gentle Use Core classes at Rendezvous this year.

2011 is the year of our Wilderness Rider Training for new students. At Rendezvous in Red Bluff we had 13 BCHC members apply. Unfortunately we can only take 10 per training year. Over the next month we will be checking references and make the final cut. The training will be at Granite Creek Campground in the Sierra National Forest, September 3 through 8. The first two days of training will be to certify our new students as Trainers of Leave No Trace with Outdoor Ethics. Then they will load up and pack in for the remainder of the trip, performing hands-on training and applying Gentle use and Leave No Trace principles.

Thanks to all the Wilderness Riders that made the drive to Red Bluff and helped make Rendezvous 2011 one of the most successful in years!!

Education



THE IMPORTANCE OF WRITTEN CONTRACTS WITH TRAINERS

By John Alan Cohan, Attorney at Law

We all know that recordkeeping is important for tax purposes, as well as for keeping track of day-to-day developments in one's horse activities—whether in racing or breeding. One area that is often neglected, however, pertains to written contracts with trainers.

Written contracts are important with trainers not only to protect the parties from unexpected legal liability, but also to provide documentary evidence in the case of an IRS audit. Auditors will ask to see business records associated of the horse venture, and often revenue agents find it incomprehensible that anyone involved in the horse business would not have written contracts with trainers.

The contract should make it clear that the trainer is undertaking the training of the animals listed in the agreement and/or to educate the owner on how to train them. The agreement should specify the terms and conditions of payment, and what incidental services, like boarding, grooming, labor, transportation, veterinary expenses, etc., that might involve additional charges.

The horses to be trained should be listed, with the name of the current insurer, if applicable, the insurer's emergency phone number, a disclosure of the horse's vices or unique habits, and other pertinent information.

Under state laws, the trainer can impose a livestock lien to enforce unpaid boarding costs, and this fact should be mentioned in the contract. Enforcement of a lien for unpaid bills, however, is an undesirable last resort, and involves filing a case in court, with associated legal fees and delays.

The contract should have language specifying that the trainer will perform all services in accordance with generally accepted professional standards, and that the trainer will exercise reasonable care for the protection of the horses, and will educate and train the horses and/or owners to the best of his or her ability. There should be a clause pertaining to routine horse care requirements, or special needs.

For the trainer, the contract will set forth an "assumption of risk" clause to make it clear that he or she is not liable for injury to or the death of a participant in equine activities resulting in the inherent risks of equine activities.

To avoid any misunderstanding, the contract should state that the trainer cannot and does not guarantee or predict the success of the training program, since this depends somewhat on the individual physical and mental ability of each horse.

Ccintined at top of next column

Trainers will always want a statement that each horse will be delivered to the trainer's facility free from transmissible diseases, and must be effectively wormed, and have current immunizations prior to arrival.

Trainers usually want the right⁷ to terminate the agreement on short notice for any reason, including the animal's poor health or unsoundness, dangerous propensities, or other conditions that make the horse unsuitable for training. Likewise, the agreement should state that the owner may terminate the agreement for any reason.

There should be a clause authorizing the trainer to obtain emergency care if the trainer is unable to contact the owner.

Another important clause desired by trainers is a statement that the trainer will not be liable for any sickness, disease, theft, death or injury arising out of the boarding or training of the animal except in the event of willful negligence.

It is important to ascertain whether the trainer has public liability, accidental injury, theft or equine mortality insurance that might pertain to horses boarded at his or her stable.

You should retain signed copies of the agreement (not blank copies), for if you are audited the revenue agent will want to see them.

For racehorse contracts the trainer may be designated as an authorized agent with authority to decide which races to enter, including claiming races, and which jockey shall ride the horse. There should be provision for the owner to have the right to require another jockey or his choice, and the option to withdraw the horse from or not enter it in a particular race, or to direct the trainer to enter the horse in a particular race.

For show horses, the contract should make it clear whether the trainer has discretion to have the horse shown at horse shows of his or her choice, or whether this is something to be mutually agreed upon.

According to attorney Michael Dorazio, Jr., of Rancho Santa Fe, California, "It is important to put into the contract exactly what the specific responsibilities of the trainer are. Is he expected to get the horse ready at shows, to cool down the horse and put it away after training sessions?" He adds, "How often is the trainer to ride the horse—how many hours/days per week? It's important to have communication between owner and trainer because this can bring issues to the surface before problems arise."

I recommend a clause that obligates the trainer to provide reports (monthly) on the general wellbeing of the horse and progress in its training.

While many owners do not have contracts with their trainers, this is something that is very important for both parties, and can help the parties think about the issues and avert conflicts in the future.

[John Alan Cohan is a lawyer who has served the horse, livestock and farming industries since 1981. He has clients in all 50 states. He can be reached at: (310) 278-0203, by e-mail at johnanalcohan@aol.com, or you can see more at his website: www.JohnAlanCohan.com.]

Education

7 STEPS TO A SAFE SPRING RIDE

Story by Dan Aadland from MyHorse.com E-Newsletter

Spring trail riding can be both exhilarating and treacherous.



Like Chaucer's Pilgrims, most riders itch to get onto the trail in the spring. But spring can be two-sided for trail riders. Along with its joys, there are hazards and cautions.

A poet once wrote of the joys of spring and its effect on horsemen. April, he said, broke the drought of March, bathed the roots of plants in "sweet liquor," and brought green to every field and hollow. And all these pretty changes awakened in the men and women of Canterbury, England a desire to get on their horses and go on a pilgrimage, to seek a little adventure horseback and break the doldrums of winter.

Although seven centuries have passed since Chaucer wrote of history's most famous trail ride, little among the attitudes of trail riders has changed. The 29 folks he wrote about may've been heading out on a religious pilgrimage, but the poet makes it clear that they're more than anything after a good ride. And they take one, too, the Knight on his charger, the Wife of Bath on her ambler, the Monk on his spirited hunting horse.

Anyone who loves time in the saddle loves spring and the itch that comes with it to put a foot in the stirrup, swing into the saddle, and head out across the countryside. But spring can be two-sided for trail riders. Along with its joys, there are hazards and cautions.

And in the high-altitude western mountains these last until July, when snow in the high country finally recedes off the trails and frost in the shaded places finally thaws. Heading out on trails not traveled since the previous autumn requires special vigilance and preparation. Here are seven steps to a safe spring ride.

Step 1: Condition your horse. First, consider your horse. Ideally, he hasn't been idle all winter growing fat on alfalfa and sweet feed, thoughts of carrying a rider up a trail far from his mind. If he's been idle, you have extra work to do before tackling spring trails.

Even if you've been conscientious about riding your horse through the winter, chances are, his muscles are soft, his trail training in need of tuning. Conflict between horse and rider is more likely with the out-of-condition horse, because saddle fit, cinch pressure, and shedding-coat itch under the blanket, headstall, and bit are all likely to be more uncomfortable for him.

These days, extraordinary attention is paid to tack and training methods labeled "humane" or "natural." Yet, too often, soft horses are required to do hard things, to carry a heavy rider up a mountain grade, their own excessive weight and out-of-tone muscles adding to the burden.

Honest exercise and wet saddle blankets under controlled conditions before a challenging ride away from the home stable is kinder treatment in the long run.

Step 2: Get in shape. The only real conditioning for riders is to ride. Other things, such as keeping the bathroom scale close, walking, aerobic exercise, and weight training do help. But if you haven't been riding, tackling 20 miles the first time out during spring is likely to bring some unfortunate after-effects. Chaucer's pilgrims, lacking other sorts of transportation, probably rode frequently. Few of us do so as part of our daily lives.

Pay special attention to leg strength. Deep knee bends pay dividends both when you mount and when you support yourself in the stirrups. Walking and bicycling build tone and strength. But don't stay out of the saddle for long.

Step 3: Prepare for any weather. Spring brings sometimes severe changes in weather, especially at higher altitude. The poet T.S. Eliot referred to April as "the cruellest month." I suspect he was thinking of spring's seductive ability to lure you into believing summer has arrived, then to dash your hopes with a late storm that turns dangerous.

Summer rain is one thing. Spring rain at high altitude quickly changes to spring snow. One day, you're washing the car in 70 degree weather, wondering if you'll soon have to mow the lawn. The next day, you're on a mountain trail in falling snow so thick you can scarcely see the rider in front of you.

Wear layers that are easy to add and remove, favor wool over cotton, pack extra warmth, and prepare for the worst-case scenario with fire-making equipment, a bit of food, a first-aid kit, navigation gear (map, compass, and global positioning system unit). Don't be lulled into thinking these things are unimportant because you're only planning a short ride. Most survival situations take place very close to "civilization."

Foolishly, friends and I once left behind our fanny packs because we were planning to cross-country ski a very short loop. I missed a curve on an icy trail, hit a tree, broke my leg, and endured a very cold wait for help when the things we'd left behind - matches, a space blanket, snacks - would've kept my companion and me considerably more comfortable. The fact that we were only a mile from the parked cars at the trailhead was completely irrelevant.

Step 4: Prepare to clear the trail. If you tackle wilderness trails in spring, don't expect a trail crew to have preceded you. United States Forest Service trail crews don't normally work until summer, and volunteer work groups, such as those organized by the Back Country Horsemen of America (and its regional chapters), will probably have waited until they're sure the snow banks are gone.

Through winter, nature will have made some changes. Windstorms and heavy snowfall bring down trees and branches that straddle the trail. The

Continued at top of next column

Ccntinued on Page 21

Rendezvous 2011-BCHC Awards

MAX AND IRENE COCRHAN JOURNALISM AWARD, 2010

Presented to the unit and its newsletter editor based on the quality of their newsletter: 70%-Content, 20%-Appearance, 10%-Consistency

1ST PLACE JAMES KING.

MID VALLEY MONTHLY

**2nd Place Mary Odell
San Joaquin Sierra Hoof Prints
3rd Place Kathryn Matthews
Top of the State Sis-Q-Trails**

**4th Place Corky Layne
Mother Lode Unit Matters
5th Place Rhonda Strickland & Teri Baron
Redshank Riders newsletter
6th Place June Frisbey
Antelope Valley Unit newsletter
7th Place Susan Tuttle
Los Padres Times
8th Place Corky Layne
Sutter Buttes View
9th Place Janis McKee
San Gorgonio Pass Packin' the News**



Above, Kathy Zumbrunn and Michael King accept 1st Place Award for Mid Valley Unit

WILDERNESS RIDER OF THE YEAR

Rick Jacobsen



VOLUNTEER SERVICE

Unit Award - Los Padres Unit - \$1.2M

Per Capita Award - High Sierra Unit - \$3000/member

Presented to the unit(s) completing the most outstanding service record based on Volunteer Service Hours Reports. There are cumulative and per capita awards.



At right, Nancy Kimmell accepts Los Padres' Unit Award from BCHC 2nd VP, Carrie Johnen



Above, Redwood Unit's Bev Harvey, and San Diego's Bonnie Switzer won tickets to the Large Raffle for collecting the most signatures. Miss Cottonwood Rodeo 2010, Haley DiDio, in center.

WHO MET THE MOST MEMBERS?

At Friday night's dinner, BCHC President Dennis Serpa challenged all BCHC members to get better acquainted by collecting signatures all day Saturday and sitting with strangers at Saturday night's dinner.



At right: Longtime BCHC members Lynn Joiner, Kern Sierra Unit; Al and Cheryl Kaiser, Mother Lode Unit

RECOGNITION OF LOYALTY AND DEDICATION TO BCHC

Paul Frisbey, Sequoia Unit, suggested recognizing BCHC members by number of years of membership. At Saturday's dinner, original members of High Sierra Stock User's Association were shown appreciation for their longtime membership in BCHC.

Rendezvous 2011 - BCHC Awards



Above, Bonnie Searcy accepts the Unit Education Award and \$150 check on behalf of High Sierra Unit



EDUCATION AWARDS

Unit Award - High Sierra Unit
Individual Award - Nancy Kimmel, Los Padres Unit

The Unit Education Award is presented to the unit that promotes education using teamwork; that participates in a variety of events; that has members who have participated in State-sponsored programs; that has members who contribute articles for the unit, state and/or the Education newsletters.

The Individual Education Award is presented to someone who has demonstrated unique, creative and innovative education programs; who has used different methods or made a variety of presentations; someone who has reached a variety of age groups.

MIKE ELLISON, EMCEE

BCHC is grateful to Mike Ellison, Mid Valley Unit member, for sharing his skillful announcing talents at Friday and Saturday dinners and Rendezvous Opening Ceremony. Mike makes his living as a disc jockey for country radio KUBB 96.3 in Merced, CA.

THANK YOU, MIKE!!



Above, Nancy Kimmel, Los Padres Unit, receives the Individual Education Award and \$150 check from Dan Horn, BCHC Co-VP of Education



California State Horsemen's Association



DUTCH OVEN COOKING COMPETITION

Paul Walther organized a challenging yet fun cook-off held on Saturday. Winners in the Professional and Amateur categories are shown above. Prizes included cooks' aprons, custom-made fire stands (for Pros) and a box of Dutch oven equipment (for Amateurs).



TRAIL TRIAL COMPETITION

California State Horsemen's Association assembled an obstacle course to challenge both novice and experienced trail riders. Fifty-eight contestants competed in Packing and Open Divisions. Winners in each class, shown above with Miss Cottonwood Rodeo, took home ribbons as well as buckets of equine supplies.

Rendezvous 2011 - Awards

TABLE DECORATION CONTEST

Redwood Unit was in charge of this year's Table Decoration Contest. Jacque Murphy announced and presented plaques to the four winning units.

**Best Represents BCHC - MID VALLEY UNIT
Most Original - SHASTA TRINITY UNIT
Most Humorous- KERN SIERRA UNIT
BEST OVERALL - MOTHER LODE UNIT**

(Mother Lode Unit will be in charge of the 2012 Table Decoration Contest)

At right, Jacque Murphy, Redwood Unit, presents plaques to Michael King (Mid Valley), Sheila Grivet (Shasta Trinity), Beverly Copeland (Kern Sierra), and Becky Wok (Mother Lode)



GENTLE USE CAMP SET-UP **MOTHER LODE UNIT - Carrie Johnen**

ODD LOAD PACKING CONTEST

Four teams competed on three different loads. Alan Hill and Lyle Charter (Shasta Trinity Unit) took 1st Place. Dave Moser and Dennis Serpa (Mid Valley Unit) took 2nd. There was only ONE point difference between the two teams!



WINNERS OF THE **LARGE RAFFLE** PACK TRIP

Fred and Patti Mensing

My thanks to all who submitted Rendezvous photographs for this edition - Kathy Zumbrunn, Corky Layne, Jacque Murphy, Nancy Kimmel and Valerie Lantz. ~Ed.

WESTERN ART SHOW

Mid Valley Unit hosted the 2011 art show. A total of 23 artists entered 69 works of art in nine different categories. Certificates of Appreciation were given to all participants. During a break in the Wine & Cheese Reception entertainment, Art Show Judge Willo Balfrey awarded ribbons to the top three in each category and prizes to each category's winner. In addition, Best in Show and People's Choice Awards were presented. Two artists graciously donated their work to the Auction.



At left, Western Art Show Judge Willo Balfrey with Best of Show winner, Michael King (Mid Valley Unit) and People's Choice Award winner, Sharon Power (Mid Valley Unit)

BLACK AND WHITE PHOTOGRAPHY

1st: Lauri Knispel, Cowboy and Dog
2nd: Lynda Beverlin, Mt. Cabin, Bear Basin

LEATHERWORK

1st: Vicki Whisler, Leather Saddle Bags
2nd: Debra Mason, Spur Straps
3rd: Vicki Whisler, Clock – Leather with Wood Frame

METALWORK

1st: Rudy Dezzani, Handmade Inlaid Silver Bit with Handmade Rein Chains

2nd: Lyle W. Charter, Spurs
3rd: Lyle W. Charter, Mule Shoe Bit

SEWING

1st: Kathryn Matthews, Quilt/Wall Hanging

ARTS & CRAFTS

1st: Penny Wells, Mulegourd with Horsehair Rim

2nd: Julie Farber, Paper Mache Horse (Gray)
3rd: Carole Polasek, Embroidered Picture, "Crow Mother – the Mother of All Kachinas"

WESTERN ART SHOW RESULTS

OIL

1st: Sharon Lucille Power, Charro

tral la lena

2nd: Sharon Lucille Power, My Mule Iris

3rd: Sharon Lucille Power, Llama Trauma

ACRYLIC/WATER COLOR

1st: Suzanne Bears, Painting from photo of two mules

2nd: Sharon Lucille Power, Into the Wilderness

3rd: Sharon Lucille Power, A Cowboy Taking in the Scenery

DRAWING

1st: Neva Yarborough

COLOR PHOTOGRAPHY

1st: Michael King, Trail Repair

2nd: Pat Snider, Wild Horse Round Up, Eastern Oregon

3rd: Jacque Murphy, Beach Beauty

Rendezvous 2011

BCHC THANKS CCC



At left, Sam Burrows (far left) and Alan Hill (far right) of Shasta Trinity Unit make presentation to CCC Director Dave Muraki and Redding CCC Office Director Linda Burkhalter

In a heartfelt show of thanks, Shasta Trinity Unit presented CCC leaders with Certificates of Appreciation at Saturday night's dinner. David Muraki, CCC Director, Linda Burkhalter, Scott Woolsey and Jimmy Galvan were honored for integrating CCC crews into BCHC projects. The CCC puts 18- to 25-year-olds to work on construction projects. Muraki said their motto is: "Hard work, low pay, miserable conditions".

2010 VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS REPORT

By Carrie Johnen, BCHC 2nd Vice President

BCHC again out did itself, turning in a total of \$4,124,561.64 in service value. Included in that figure were 41,311 contacts and 5270 miles cleared. Los Padres Unit took home the top honors for the second year in a row with \$1,230,023.62 reported. Awe (wait for it——) some!!! High Sierra Unit took home the per capita award with \$2930 reported for each member.

Dan Horn, Co-VP of Education, developed a most entertaining presentation to guide you through the recording of hours process, so between better recording and increased activity, BCHC's value will continue its stratospheric climb.

Below is a chart comparing the contribution BCHC has made toward the Back Country Horsemen of America's totals over the past six years. We should be very proud!!

	California \$	National \$	%
2010	4,124,566.64	7,500,000.00+*	54.99%
2009	2,622,788.66	7,490,864.00	35.01%
2008	1,814,049.07	6,613,643.00	27.43%
2007	999,760.75	5,619,738.00	17.79%
2006	679,534.65	3,695,000.00	18.39%
2005	550,857.66	3,847,000.00	14.32%

Keep on California!

* National figure from latest BCHA newsletter.

2010 TOP HANDS

Unit President's selection of the individual who provided the greatest service to the President and his/her Unit.

Antelope Valley	Dennis Harfman
Eastern Sierra	Bob Olin, Patty Olin
High Country	Alan Cain
High Sierra	Jim Harvey
Kern River Valley	Larry Ligainero
Kern Sierra	Tammy Bozarth
Lake-Mendo	Paul "Vanilla Wafer" Villanueva
Los Padres	Misti Whiteley
Mid Valley	James King
Mother Lode	Marcia Wisdom
North Bay	Thor Bodtker
Ohlone Riders	Julie Green
Redshank Riders	Michael Lewis
Redwood	Bev Harvey
San Diego	Cheryl Wegner
San Gorgonio Pass	Janis McKee
San Joaquin Sierra	Wanda Caradonna
Santa Ana River	Steve Rennebu
Sequoia	Jan Walker
Shasta Trinity	Janis Hill
Sierra Freepackers	David Whitehead
Sutter Buttes	Ralph Looney
Top of the State	Kathryn Matthews

Rendezvous 2011

BCHC EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Rendezvous 2011

By Lisa Deas/ Dan Horn, BCHC Co-Vice Presidents of Education

In the last 10 years BCHC membership has gone from around 5000 down to under 3500. So this fall we decided to develop some new tools to assist with finding and keeping new members.

We have revised and updated some of the old hand-outs. The "Who We Are and What We Do" document has been updated with some structure language, web info and BCHC's new mailing address. This revised document is posted on the BCHC website under BCHC Forms.

The BCHC informational tri-fold brochure with Membership Application has been updated and revised. There are two versions available for your use. The PDF version is generic with all the basic information, full list of all BCHC units and the current Membership Application. There is a Word version of the same document except the text box is blank where the full list of units was. This blank text box is the only area in this document a unit is authorized to modify. If you would like to insert your unit information, please use only the text box. We like to keep consistency in BCHC documents, so please do not modify this document outside of the text box. There is a sample of custom unit information that North Bay inserted.

We have created a New Member Booklet. There are two generic versions for those units that do not want to do any customizing. One is a short version with just general information about BCHC and the other is a long version with all BCHC educational flyers included. There are also short and long versions with blank pages if you would like to customize either one for your unit. Lisa and I will help you with customizing upon request. We can put a picture of your unit activity on the front cover and assist with inserting pictures and story that you provide. Feel free to contact us.

Over the last three years I have been collecting pictures and information from all our California units to create a Power Point presentation with the sole purpose of being used as a sales tool for letting the public know about Backcountry Horsemen. It is only about 40 slides long and will work great for presentations to other organizations or groups. This is way too big a file to email, so contact me if you would like a copy. The cost is \$0.75 plus \$1.50 shipping. Our ultimate goal is to convert the slide show to a DVD with music and narration so units can use the presentation at information booths or distribute the DVD to perspective members. We hope to keep the cost down to under \$1.50 per disk plus shipping. We also plan to convert to something like a YouTube video to post on unit websites.

We have also posted a new instructional tool on how to fill out a Volunteer Hours Report form. There are sections for the general membership and for Wilderness Riders. This tool is easy to use, even for those who have never opened an Excel file before. Try it! We have revised the instruction and definitions page with updates as to where hours are posted, mostly concerning Contacts and Education Time. Please review this document.

Along with Volunteer Hours Reports we have created a new saddle bag version that prints on a single 8.5" x 11" format. Carry it in your vehicle or use it as a sign-in sheet for projects. Then just enter information in your Excel Volunteer Report workbook when you get home. Life is simple!

After two years we finally were able to get the Leadership Training Manual converted to a document file that we could work in. The Public Land and the Educational sections have been up dated and thanks to CJ the spelling has been corrected. The latest version is now available on the BCHC website under BCHC Forms. Thanks to Ruthie Heuer, Jo Johnson, Bruce DeMott and CJ Hargreaves for their hard work!

We would like to congratulate Nancy Kimmel for winning the 2010 Individual Education Award for her outstanding efforts. It is easy to see how Los Padres Unit continues to log such high volunteer hours with leadership of this quality. Congratulations go to High Sierra Unit for winning the Unit Education Award. Excellent job in 2010! Also, congratulations to Carrie Johnen representing Mother Lode Unit for earning the Gentle Use Camp Award at Rendezvous 2011 in Red Bluff. All of these awards are perpetual trophies on which the winners' names are placed to display for all time. These folks have set the bar high!

Thank you to all BCHC members for your efforts in BCHC Education, making 2010 an exceptional year!!!



BLM CONDUCTED THEIR POPULAR WILD HORSE AND BURROW ADOPTION AT RENDEZVOUS 2011



Education

SAFE SPRING RIDE, *continued from Page 15*

worst scenarios, as when a major wind event has leveled a stand of lodge pole pine or screamed its way through a forest recently burned, may've made trails completely impassable. In more moderate situations, you may be able to clear your own way, but don't neglect your saw.

Few of us are really competent with an ax, which is more an expert's tool. Far safer and more effective for most of us is a good trail saw with case, light to carry and easily tied to your saddle strings. I prefer the type that cuts only on the pull stroke, often called the "Oregon pruning saw."

Step 5: Watch for mud and erosion. Spring means mud and possible trail erosion since the route was last used. Be careful on ledge trails that have narrowed as freeze/thaw cycles through winter caused wet soil to leach off their lower edges.

To be kind to the environment, avoid riding when your horse's hooves will damage the trail. Even in drier conditions, there will often be mud in sheltered areas and on north slopes skipped by the low winter sun. Since north slopes hold moisture, they often feature the heavier timber and thus more shade that can hide the very worst footing for horses: mud over frost.

An inch of mud over frost is the one sort of footing that can make me decide to leave my horse at home. No type of horse shoe helps, because traction devices don't penetrate down into the frost. It's like going down a playground slide on sheets of wax paper. The mud layer slides over the frost beneath it. Worse, the top surface of such footing can look dry.

Get off and lead your horse, if necessary. If you do, walk beside his left shoulder rather than directly in front of him. If he loses traction or decides to jump an obstacle or depression, you'd be at risk for an injury if you were in front.

Step 6: Be careful on hills. On questionable footing, side hills are particularly treacherous. Slanting along on a side hill, faster than I should have been riding, my faithful gelding Little Mack hit a wet area where water had been leaking out of an irrigation ditch over a slope that was normally bone dry. I spotted the wet ground too late, just as my horse's feet, all four of them, shot out from under him to my left, downhill. We hit the ground on my right side with a splat.

Luckily, we missed the many available rocks, falling rather evenly on muddy ground, my right side under his, but without a single pressure point that terribly injured either him or me. I did break several ribs and was sore for some weeks, but it could have been much worse.

Little Mack arose looking confused, then went back to work chasing the errant calf we had found.

If the slick slope is short, perhaps on a ditch bank or barrow pit, it's usually better to go straight up or straight down than traverse at an angle. For a short distance, a horse can often skid safely downhill, locking up all four legs. Going up, he can usually scramble his way to the top. But sideways falls are very bad.

Try to find a way around longer obstacles, while staying wary of potentially slick north slopes.

Step 7: Watch for high water. Streams can be problematic in spring. In the Midwest and South, high water often comes early following a big snow melt or seasonal rains. Level ground makes for slow, deep, treacherously muddy streams. Crossing them with horses must be done with extreme care, if at all, because the bottoms aren't visible and the footing under water uncertain.

In the desert Southwest, rare rains strike soils that won't absorb water quickly, which can cause flash floods. As a Montana Marine training in the California desert, I learned to watch the mountains to the west, many miles away. If clouds were flirting with the high peaks we made our camps on the highest ground possible, away from the dry washes. Such dry washes could soon become torrents after brief rainstorms packing only a quarter-inch of moisture.

If you frequent desert country in spring, be aware of how quickly things can change. The dry wash you crossed that morning can be an impassable obstacle upon return in the afternoon.

In the northern Rocky Mountains, high water tends to come later, when the mountain snow grudgingly gives way to summer sun. Earlier rainstorms will have brought temporary rises to the streams, but true high water in Montana usually coincides, just as the old-timers told us, with the full bloom of the wild roses, normally in early June.

Here, most stream courses fall down canyons that drop rapidly in elevation. Such a drop is both good and bad. High stream flows tend not to spill over their banks, because they have a place to go - down. But the result is increased velocity.

Water in such streams may be fairly clear even at flood stage; though in the very high country it often takes on the glacial blue-green of recently melted snow. You may be able to see to a firm, rocky bottom of such streams, but the problem is velocity and the sheer power of fast-running water.

Swimming a horse may not be an issue at all, because deep streams with currents of such power can send horse and rider helplessly down the canyon if the horse's feet ever part company with the bottom.

In powerful currents, let your horse's belly be the guide. If extremely fast currents are much more than belly deep, you're likely to get into trouble. When your horse starts leaning into the current and your stirrup hits water, turn around, if possible, and cross safely on another day.

On spring rides, start easy, stay safe, and keep your ego under control. You aren't admitting defeat if you get off and lead over dangerous ground. Happy spring trails!

Dan Aadland (<http://my.montana.net/draa>) raises mountain bred Tennessee Walking Horses and gaited mules on his ranch in Montana. His most recent books are *The Best of All Seasons*, *The Complete Trail Horse*, and *101 Trail Riding Tips*. *Sketches from the Ranch: A Montana Memoir* is now available in a new Bison Books edition.

Ccintined at top of next column

Unit News

SOMETIMES WHEN YOU WANDER IN THE DESERT YOU FIND MORE THAN AN OASIS.

By Mike Hughes, Public Lands Liaison, Kern River Valley Unit

This is what a group of Backcountry Horsemen from the Kern Valley Unit discovered when they headed out near the town of Ridgecrest, Friday the seventh of January. The sky was overcast and the wind was running like wild horses. Eight adventurers bundled up, attempting to head back into history to a time less complicated. Led by the intrepid guide T. Tanner, Larry Cigainero, Pam and Al Kleidon, Joy and Joel Donoho, Lori Jordan and Mike Hughes began the search for things more interesting. Their expedition was quickly rewarded when they rode near a gun range and discovered how well their horses responded to the rolling thunder of rapid fire weaponry. Fortunately no one ate dirt! From there the snow-covered mountains and BLM wilderness beckoned. This allowed the gang to ride sandy creek bottoms, snow cone shaped hills and dales dripping yellow sage.

Eventually the nomadic wandering brought them to a sandstone encased spring which reached back into the annals of time. The tranquility of the area seemed to seep into the horses as they were well mannered giving their two legged cargo ample opportunity to loiter. With the blue sky now stretching from here to there, a snack break was in order and the carefree posse dismounted at a nearby campground, replete with tables and trees. Unknown to the spur jangler's, the trap had been sprung and to the surprise of all but the guide we had been brought to an area as old as time. Surrounding us, etched into the patina of rock, were historical pictographs depicting scenes from the ancient ones. "Awe" is such a minimal term to describe the mood which enveloped the group as a whole, as we understood the privilege we were enjoying and the rare insight into a time long past. Like children playing in new fallen snow, we tried to take advantage of every second in this wondrous place. With our curiosity finally sated, we broke out the food, stories and exaggerations from previous adventures rating this against others, finding it to be at the top of the pile. Slowly, somewhat sadly, we decided it was time to mount up and cut a hole in the wind. As we drifted toward the place the North Star would call home in a few hours, we spoke of the special time and place this had become for us. The tally was taken and the book showed that this group would return to the place of the desert flower to ride again soon and often as those of us who are blessed with equine are privileged to do.



LOS PADRES DUTCH OVEN COOKING POPULAR AT PASO GATHERING!

By Bill Chaides, President, Los Padres Unit

On the weekend of November 5 - 7, 2010, the 18th Annual Western Art & Cowboy Gear Show & Sale, known as the "Paso Gathering" was held at the Paso Robles Pioneer Museum as their annual fundraiser.

Pioneer Museum staff coordinators, Gary Smith, Chuck Desmond and David Steaffens, as well as many others, were on site to assist this event. This was another impromptu request for participation support for our Backcountry Horsemen of California, Los Padres Unit, to assist the Paso Robles Pioneer Museum during their annual celebration. "Russ Rantz" was our unit's ram-rod for this event, demonstrating numerous "Dutch Oven" dishes of cobbler, apple, blueberry, cherry, pineapple, pineapple upside down cake, individually or in combination. Russ also supplied a jalapeño corn bread. This was also outstanding. Cowboy Dutch oven breakfast was supplied for the many volunteers of this event. Once serving began, many of the dishes lasted only between 6 – 8 minutes. The day's preparation started at 6:00 a.m. for food to be served between 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Approximately twenty-three Dutch oven dishes were prepared between Saturday and Sunday. Bill Chaides prepared approximately 16 gallons of a combination of four bean chili beans, served both days. Other Los Padres assistants in attendance on Saturday were Dave Rigoli, Nancy Kimmell, friends of Russ, Vince Soto and Tim Rodriguez. Russ needs to get these contributing cooks to join our group! Other members of our unit came by as they were visiting the gathering event. On Sunday, Jack and Terrie Garretson added their assistance with food preparation and clean up.

Rick Jacobsen and his wife, Lou Moore, brought two of their mules to demonstrate the art of packing on live animals. They also provided instruction on different ways to pack and some experience on the trail, both Saturday and Sunday.

Members of Antelope Valley Unit were also in attendance. Kris Pimentel and Kaye Bruns, who are also Affiliate Members of Los Padres Unit, brought three of their steel "demo" packing mules. On Saturday and Sunday they demonstrated ways to load, pack and tie different knots depending on the type of load to be carried and the terrain to be crossed. Both packing demos were attended throughout the day by many spectators.

Our unit education table displayed many of our hand out materials and approximately 16 membership applications were distributed to the public during the weekend. Russ Rantz, during some intensive conversation with one of our visitors, received one (1) positive sign-up, paid in cash - John Olympia and family from Santa Maria. John wants to learn to pack for hunting purposes. Rick Jacobsen spoke with some visitors who came over to pick up some application forms. Dave Rigoli was also out there talking up a storm for our unit's benefit. Visitors, Bob and Connie Goins, from the Sierra [sic] Unit of Backcountry Horsemen, stopped by our unit's display and commented on the aromas coming from the Dutch ovens.

Look forward to a "Dutch Oven Clinic" in the future!

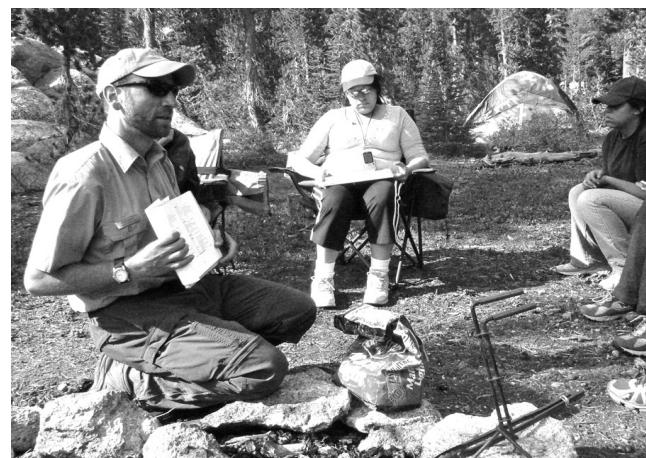
Unit News

MID VALLEY UNIT PUTTING GRANT MONEY TO WORK!

By Karen Lopes, Mid Valley Unit

The Mid Valley Unit of California Backcountry Horsemen has been awarded over \$7000 in grants in the past several years. These grants have helped introduce high school students to the Wilderness, they have helped pay for expenses of trail projects, and they have helped to purchase a variety of equipment used for trail clearing purposes.

The first grant came in 2008, from the California Wildlands Grassroots Fund. This grant was used to fund a trip into the Emigrant Wilderness with a group of high school students that were part of the WildLink Program supported through the Yosemite Institute and the Sierra Nevada Wilderness Education



Project. Over \$3000 was awarded to pay for GPS devices, cameras, equipment and food for the three-day trip where the students learned hands-on how to compile data for campsite monitoring. This was a great collaboration between the Forest Service, the Yosemite WildLink program, Turlock High

School, and the Backcountry Horsemen of California. Mid Valley Unit members provided stock support by hauling in the kitchen, tents, and other big items for these high schoolers' first experience in the Wilderness. Eight students collected data using their GPS devices and cameras and recorded information just as it is done by the Forest Service for monitoring purposes. The students worked in several teams with leadership from our Wilderness Manager, the WildLink program manager, and BCHC members. This was a wonderful learning opportunity and the support from the California Wildlands Grassroots Fund helped make it all possible.

Another grant was awarded in 2009 from the National Forest Foundation. This was a matching funds grant so the Mid Valley Unit had to commit \$2000 towards the project and, in return, received an additional \$2000 from the National Forest Foundation. The combined \$4000 was used to purchase a cross-cut saw, bars, axes and food, and to reimburse the volunteers for mileage and stock expenses for the five-day trail clearing project into the Emigrant Wilderness, near Huckleberry Lake. Mid Valley members cut downed trees and moved large rocks from the trail. In addition to clearing the trails, volunteers also practiced Gentle Use techniques while on the trails and in camp. The National Forest Foundation, chartered by Congress, engages Americans in community-based and national programs that promote the health and public enjoyment of the 193-million-acre National Forest System, and administers private gifts of funds and land for the benefit of the National Forests.

The Mid Valley Unit was also awarded a grant from the BCHC Education Fund. This \$2000 was used to purchase a grip hoist, food, and mileage reimbursements for the volunteers that went into the Emigrant Wilderness for a four-day trail clearing project out of Paiute Meadows. Unit members cleared

downed trees from two of the main trails that visitors use to enter the Emigrant Wilderness. One particular tree that was cut required many bodies to roll it out of the trail. It just so happened that a Boy Scout Group from Sacramento came along at the right time and, with a joint effort, the trail was cleared very quickly.

The latest grant was awarded by the American Quarter Horse Association Stewards for Trails, Education and Partnerships (STEP) program, a new program formed to encourage good stewardship and conservation of riding trails. Tractor Supply Co. is a major supporter of the AQHA and also helped to fund this grant. Over \$900 was awarded in order to pay for a chain saw, chain saw accessories, and several loppers. The equipment will be targeted for a work project clearing trails out of the Clark Fork Horse Camp in Stanislaus National Forest, which will then become a yearly project for the Mid Valley Unit. Many of the trails that connect the horse camp to the Carson-Iceberg Wilderness have not been maintained in several years so, with the support of the Forest Service and the funding for equipment from AQHA, Mid Valley Unit volunteers will clear and maintain these trails in order to encourage equestrians to stay on the trails and not create new paths due to impassable obstacles.



Even in the current tough economic conditions, there are many different entities out there able and willing to support the efforts of Backcountry Horsemen in keeping trails open, providing educational opportunities to our youth, and helping to

preserve Wilderness areas for generations to come. Take time to look into possible grants to fund your next Backcountry Horsemen project!!

Ccntinued at top of next column

Unit News

MOTHER LODE UNIT MATTERS

By Corky Layne, Editor, Mother Lode Unit

This year's Rendezvous was pretty darn good! The schedule was packed with interesting stuff to see and do, there were more vendors—and it was closer.

Neva Yarborough entered three of her paintings in the art show. Neva is the one who drew the logo for the Mother Lode Unit, which I use on the Mother Lode Unit Matters newsletter. Neva and Char Paoluccio followed me to the fairgrounds on Friday after staying with me in Oroville the night before. They could only stay that day, so missed out on a lot of fun.

I got to see members of the Mother Lode Unit I hadn't seen in ages. That's the best thing about a Rendezvous! There were Jerry and Barbara Ledbetter, Mike and Norma Kohlbaker, Carrie and Steve Johnen, Ron Akers and Sheila Bond, Carolyn and Bob Gilmore, Randy Hackbarth, Melba Leal, Marcia Wisdom, and Becky Wolk. I also ran into friends of mine from other horse clubs.

There were about eight wineries represented at the wine tasting on Saturday. The selection was very good and we had a nice time visiting and tasting, and tasting and visiting. CJ Hargreaves announced the winners of the art show and I got to pick up the First Prize in the Sketches Category for Neva Yarborough. And to think, she wasn't even going to enter her work!

Awards for best table decorations were announced after dinner and Mother Lode Unit won for Best Overall decoration. This picture shows the Breyer horse pack string fixed up by Terri Riley, Pat Shockey and Sandy Stovall. Thanks, you guys! (Did you know that winning first prize "enables" us to be in charge of judging the Table Decorations Contest next year???)

One of the big raffle prizes—the round pen—was won by our member, and my neighbor, Shirley Sherwood. She is enjoying it already.

Carrie Johnen won the prize for Mother Lode Unit as best Gentle Use Demonstration Campsite. All-in-all Mother Lode did pretty well this year!

Sunday was a quiet day and at noon we packed up and left with good memories and new plans for next year.

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

VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AWARD OF THE YEAR 2010

SIERRA NATIONAL FOREST



Volunteer Coordinator of Volunteers Award
CHARLES (TOBY) HORST

Toby Horst is the 2010 Volunteer Coordinator of Volunteers for outstanding contributions made on the Sierra National Forest. Mr. Horst has led the San Joaquin Chapter of the Back Country Horseman (BCHC) for 15 years as part of the Sierra National Forest volunteer program. Under his leadership and dedication, the Forest received 1,848 valuable hours of volunteer service in 2010. His leadership, motivation continues to contribute to successful relationships essential to volunteer success, project design, and the pursuit of volunteer project funds. Through Toby's leadership, work was completed on 118 miles of trails.

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA UNIT HITS A JACK POT

Submitted by Katie Horst, SJSU Director

The Sierra National Forest held a "VOLUNTEER RECOGNITION CEREMONY" to honor 2010 accomplishments. They had gathered names and history of the various volunteer groups and their leaders and sent them to the national agency. San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC came out with nine volunteers with 500+ hours: Fredi Chrisman, Gary Chrisman, Carol Kaminski, Joe Kaminski, Bob Skinner, Mary Odell, Jim Bell, Muriel Holland, and Ted Fischer. The Unit also had three volunteers with 1000+ hours: Randy Witt, Katie Horst, and Charles (Toby) Horst.

Charles (Toby) Horst was given an Individual award for "VOLUNTEER COORDINATOR OF VOLUNTEERS" for Region 5 which all of us were very proud for him to receive.

A 'SPECIAL RECOGNITION' Certificate for contributing over 15 years of volunteer service to Wilderness and Trails was presented to the San Joaquin Sierra Unit as a group.

All of us can be proud of the Unit's accomplishments as it takes help from everyone to do this work!

Unit News

SUTTER BUTTES UNIT RENDEZVOUS REPORT

By Corky Layne, Editor, Sutter Buttes Unit

The 2011 Rendezvous has come and gone—so quickly! The schedule was impressive, with lots of things to do and see. The BLM Mustang and Burro Adoption was there with some nice looking animals and there were lots of vendors. Red Bluff turned out to be a good venue with plenty of room and I hear we will be back there again next year.

It was a very busy time for Sutter Buttes Unit as we were in charge of the auction, silent auction, and the can raffle. Fortunately we had lots of help and we are extremely grateful for that. President Ben DuBose was busy attending meetings, teaching Packing 101, and deciding in which auction the donated items belonged. Ralph Looney, Don McFall, and Lou Langford sold raffle tickets all afternoon and into the evening.

Secretary Dorothy Foster, Shirley Sherwood and Corky Layne were busy setting up the Sutter Buttes Unit booth and talking to visitors who stopped by to see the work party pictures and maps of horse trails in northern California. Dorothy Foster compiled detailed information in binders and had maps on display showing horse camping areas. She was a fount of information for those interested in trails. She loves maps and never forgets a trail! Toni Ostrander helped out, too, and Bob Gage stopped by for a chat, so that means we had nine members attending the Rendezvous.

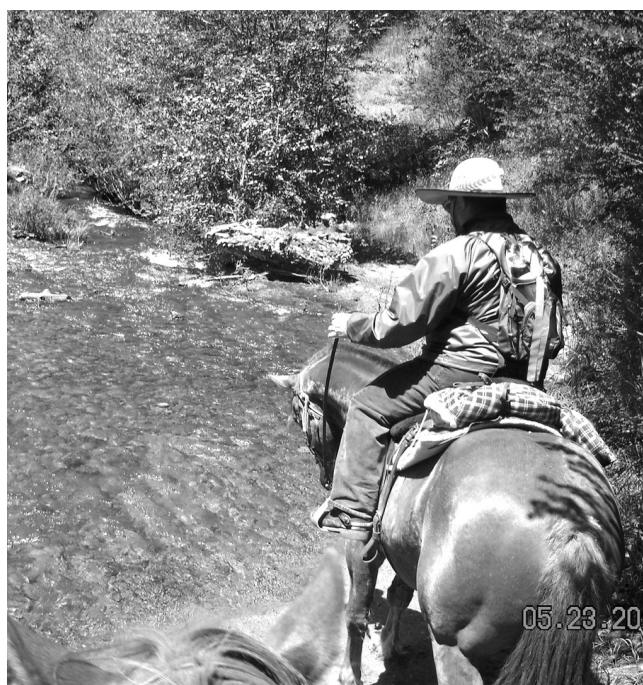
Shirley created a mural-type table design for our table. Some people thought it had been done professionally because it looked so well done. Well, it was well done and we were proud of it.

I attended a session on high lining given by Pete Kriger. I was really happy to see him again as he had missed several Rendezvous and moved to southern California. I've been high lining for years but never got the hang of some of those knots that make life simpler. Consequently, my highline rope has knots on it that will never go away. Pete showed how to use two easy knots that could be undone or cut quickly. Now if I could only remember how to do them....

The Wine Tasting had about eight wineries represented, each with five or six selections, and they were all good. It was a nice get together and a chance to visit with those we only see occasionally.

Then it was off to dinner, a successful auction, and announcement of the lucky raffle winners.

Shirley left before dinner so didn't know she had won the ROUND PEN until Larry Shuman called her. Larry is probably still deaf in one ear! She was so excited she had it set up and was using it three days later.



COME PARTY 4TH OF JULY WEEKEND WITH THE OHLONE RIDERS!

Submitted by Kathy Woods, President, Ohlone Riders Unit

If you are looking for a getaway weekend for the holiday, look no further than Jack Brook Horse Camp. The Ohlone Riders are hosting a fun filled weekend with your horse. Jack Brook Horse Camp features all the amenities you could want. Hot showers (perfect after a long day's ride), outdoor kitchen with freezer and refrigerator, and a group firepit to relax around in the evenings.

For your horse there are individual paddocks for up to 60 horses and a wash rack. Everything you could wish for in a campground but designed for you AND your horse.

There are lots of shady trails to ride. Enough to suit every rider, beginner to advanced. There are few places in the Bay Area that offer so much to the equestrian. Please take this opportunity to join us!

If you are interested in joining us for the weekend, please contact Events Coordinator Kathy Woods at ksmithwoods@yahoo.com or give her a call at (650)678-8070.

Unit News

SIERRA FREEPACKERS DEMO FOR 4H

Submitted by Joyce Granger, Vice President, Sierra Freepackers Unit

It was sunny when we left home headed for Bohna Arena in Coarsegold. The 4H kids and their parents were meeting our unit there so we could show them our packing skills. I would say about 20-25 of them showed up, 15 being 4H and the rest were parents and/or group leaders.

As we started setting up our iron and wooden mules, some clouds rolled in but we kept at it. The day began with a video presentation prepared by Brent Patton. The video showed our group in action doing some volunteer work. The kids were then divided into small groups of about 4-5 per group.

The small groups were sent out to different "stations" where they learned the parts of the pack saddle, loading boxes on the saddle, balancing the pannier bags, and the Box Hitch.



We had a great turn out from our group. The following people were our instructors:

Mike Esra - Pannier Bags & the Box Hitch

Bill Crossland and cousin Rob Haste - Boxes and the Box Hitch
Denise Robinson - Packing and Balancing Bags

Karen and Dave Whitehead - Parts of the Pack Saddle

The kids spent about 20 minutes at each station and received hands-on experience tying the Box Hitch.

At the end of the day they had a fun quiz on identifying the parts of the pack saddle and other items; lash rope, manty, etc. The top three with correct answers received prizes and all got a small bag of apple treats to take to their horses.

Hot chocolate and goodies were also served, which were appreciated as the afternoon chill set in. We had slight snow showers as we packed up.



Appreciation also goes out to Dee Douglas, Joyce Granger, Dennis Johnson, Bill Jones, Claire Phillips, and Robby Robinson from our unit who came out and showed their support. A BIG THANKS to all! Without your effort this day wouldn't have been the success it was.

THOUGHTS ON TEAMWORK

Individually, we are one drop. Together we are the ocean.

Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results.

"Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success!" ~Henry Ford

Teamwork is the process of working collaboratively with a group of people in order to achieve common goals. It is the ability to direct individual accomplishments toward organizational objectives.

Teamwork is built on trust.

All team members should feel comfortable asking questions, expressing their opinions, and making suggestions.

Each team member's input should be highly valued. No one in the group should be so self driven that they're willing to undermine others to reach their personal goals.

Being a part of a team is being able to ask for help and to give help when asked. It is knowing that a fellow team member will have your back when you need it.

To be a team player you need to get past your own ego and realize that what is best for you might not be best for the team.

Teamwork is being a problem solver NOT a finger pointer. It is taking personal responsibility for promptly and completely solving a problem as opposed to ignoring it with the hope it will disappear or, worse, by ignoring it and gaming another team member into dealing with it.

Teamwork is good communication; letting team members know what is going on.

Teamwork is staying positive, encouraging others, inspiring a vision and energizing people.

Together **E**veryone **A**chieves **M**ore
Are YOU a team player?

Ccntinued at top of next column

Unit News



NEW MULE ADVENTURES

By Pete Kriger, San Gorgonio Pass Unit

It's been a challenging year for me and the mules but I have plenty to be thankful for as the year wraps up. My health challenges have faded lately, and grief of losing Miss Kitty last summer to sand colic has started to fade. I was able to get out for a riding vacation in the fall and search for a new mule that can keep me packing into the future.

So as most of you know, I lead a group of online mule

riders. There are many active members in the mid-west in this group and they have been hosting several gatherings over the last year and a half. If you subscribe to Western Mule Magazine you may have read about the spring ride at Tennessee's Big South Fork River and Recreation Area (RRA) in the November issue. A fall ride was planned for the Shawnee National Forest (SNF) in southern Illinois and I wanted to be a part of it! A couple of folks offered to have a mount for me and so I just had to arrange air travel to St. Louis.

The real challenge was packing a suitcase for such a trip. The weight limits on air travel meant that I needed to bring only essential gear or ask if I could borrow anything that would be too heavy or bulky to pack in my bags. I made reservations a couple months in advance, so I had plenty of time to plan ahead and prepare. About this time, I discovered what a diverse group of interests our group provided. Guitar/ singing duets with an endurance mule rider from Maine, a guitar loan from a teacher in Iowa, and most surprising was a Backcountry Horsemen connection in the Shawnee National Forest that provided pack saddles, gear, and riding attire. BCH arranged a trail work party and pack clinic with participation from the southern Illinois Forest Service. BCH had only limited experience packing (gravel bags) and asked for demonstrations of skills needed to pack for an overnight stock trip. The Forest Service was happy to help take the lead on the trail project but also was eager to attend the packing demonstration.

When we all got together in Illinois it was amazing the distances people traveled to do this relatively unorganized mule ride. There were several riders from Texas, New Mexico, Iowa, Illinois, Missouri, Ohio, Tennessee, New Jersey, Maine and California. The terrain in

the SNF was rolling hills, with some canyons, cliffs and impressive rock formations like the "Garden of the Gods". Most of the trees were deciduous but small stands of pine were scattered about as well. The mules and their people were the real stars here. Folks brought their favorite recipes from home and there were fine potlucks most every day for breakfast and dinner. One night we drove down to the Ohio River and boarded a floating restaurant where catfish was the main event - all you could eat for \$10! Another day we rode over to another RV horse-camp resort for a burger and a piece of their homemade coconut cream pie.

While most people brought their own mounts there were enough extras to go around that I rode 6 different mules in 6 days. Most mules were shod and many owners added "borium" to the shoes to give better traction in the rocks. The barefoot mules, however, didn't seem to have much trouble getting around. The mules came from a variety of breeds, lots of quarter horse mules but also some from gaited Peruvians, Tennessee Walking Horses and draft breeds were also present. I wasn't the only one looking for another critter and there was considerable swapping and buying going on throughout the week. I was taken by one molly mule (JoJo) out of a Haflinger mare that gave me a pleasant ride and then I used her for the packing demonstration. While she clearly had never worn a pack saddle, she tolerated all the new gear pretty well. She was also one of the few barefoot mules and packed around a variety of people that week aged from 14 to 74. When I decided that I wanted to bring her home with me to California, a long distance transportation or "mule train" was plotted. I was very happy to get JoJo in my backyard, from her humble beginnings as a corn fed Iowa farm girl...ah... mule! While she was not the tallest mule around, she had a "substantial presence" and should be able to pack a brick house. Well, I may be exaggerating...but only a little.

The trail work project that the Forest Service coordinated was putting up new and larger hitch rails at the popular Garden of the Gods destination. There were enough mule riders that the work went quickly and seemed effortless. The pack demonstration was well attended and there was a good variety of gear present to demonstrate different packing styles and methods. A mock highline was constructed to show principles of safe stock restraint and Gentle Use. I was surprised that a crew of 7 USFS workers took the afternoon off and came to the mule camp Wednesday to listen to a presentation by a California Backcountry Horsemen Wilderness Rider and LNT Master Educator but, hopefully, this was a worthwhile, enriching experience for them. I know it was for me!

Ccntinued at top of next column



Events



EQUINE AFFAIRE BIG SUCCESS FOR BCHC

By Pete Kriger, San Gorgonio Pass Unit

The 2011 Equine Affaire, held February 3 through 6 at the Fairplex in Pomona, was a big success this year. The BCHC booth was located right inside a main entrance door and near a demonstration area. We partnered with the Pacific Crest Trail Association for the booth space on Saturday. Chip and Linda Herzig were instrumental in getting everything set up. Troy and Suzie Patton were also a big help again this year. Other names of participants included Cheryl Wegner, Allie Heary, Lee Roser, Roland Schmitz and Pete Kriger. Pete brought his new mule and participated in a clinic on Sunday entitled "Negotiating Extreme Trail Obstacles with your Mule" with trainer Linda Laird from Bishop. BCHC gave away so many flyers and handouts that Linda had to run to the copy store to get more supplies. This event has developed into a great educational opportunity for southern California horse folks and BCHC is proud to be a big part of it!



JUNE 10-12, 2011

SACRAMENTO, CA

Come and enjoy the largest and most comprehensive equestrian exposition in North America!

www.horsexpocom



Grand Tour 2011
Norco Horsetown USA
May 6-8, 2011

BEST OF AMERICA BY HORSEBACK VISITS NORCO

From Norco website: www.norco.ca.us

Norco, California, "Horsetown USA" has the honor of being the host for the RFDTV show **Best of America by Horseback Grand Tour 2011**, May 6-8, 2011. This is the first time in the show's history an entire city will be a featured equestrian trail destination.

Best of America by Horseback is a top quality television series that takes viewers across the United States to beautiful riding locations. Hosted by **Tom Seay**, the show is designed to give horse owners the confidence and knowledge to travel to these wonderful locations with their own horses.

Steve Edwards (www.muleranch.com) will be one of two featured clinicians attending this event. Steve has been a contributing writer for Western Mule, Mules and More, Rocky Mountain Rider, Trail Rider, and Bridle & Bit magazines. Steve was also featured in Western Horseman in 1999. He was instrumental in establishing the first Mule Training Apprenticeship Program in the newly expanded equine program at Pierce College in Woodland Hills, California, and more recently in Arizona, at Central Arizona College.

Joining Steve is World Champion trainer, **Dave Robart**. Dave owns and operates Pleasant Hill Training Center in Eastern, North Carolina. Dave's method of training, using his patented **Pinchless Bits** and positive reinforcement have provided training solutions for horses that other trainers have labeled problem horses. His passion for horses began at 11 years old, exercising race horses in California, and continued through his teen years when he began breaking horses with his father, a trainer of Roy Rogers' horses.

RFDTV will film the weekend's events and show them as part of their regular television series next fall. Watch for upcoming announcements of specific days and times.



MULE DAYS CELEBRATION

BISHOP
CALIFORNIA

Memorial Day Weekend
May 24-29, 2011
www.muledays.org

Announcements

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR NEEDS YOUR HELP

BCHC Membership Coordinator, Chip Herzig, is requesting that each of you please send him an email and let him know how you want to receive your annual membership renewal notice and your copy of the state newsletter (paper/hard copy or email). Chip's email address is:

Simply send Chip a quick note at:
membership@bchcalifornia.org

Thanks for your help with this!

FREE REGISTERED QUARTER HORSE

15.3H

Big, strong pack horse

Contact: Jeff Jardine, jjardine@earthlink.net

MAPS AND INFORMATION FOR PACIFIC CREST TRAIL USERS

Helpful links submitted by Jonathan Schultz, San Gorgonio Pass and Santa Ana River Units

<http://pacificcresttrailmap.com/pacific-crest-trail-atlas-2/samples/>

<http://pacificcresttrailmap.com/online-store/>

<http://pacificcresttrailmap.com/>

Rene Ogan is distributing her comprehensive "Pacific Northwest Trail Guide," describing 450 trails on public lands in Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming. The book contains information for hikers, horseback riders, mountain bikers, motorcyclists and offroad vehicle users. All BCH members receive a \$10 discount. To obtain a signed copy, send a check for \$35 (includes tax and S&H) to: ReneO Publishing, PO Box 712, Kittitas, WA 98934. See Rene's website for more information: <http://www.pnwtrailguide.com/>

RIDERS NEED HELP

JENNIFER FORRESTER wrote on 3/23/2011:

I have been planning a ride across the US to the 48 state capitals for many years and now am in my final stages. I am leaving Olympia, Washington on May 1, 2012. Check out Overland Westerners as I will be following their route. I am wondering if anyone has any suggestions as to who I would contact in each state if I need to make arrangements with officials for riding through the states. I have taken into account the riders that have done this before me, and this trek will mark the 100th anniversary of the first horsemen to do such a ride. I am also thinking of donating any money that anyone donates to equine rescues and epilepsy research. I probably will be doing this alone, but any rider is welcome to join me on the trail. I will have a website up to track my route and provide a way to donate if you would like. Feel free to email me if you like. Also I will be starting a blog of my journey and provide a link to it so that you all can follow if you like. If anyone would like to provide a place to stay please contact me as well. I am also interested in finding out how to cross the larger rivers such as the Columbia that divides Washington State and Oregon. If anyone has any suggestions please feel free to contact me at arabrideusa@gmail.com. Anyone is welcome to join on the trip if they like. I will keep you guys informed of my progress and send you a link to my blog once I start it. Thank you for your time.

CHARLES WILLIAMS from Quincy, CA, wrote on 4/6/2011:
 Horseman wanted...for a joint venture by horseback on the PCT from Mexico to Canada in one summer or two. Have you dreamed of a thru-ride but don't know anyone to go with (safety in numbers, etc.)? I would like to ride the trail in the next couple of years. I'm an experienced thru-hiker ('93) and a learning horseman. Please email me if you're interested in joining forces. Contact me at charlesnolie@yahoo.com or call 760-709-1385



Use the BCHC Getaway Travel Site and the ZamZuu shopping site to earn "easy money" for BCHC!



The “Round Up”

THANK YOU!!

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.

The following members have contributed extra to BCHC through their dues. We thank each one for their support!

BENEFATOR (63)

Antelope Valley (2)	Furer, Heidi and Latha Hylton Cabeza De Vaca, Carlos and Laurie
Eastern Sierra (4)	Brown, III, John D. and Susan L. Harms Layne, Michelle Waggoner, James B. and Judy L. Carter, Bill
High Sierra (4)	Mitchell, John H. and Wendy A. Gerson, Ruth and Grant Cochran, Richard and Dena Keller, Dennis and Cathlyn A.
Kern River Valley (1)	Finch, Ken and Betty
Kern Sierra (4)	Filkins, DVM, Mylon and Pat James, Don and Donna Caffee, Boyce ‘Buzz’ R. and Joann F. Frick, Edith
Los Padres (5)	Teixeira, Glenn and Karen Acquistapace, Robert E. Devine, Eve, Sean, Sarah & Jacob Calef, Otis Chaides, William and Nancy Kimmell
Mid Valley (13)	Zumbunn, Kathy and Jon Caudill MID VALLEY UNIT - BCHC Kraft, David and Kristine Barindelli, Karen Butler, Don and Vicki Morales Barnes, Jay and Elizabeth Huffman, Jim Hargreaves, Carol Jo and Larry Schneider Serpa, Dennis M. and Loretta Davis, Dennise A. Erlandson, Lloyd and Susan Doornenbal, Rien and Lieske Paulsen, Janice D., Kelly & Lars Bourn, Ken and Gerry Harris, Victoria McCombs, Rano and Bobetta Mahoney, Alan and Carolyn
Mother Lode (1)	Ferrand, Robert
North Bay (3)	Schoen, Sarah and David
Ohlone Riders (2)	Schoettler, John H. and Elaine E. Hill Nicolaides, Michelle (Nicolaides Ent., Inc.)
Redshank Riders (4)	Long, Gregory and Deborah Renck, Ken and Allison Polasek, Darrel and Carole Hawkins, Maris
Redwood (2)	Salzman, Holly and Dan
San Diego (2)	York, Ben

San Gorgonio Pass(2)Robertson, Ron and Korky
Herzig, Paul and Linda
San Joaquin Sierra(8)Cunningham, John and Jenise
Durando, Sylvia
Burroughs, Ernest C.
Horst, Toby and Katie
Yosemite Trls Pk Stn (Larry & Nishma
Knapp)
Wood, William E.
Dalby, Kenneth and Diane
Throgmorton, Jamie
Wolff, Pat and Maia
Airoza, Charles and Dahne
Wilson, DVM, Jamie
Henderson, Lori and Gary W.
Powell, Douglas and Shawna
Sherwood, Shirley
Layne, Corky
Top Of The State (2)Mohr, Bruce and Blanche
Bates, Susan and Buton

PATRON (10)

Antelope Vly	Colf, Stephen and Mary Ann
High Sierra	Barnes, Stan Pendegraft, Karl and Trish Morehart, Marty
Kern Sierra	Zaninovich, Vincent and Donna
Los Padres	Jenkins, Si and Karen
Mid Valley	Arington, Terri
North Bay	Bay Area Barns & Trails Trust (Barbara Weitz)
Sequoia	Young, Larry and Jody Holly, Jim and Pat

MT. WHITNEY - None at this time.

WELCOME!!

A heartfelt welcome to the **126** new
members who have recently joined
BCHC.

Every BCHC Unit has gained at least
one new member. Los Padres has
added the most - 18 new members.

We are pleased to have you among

BCHC Units Around the State

Antelope Valley

P.O. Box 84
Pearblossom, CA 93553
Kaye Bruns
(661) 944-4927
kowgrl@juno.com

Los Padres

P.O. Box 6773
Santa Maria, CA 93456-6773
Bill Chaides
(805) 471-1197
bchaides@tcsn.net

Eastern Sierra

c/o 293 Willow Street
Bishop, CA 93514-2720
Florene Trainor
(760) 872-2215
florenetrainor@yahoo.com

High Country

P.O. Box 1047
Alturas, CA 96101-1047
Stan Sylva
(530) 233-4333
lssylva@frontiernet.net

High Sierra

P.O. Box 4427
Visalia, CA 93278-4427
Robert Jones
(559) 638-2448
tntvet@aol.com

Kern River Valley

P.O. Box 5
Inyokern, CA 93527-0005
Larry Cigainero
(760) 379-5920
cagaineroc@aol.com

Kern Sierra

16347 Stephenie Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669
Robert Anderson
(661) 978-9630
lazy01@yahoo.com

Lake-Mendo

P.O. Box 191
Potter Valley, CA 95469-0191
Paul Villanueva
(707) 263-0147
villan13@pacific.net

Mid Valley

P.O. Box 1709
Modesto, CA 95353-1709
Michael King
(209) 664-0955
mickngig@sbcglobal.net

Mother Lode

P.O. Box 2088
Elk Grove, CA 95759-2088
Becky Wolk
(530) 622-1907
rwbzbranch@localnet.com

North Bay

1055 W. College Ave., PMB 153
Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5036
Thor Bodtker
(415) 328-4545
thunder.t@hotmail.com

Ohlone Riders

PO Box 5262
San Jose, CA 95150-5262
Kathy Woods
(408) 266-9828
ksmithwoods@yahoo.com

Redshank Riders

P.O. Box 383
Aguanga, CA 92536-0383
Stacy Kuhns
(909) 633-1705
stacykuhns@aol.com

Redwood

P.O. Box 6023
Eureka, CA 95502-6023
Carole Polasek
(707) 786-9637
muleride@frontiernet.net

San Diego

236 Oak St
Ramona, CA 92065-1952
Cheryl Wegner
(760) 788-0354
president@bchcsd.com

San Gorgonio Pass

P.O. Box 535
Beaumont, CA 92223
Paul "Chip" Herzig
(951) 769-3781
chryvchip@msn.com

San Joaquin Sierra

P.O. Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693
John Mikkelson
(559) 289-4911
jessecowboy@comcast.net

Santa Ana River

PO Box 6871
Norco, CA 92860-8062
Thad Chodakauskas
(951) 735-2746
ctchod@aol.com

Sequoia

P.O. Box 456
Springville, CA 93265-0579
Jamie Wilson, DVM
(559) 202-7216
drjamie91@earthlink.net

Shasta Trinity

10855 Beaver Rd
Oak Run, CA 96069-9602
Sam Burrows
(530) 547-5975
sburrows@frontiernet.net

Sierra Freepackers

P.O. Box 64
Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064
Mike Esra
(559) 325-0292
mgebk@osbaccess.com

Sutter Buttes

4265 Markley Rd
Yuba City, CA 95993-9659
Ben DuBose
(530) 673-1053
dubosefarm@yahoo.com

Top of the State

P.O. Box 461
Etna, CA 96027-0461
Joe Croteau
(530) 468-2339
jjcroteau@sisqtel.net



BCHC Membership Application on the back page. Also available with detailed membership information at BCHC website: www.bchcalifornia.org/

WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

If there is no unit in your area and you are interested in starting one, contact BCHC Secretary Kaye Bruns for more information, (661) 944-4927

BCHC Membership Application

- NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
 RENEWAL APPLICATION
 CHANGE - () PARENT UNIT () ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL () MEMBERSHIP TYPE

Backcountry Horsemen of California



DCTR (YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER) _____

**NEW MEMBERS WILL BE ASSIGNED NUMBER BY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

PARENT Unit Affiliation: (Select and CIRCLE ONE Unit as your Primary Unit Affiliation)

Antelope Valley	Mid Valley	San Joaquin Sierra
Eastern Sierra	Mother Lode	Santa Ana River
High Country	North Bay	Sequoia
High Sierra	Ohlone Riders	Shasta Trinity
Kern River Valley	Redshank Riders	Sierra Freepackers
Kern Sierra	Redwood	Sutter Buttes
Lake-Mendo	San Diego	Top of the State
Los Padres	San Gorgonio	

MAIL TO:
BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
OF CALIFORNIA
PO Box 535
Beaumont CA 92223

Donate to BCHC Education Fund?

Tax Deductible

Packer	\$10.00
Mule Skinner	\$25.00
You're the Greatest	\$50.00

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

SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME –MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

ADDRESS

CITY	STATE	ZIP	() PHONE
------	-------	-----	--------------

EMAIL ADDRESS

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

CHECK # _____

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

BUSINESS NAME –DONATIONS ONLY:

PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)

Individual \$40.00* Family \$50.00* Benefactor \$100.00 Patron \$250.00 Mt Whitney \$500.00

*=BCHC shares portion of dues with Back Country Horsemen of America

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

Associate Membership for: _____	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))
Associate Membership for: _____ 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 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership | \$100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership | \$250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mt Whitney Membership | \$500.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Donation – Packer | \$10.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mule Skinner | \$25.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> You're the Greatest! | \$50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership | \$ _____ |
| Total Remittance | \$ _____ |
| Check Number _____ | |
| Date Mailed _____ | |

Questions: Contact membership@bchcalifornia.org