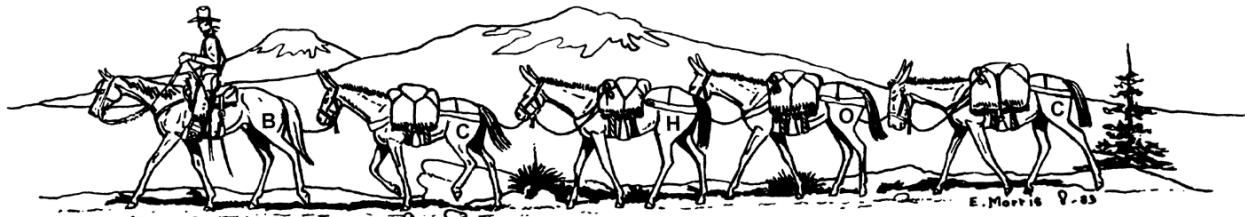




Welcome  
New  
Member

Backcountry  
Horsemens  
of  
California



# Backcountry Horsemen of California

## Who We Are and What We Do!

Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) is a group of dedicated men and women working to preserve the historic use of trails with recreational pack and saddle stock. BCHC members perform public service activities for numerous land management agencies and are continually working to educate other members and the general public on how to be "Gentle Users."

The use of livestock has played an important role in the American culture. California and the western states have particularly had a long tradition of using pack and saddle stock. BCHC carries on this tradition in modern times. With this use comes the responsibility and obligation to care for our public lands in order to ensure their use for future generations.

Backcountry Horsemen of California works in cooperation with government agencies to help clear trails, maintain historic sites, construct new facilities, sponsor educational seminars and clinics, and assist with service projects as requested. Members also strive to stay current on relevant issues and to provide input on management plans, access and activities that pertain to trails on public lands with pack and saddle stock.

Membership in Backcountry Horsemen of California is open to any individual or family sharing the concerns of the organization. There are numerous units throughout the state of California. Our organizational structure starts with BCHC, Inc., holding the non-profit status. Each of the local units is a subsidiary of the parent organization. Each unit has its own governing board and conducts activities of its choice, while operating under broad guidelines established by the state BCHC Board of Directors.

BCHC focuses its efforts in three key areas:

- Service Projects
- Education
- Public Lands Issues

Backcountry Horsemen of California has a well-established educational program offering tips and techniques for the backcountry. Our "Gentle Use" Program along with the Center for Outdoor Ethics' Leave No Trace Program are principles BCHC hopes you will consider following while enjoying your time on the trail.

BCHC officer contact information may be found on both state and local unit web sites.

BCHC web site: [bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org)

# Education

Our members are dedicated to teaching and sharing techniques.



Demonstrating packing and saw safety skills.



Working with youth.

Outdoor cooking.

Use of saddle and pack stock.



# Public Lands

Backcountry Horsemen of California has a well established working relationship with several agencies and other user groups.



# Service Projects



BCHC interacts with and supports national, state and local agencies clearing trails, repairing trails and many other duties.



## BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

### A COMMON SENSE GUIDE FOR A

# Safe And Enjoyable Trail Ride

SAFETY is PRIORITY

#### STAGING AREA

- ◆ Be on time and park considerately. Latecomers hold up everyone else.
- ◆ Tack up, bring halter with lead rope, water, lunch, jacket, or whatever else you need.
- ◆ Clean up manure, hay or litter in staging or camping area.
- ◆ Use ribbons to denote special situations: **red ribbon** if your stock tends to kick, **green ribbon** to signify a novice stock or rider, and a **blue ribbon** should be used to denote a stallion.
- ◆ Use of helmets is a personal choice of the rider.

#### WHILE ON A TRAIL

- ◆ Trail boss is the boss. If you are riding in any way which the trail boss feels poses a danger to other riders, you will be asked to modify your behavior or leave the ride.
- ◆ Stay behind the trail leader (usually but not always the trail boss) and in front of the designated drag rider. If you are having problems call out for a stop.
- ◆ The use of a helmet is a personal safety choice of the rider.
- ◆ When mounting to ride, keep your horse still until everyone is mounted.
- ◆ You must have permission from the trail boss before bringing a dog or a stallion.
- ◆ Most Group rides are walk only, an exception would be bees, etc... but as needed, rides will be divided into the 'Slow Group' which walks only and the 'Fast Group' which includes gaited and endurance type horses. Ride in the group that fits your horse's type and conditioning.
- ◆ Please don't crowd the horse in front of you. Try to leave a horse length of open space between horses, even at stops. Be sure to ask riders in front and back of you about their animal's comfort level.
- ◆ Call back trail obstacles and/or low branches to riders behind you.
- ◆ Leave gates as you find them. When a rider dismounts to open a gate, at least a portion of the other riders wait until he/she has remounted before leaving.

- ◆ Crossing water, the first horses are allowed to drink, then move up the trail, stop! Allow more horses to drink. The group does not leave until all have watered.
- ◆ In difficult or steep terrain, allow more space and keep moving. If you need to stop for any reason, wait until the trail leader finds a suitable place where all can safely stop.
- ◆ Be courteous and friendly to other trail users. While passing - safety for all parties is the priority. Greet other users to initiate a conversation so the animals can identify a non-threatening situation. If possible, a hiker should step to the downhill side. This provides a safer passing for both hiker and stock.
- ◆ Stay on the trail; obey agency rules; respect private property.
- ◆ When riding along a road, ride with the traffic. When crossing roads, cross abreast rather than single file, post riders in front and post riders behind the group to alert traffic.
- ◆ Riding side by side is permissible when passing in the same or opposite direction, if the trail is wide enough, and all trail rules are observed.
- ◆ No smoking allowed on trails.

#### TIPS FOR BREAKS OR LUNCH STOPS

- ◆ Water your stock during breaks or stops. Be cautious as to the amount of water given because some animals that are overheated can ty-up. Animals, while working, need as much as they will drink.
- ◆ Smoking is allowed during breaks in a safe area.
- ◆ Tie your horse safely. Loosen the cinch slightly during a long break. Do a safety check before remounting.
- ◆ When tying your horse, be sure there is ample room for other users to pass safely by your stock. Be sure you are not blocking the trail.
- ◆ If there is no garbage can, pack your trash out.
- ◆ Alcohol use can make riding dangerous, use discretion.
- ◆ The drag rider needs to remove trail flagging at the end of ride.



BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

# Bare Bottom Basics

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE FOR  
PROPER SANITATION

**I**magine— it's late afternoon, high in the backcountry. You gently check the heat beneath your cook pot in drooling anticipation of your evening feast as you begin to relax with a sense of achievement in the extra effort it required to get here. The awe-inspiring vista laid out before you is truly splendid as the sun gently dips behind the magnificent granite peaks. The serenity of the mountain meadow, the beauty of the alpine lake, the majestic grandeur of the stately pines and the errant strand of double-ply toilet tissue wafting delicately in the breeze through your camp! HUH!!?

Sadly, this scenario (or one equally disgusting) is played out all too frequently. In many areas there is no such thing as complete isolation in our backcountry any longer. If you are there, chances are someone else has been there too and how we deal with our waste is of prime concern.

Many folks don't have a clue when it comes to dealing with the most basic of human functions in the backcountry, away from the friendly confines of their personal, porcelain throne! While difficult and uncomfortable for many to discuss, the subject of bowels is one that is common to us all.

Please take the time to learn these Gentle Use Techniques to properly dispose of your waste and toilet items. They are easy to master and will help to make you a better backcountry visitor. Everyone will appreciate the proper disposal of human waste as we enjoy our time in the backcountry.

Whether you use the term Gentle Use, Tread Lightly, Minimum Impact, or Leave No Trace, the principles are all the same.

**I**t is a simple fact that humans regularly consume both food and water and the end product is the production of urine and feces .

Urine attracts wildlife. Animals may defoliate plants because of salt in urine. Therefore, urinating on non-vegetated soils away from any water source is a simple solution.

Solid waste is a bit different. The problem is that fecal waste is the medium for disease. Some of the most common means of transmission are direct contact with feces, contact with a contaminated insect, or ingestion of contaminated water. Improper disposal of human waste can produce significant health hazards. The most common problem being a severe diarrhea with dehydration. This can be very dangerous to you and others.

Proper disposal should ultimately accomplish the following objectives:

**A**void pollution of the water source

**A**void negative response of others finding it

**M**inimize the possibility of spreading disease

**M**aximize the rate of feces decomposition

No means of human waste disposal is without problems. No single recommendation is correct for every situation. Use toilets where they have been provided. If these are not available, then you must consider all factors and use other methods: catholes, latrine, or pack it out.

In popular areas one method to consider is the use of catholes. Decomposition is slow, but the prime objective is to decrease contact with others. The main idea behind the use of catholes is to disperse the waste, not concentrate it. Always choose a site out of the way, where others are unlikely to walk, and more than 200 feet from any water source, trails and camps. Dig your hole six to eight inches deep. It should have at least two inches of topsoil. Camouflage the surface when you are finished.

Latrines are another suitable option of human waste disposal. They may be necessary when disposal sites are limited. They are appropriate for large groups in popular areas during long stays. This is especially true if you have inexperienced campers or young children. If you dig a latrine, make it wider than it is deep, but a minimum of twelve inches deep. After each use cover the feces with soil and compress with shovel to help with decomposition. When the waste is four inches from the surface, fill it in.

For group use during an extended stay, modification of the latrine is advisable. Dig a shallow trench or a series of catholes. The advantages are an appropriate site and the feces are not concentrated in one hole. This should only be used in an area which is non-vegetated or has exposed mineral soil.



Now for the toilet paper (T.P.) topic. Toilet paper that is discarded or uncovered can linger. This is disgusting to others and a health hazard. When you use T.P. try to get by with the smallest amount possible. Please consider non-perfumed and non-ink printed products. The best option is to put it in a plastic zip-lock bag and pack it out. One alternative is to burn it later in a hot fire. (A hot fire does sterilize and incinerate). At the bare minimum, bury it deep in the cathole with the feces. Remember in a dry or cold environment the paper lasts a long time. At some point you may run out of that great modern invention! At that time you may have to consider another source such as leaves, grass, rocks, pine cones, sticks or snow.

Feminine hygiene articles are another story. The best solution is to double or triple bag them and carry them out with your trash. You may pack them with crushed aspirin, used tea bag, baking soda to reduce odor. Never bury them in latrines or catholes as animals will dig them up. They are difficult to burn and you need a really hot campfire for complete combustion. Ladies — your cycle may begin one week earlier due to change in altitude, increase in exercise or change in daily routine. Please go prepared! Extra precautions are needed in bear country.

Sometimes it is uncomfortable for people to talk about these subject so we hope this information has been of help and that you will take the time to consider how you have managed your waste in the past and how you will in the future.

## Please Be A Gentle User



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Backcountry Horsemen of California 13061 Rosedale Hwy., Suite G Box 217  
Bakersfield, Ca. 93314 www.bchcalifornia.org Rev 4/11

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

**ARE YOU**

# **A Mountain Lion LUNCH?**

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING MOUNTAIN LIONS

*Pumas are like a light breeze:*

*When one is present, you know it;*

*You can feel it, but you don't see it.*

*John Seidensticker, 1991*

The mountain lion, also known as puma, panther or cougar, is the largest carnivore (meat eater) of California. The generally secretive and solitary nature of lions makes it possible for humans to live in mountain lion country without ever seeing a mountain lion. The chance of being attacked is quite low compared to many other natural hazards. Attacks to humans are rare. A dozen people have been killed in the U.S. since 1890—though over half have occurred in the last fifteen years, indicating they are on the rise.

Generally, mountain lions are calm, quiet and elusive. They are usually found in areas that have adequate cover for ambushing and plentiful prey. These conditions exist in mountain subdivisions, urban fringes and open spaces, from deserts to coastal areas and to 10,000 foot elevations in the mountains. About half of California is prime mountain lion country!

The coloration of these lions is usually a tawny-yellowish but may also be a gray-brown to red-brown with black tipped ears and tail. The kittens, or cubs, are covered with blackish-brown spots and have dark rings around their tails. Adult males may be more than eight feet long from nose to end of tail and an average weight between 130 and 150 pounds. Adult females can be seven feet long and average between 65 and 90 pounds.

Think how quick, athletic and strong these animals are! They must be in excellent physical condition to survive. Lions are very powerful and normally prey upon large animals, such as deer, bighorn sheep and elk. However, they will prey on smaller animals as well, such as coyotes, skunks, raccoons and opossum. Domestic animals are also acceptable to their pallet, such as sheep, goats, cattle, horses, llamas, dogs, cats, ducks, and chickens. Mountain lions have excellent night vision and depth perception, prefer to stalk and ambush their prey, often from behind. The usual attack is with a powerful bite below the base of the skull, breaking the neck, or by suffocation. The carcass is often covered with dirt, leaves or snow and the lion comes back to feed on it over a course of a few days.

A lion's home range will often span over 100 square miles with many adults occupying the same area. Lion populations appear to be regulated not by social interactions but by the density of their principal prey. Competition for habitat is intense, especially in the western Sierra-Nevada where as many as 10 adult lions per 100 square miles has been recorded. The lion population has grown from an estimate of 600 in 1920 to a better field study of 2,000 in 1970. The 1990's show a population estimate ranging from 4,000 to 6,000.

Despite differences in opinions about mountain lions there is a common desire for proper scientific management of this magnificent animal. We must consider the regional diversity of the animals habitat, prey availability and human populations. Conflicts between mountain lions and humans vary regionally for different reasons. Minimizing your risk of becoming a mountain lion lunch is the main objective.

Mountain Lion Track



3.5 in.  
(9 cm.)

Bobcat Track



2 in.  
(5 cm.)

Wolf Track



5 in.  
(13 cm.)

Dog Track



3.5 in.  
(9 cm.)

## Mountain Lion Essentials To Remember

**The following are some helpful hints to remember while visiting the forests and parks or maybe your own backyard.**

You Must Be Alert

Remember Wild Animals Can Be Dangerous

Each Situation is Different

Hiking Alone Can Be Dangerous. Statistics show that nearly all recorded attacks in California involved lone trail runners and children.

Keep Children Close To You. Mountain lions seem especially drawn to children. Keep children within your sight at all times.

Avoid Confrontations. Most lions will try to avoid you approaching them. Give them a way to escape. Never corner a wild animal.

If You Smell A Dead Carcass, be extremely alert and get out of the area. Animals will protect their food supply.

Please Do Not Crouch or Bend Over. A person squatting or bending over looks a lot like a four-legged prey animal. If you must bend over, get quickly back to an up-right position.

Please Do Not Run. Running stimulates the lion's instinct to chase. Stand still and face the animal. Maintain constant eye contact. If you have children with you, pick them up if possible so they do not panic and run.

Try To Look Big. Raise your arms and speak firmly in a loud voice. Throw rocks or branches without crouching or turning your back.

Fight Back If Attacked. Protect your head and neck area. Remain standing and face the animal.

**We hope this information gives you a better understanding of how the California Mountain Lion thinks and appreciate the animal's abilities.**



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# BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA



## EQUINE FIRST AID WHAT TO HAVE AND HOW TO USE IT

### PLAN AND PREPARE

Depending on where you are riding or packing, in the event of an equine emergency, it may take several hours or longer for your stock to be treated by a veterinarian. You should plan and prepare to be on your own in caring for your injured stock for several hours or longer.

If you are traveling away from home, create and take with you a list of several local large animal veterinary hospitals that could treat your stock, in the event of a medical emergency. Include the hospital name, address, phone numbers and directions (if you do not have GPS).

Prepare a complete equine first aid kit for your trailer or packing, and a smaller one to take on the trail in your saddlebags. You will need the supplies necessary to stabilize your stock in the event of an emergency, until a veterinarian is available to take over your animal's care.

### EQUINE FIRST AID

- Trail Kit
- Betadine solution
- Betadine scrub
- Electrolytes
- Neosporin
- Nolvasan
- Saline solution
- \*Ace (acetylpromazine)
- \*Banamine
- \*Bute (phenylbutazone)
- \*Dex (dexamethasone)
- Hydrogen peroxide
- Topical eye ointment
- Emergency blanket
- Paper and waterproof
- Flashlight/light sticks
- Stethoscope
- Bandage scissors
- Standing wraps
- Rolls of sheet cotton
- Easy Boot
- Vetrap or Elastikon
- Hoof pick
- Duct tape
- Sharp knife
- Sterile gauze pads (4" x 4") Gauze rolls
- Latex gloves
- Cell phone (realize it quite possibly will not work)
- ¾" – 1" hose (to keep nostril open in a snake bite)
- Equine rectal thermometer
- Sanitary napkins (to stop bleeding)
- Fly repellent

*\*These prescription medications should be obtained from your veterinarian, along with specific instructions on how and when to administer each.*

### NORMAL HORSE VITAL SIGNS

- **Temperature:** 99 – 101 F
- **Pulse:** 30 – 42 beats per minute
- **Respiration:** 12 – 20 breaths per minute
- **Capillary Refill (gums):** 2 seconds or less
- **Skin pinch test (hydration):** should snap back immediately
- **Mucous membranes of gums:** should be pink (not pale/white or blue/purple)

Learn the "normal" vital signs for each of your stock. Record the normal vital signs for each of your stock animals at rest and include this list in each first aid kit. Learn how to take your horse's vital signs.

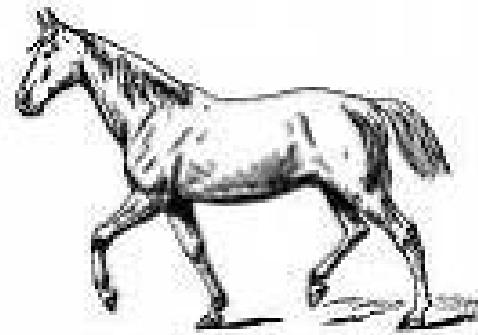
### IF AN EQUINE EMERGENCY OCCURS

- Stay calm and do not panic.
- Gather your animal's vital signs and other information to give to the vet.
- Call the veterinarian or send someone to seek help.
- Keep the horse as quiet and still as possible.
- Enlist help from others before evaluating or treating a sick or injured animal.
- Evaluate the location and severity of the illness or injury.

Prevention is not  
good luck, it's good  
management!

## COLIC

Colic is a general term for pain in the gut of a horse or mule. Colic is the number one cause of death in the equine world. It has many causes and its symptoms range from mild to fatal. You cannot look at a horse at the beginning of a colic episode and accurately assess the severity of the situation. If you observe the symptoms of colic in your stock: 1. Note and write down the time initial symptoms were observed. 2. Contain the horse in an area free of manure for observation. 3. Remove all feed, but leave water available. 4. Take and record your horse's vital signs. 5. Consult with a vet by telephone, if possible. 6. Be prepared to immediately transport your stock to veterinary care, if necessary.



## TYING UP

### AZOTURIA

Symptoms of "tying up" may include: sudden reluctance or inability to move; excessive sweating; resting heart rate over 60 BPM; resting respiration rate over 30 BPM; hard, tense hindquarter muscles; a painful and stiff gait and swishing tail. "Tying up" is exercise-related muscle degeneration due to the build-up of lactic acid in the blood, resulting in severe cramping and pain. If you notice these signs, stop and dismount immediately. To continue moving your horse may cause further muscle damage. Do not attempt to walk your horse out of it. Prescription medications may be administered under the orders of a vet. Horses that have a tied up once are prone to do so again. Consult with your vet about conditioning and diet factors that may help to prevent tying up.

## ELECTROLYTE IMBALANCE OR DEHYDRATION

Tying that occurs well into a ride may be associated with electrolyte imbalance or dehydration. This condition needs to be addressed differently than azoturia. Keep the horse moving to avoid cramping and attempt to correct any imbalances that have occurred.

## CUTS, LACERATIONS, ABRASIONS,

### PUNCTURES, ROPE BURNS

First, evaluate the wound or injury carefully. If there is enough loss of blood, a horse may go into shock. Stopping profuse bleeding is extremely important. To stop profuse bleeding:

1. Start with an inch-thick wad of clean gauze, a whole role of gauze or a sanitary napkin and press that on the wound.
2. Wrap a roll of gauze to keep the initial wad in place.
3. Then add a layer of padding (sheet cotton, standing wrap or a towel).
4. Hold that in place with Vet Wrap or Elastikon.
5. If the wound bleeds through, DO NOT remove the bandage!

Instead, add more pressure with another layer of gauze pads and another snug layer of Elastikon or Vet Wrap.

If your stock suffered a puncture wound, flush the wound with dilute Betadine solution and consult with your vet as soon as possible. If an animal's eye is injured, seek veterinary care immediately.

## LAMENESS AND HOOF INJURIES



If your horse or mule suddenly becomes lame, you must assess the degree of lameness to see if the stock can continue on. Any equine that is non-weight bearing should be evaluated by a veterinarian as soon as possible. All other lamenesses should be evaluated to see if you can identify the source of the problem. Always carry an Easy Boot or

other shoe replacement, in the event of a shoe lost on the trail.

First, carefully evaluate your animal's lame leg, looking for heat, swelling and obvious wounds. 2. Check the foot for rocks or debris and remove any you find. 3. If you find a nail, call your vet before removing it. The vet may want to evaluate the injury before removing the nail. 4. If you find heat or swelling and you feel qualified to put on a correct wrap, apply a support bandage. You can cause more damage with an incorrectly applied wrap. 5. If your horse refuses to bear weight on the limb, keep him still and send someone for help. Continued exercise on a severe injury can cause permanent damage.



BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

# Hellooo Camp!

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE FOR SELECTING  
A CAMP SITE AND USE OF FIRE

It's been a long day and you've been in the saddle for most of it.

Now it's time to find a good campsite, take care of your animals, and make camp for the night.

What kind of place will suit your needs and the needs of your livestock?

## WHAT MAKES A GOOD CAMP SITE ?

When camping with livestock, one of your primary considerations in selecting a place to camp should naturally be the well-being of your animals. Before leaving on your trip, it is a good idea to make inquiries about the availability of feed, accessibility to water, and potential impact on the resources. You should select an area where your impact will be minimal. All of these things require awareness on your part and prior planning before your trip.

### EXISTING CAMPSITES

Many times on public lands, campsites are already established. These sites have been used traditionally many times over the years and should be utilized whenever available. All campsites should be 100 feet from water. Of course, before deciding whether or not to use a particular campsite, you should consider several things — how much use is the area already receiving? What kind of impact will your group have on the area? How fragile is the soil and surrounding vegetation? You also need to consider the impact your livestock will have on the availability of winter feed for local wildlife.

Choose an area that is large enough to comfortably accommodate the number of animals in your party without compromising the resources. In order to recover from grazing pressures, meadows should be left in the best possible condition. The rule of thumb is, when plant height has been removed by 50 percent, it's time to relocate.

Processed and pelletized feed can be used not only to supplement feeding but also to decrease the impact on grazing. Animals should become accustomed to pelletized feed a few days before going into the backcountry, to minimize the possibility of colic.

### NEW CAMPSITES

In camping in a pristine area, it is essential that you not only allow adequate time to select an appropriate camping spot, but also try to avoid previously used campsites in order for them to have sufficient time to recover. You should locate your camp at least 100 feet from water. Consider this a minimal guideline, but check for any local regulations in your planned destination for the best information.

As with existing campsites, you should locate areas that will provide feed for your livestock and which is still well-suited for low impact camping. Look for a durable surface when selecting areas to place kitchen and tents. Such areas include exposed bedrock or dry grassy areas. In high desert locations, gravelly areas with minimum vegetation are ideal.

When using a campsite in a pristine area, vary the routes you take to water or to use the bathroom in order to prevent formation of permanent trails. Be aware of any activity that might endanger or harm the existing natural features of the site, especially those that regenerate slowly, such as trees, mosses, or lichens. Impact on the area can many times be avoided if you limit your stay to only one night.

Water for your livestock is another key factor in choosing a good campsite. The banks of small streams and vegetated lakeshores can be relatively fragile, so care should be taken in selecting stock watering areas preferably located at fords or even low gravel banks where damage will be minimal if any.

# CAMPFIRES

At one time, campfires in the backcountry were not only nice, but a basic necessity for cooking and warmth. With the advent of modern efficient camp stoves, campfires, in some instances, may not be necessary. Campfires may not be possible in high elevations or high use areas where no or very limited fuel is available. Granted, huddling around a fluorescent lantern at night may not be an image that most people think of when dreaming about a trip to the mountains, but a modern camp stove minimizes the impact you and your party will have on the backcountry.

In established campsites, there are often rock campfire rings that have been used for years. If you feel a campfire is important and there are no restrictions prohibiting a fire, make sure there is plenty of dead, downed wood available and the risk of fire danger is minimal. Use the established campfire ring instead of constructing a new one. Always check with the administrating agency beforehand in order to obtain a campfire permit if necessary.

In a pristine area, it is possible to have a campfire and still have a minimal impact on the area. As always, select a durable site for your fire. Fires can be made utilizing either the mound fire with a fire blanket, or by using fire pans, metal oil pans or roasting pans lined with a few inches of inorganic soil and elevated with rocks. You may consider packing out ashes and disposing of them properly and safely.

By using these simple guidelines and common sense in selecting a campsite, your impact will be minimal and that ideal camping spot will remain a favorite for you and others for years to come.



 <p>MY CAMP .... YOUR CAMP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Recognize durable surfaces.</li><li>✓ Concentrate use in popular areas.</li><li>✓ Use established campsites if possible.</li><li>✓ Camp away from trails and water sources.</li><li>✓ Leave a site cleaner than you found it.</li><li>✓ Disperse use in new areas.</li><li>✓ Avoid areas where impact is just beginning.</li></ul>	 <p>RESPONSIBLE CAMPFIRES</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>✓ Know the regulations and management techniques.</li><li>✓ Judge the wind, weather, location and wood availability. Decide if it is safe.</li><li>✓ Use an established fire ring if possible.</li><li>✓ Where there is no fire ring, bring a fire pan or make a mound fire.</li><li>✓ Use dead and downed wood.</li><li>✓ An unattended fire is dangerous.</li><li>✓ Always have a shovel and bucket for saturating the ashes with water.</li><li>✓ Restore the appearance of the fire site.</li></ul>
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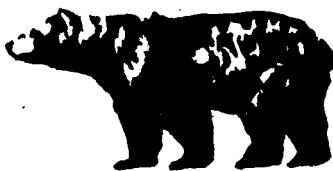
BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

# ***Black Bear Sense***

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING BEARS

A leaf fell in the woods.

The eagle saw it.



The deer heard it.

And the bear smelled it.

You humans have me figured to be just like Yogi, BooBoo or your cuddly stuffed Teddy Bear. Please remember; I am a wild animal. Statistically, you are quite safe from us bears. We do add a risk to you visiting the backcountry but you take a much greater risk driving to the trailhead. Even if you should die in the wilderness, you are much more likely to fall off a cliff, drown, suffer heart failure or succumb to hypothermia than you are to be attacked by one of us bears.

My eyesight is not perfect but my sense of smell and hearing are very keen. I can smell you humans coming for quite some distance and I'll usually be gone at the first whiff of human intrusion. There are some of us bears you have invited in for milk and cookies. To some of my fellow bears, the smell of humans in the woods works like a dinner bell.

All of us bears remember where our meals come from. We aren't dumb and our stomachs rule. We have a road map sketched in our minds. All the best restaurants (campsites, berry patches, cars, oak groves, etc.) are located on this map and we will visit them again in a couple of days.

We bears are intelligent and opportunistic critters and when we become accustomed to the idea that humans share our space, we readily take advantage of everything that association has to offer — such as helping ourselves to your delicious pork and beans, granola bars, bacon, toothpaste, soap. Some of us have even cultivated a taste for chocolate. We will also eat chapstick and deodorant. With noses like ours, it is impossible to hide the fact that you are keeping all that good stuff in your tent, your car, or your camper! Our noses lead us to the food and our incredible strength gets us past almost any obstacle. We are able to open the side of your trailer as though we had can openers for claws. We will open cans of spaghetti sauce and ravioli. The fact is, when we bears are offered the choice, we will almost always opt for the easiest meal at hand; we have discovered that beef stew with milk and cookies tastes better than grubs!

If we gain access to your food, we become habituated. That means we become dependent on human food sources and are less afraid of humans. Therefore, it is critical that we never gain access to human food. You humans need to mind your manners while you are visiting the forests and parks. Take time to store your food properly at the campground and in the backcountry. It is your moral and legal responsibility. Proper food storage makes the difference between a wild bear and a dead bear because problem bears are often destroyed. The following suggestions may make the difference of having a good time during your visit or going home angry and upset. Please help us both stay alive.

# **Black Bear Essentials to Remember**

The following are what we bears would like you humans to remember.

**You Must Be Alert**

**Please Do Not Surprise Me**

**You Are Being Aggressive If You:**

Get between me and my cub

Are anywhere near a carcass ....

It's my food!

Walk directly towards me

Circle or crowd me .....

I need an escape route!

Try to take "your" food away from me .....

It's mine!



The following are some helpful hints to remember while visiting the forests and parks.

**Avoid a Confrontation**

Separate cooking and sleeping areas

Store food and garbage properly

Keep a clean camp site

**Avoid a Confrontation: Watch for these Signs**

Large areas of torn up ground

Rocks or boulders turned over

Logs or stumps torn apart

Fish or dead animals

Berries

Claw marks on trees

Bear scat

**Remember: Wild Animals Can Be Dangerous**

Bears habituated to food are dangerous

Do not run

Try to look larger than you are

Do not bend down

Each situation is different

## **REMEMBER**

Bears have an extraordinary sense of smell. Bears are attracted to and will eat anything with an odor. While not normally aggressive towards humans, bears are possessive of their food and will defend it. They are very quick and powerful. DO NOT TRY TO RETRIEVE YOUR FOOD FROM A BEAR. If a bear gets into your food, stay a safe distance away and then be sure to clean up the mess afterwards. Report incidents to a ranger. You can keep bears wild and alive by storing your food properly. Just use some thought and preparation.

## **PROPER FOOD STORAGE FOR BACKCOUNTRY USERS**

On some trails you may be visited by bears every night. On others, you may not see bears your entire trip; however, that does not mean that bears do not live in that area. In all cases, the best way to store your food properly is in a portable, BEAR-RESISTANT CANISTER OR PANNIER . Safe food storage is as simple as placing the locked canister or pannier on the ground 50 feet from your camp. THIS METHOD OF FOOD STORAGE IS THE ONLY PROVEN, EFFECTIVE WAY TO STORE YOUR FOOD. It is required in some areas of the backcountry that you store your food in bear-resistant containers. Please check with the agencies about requirements before starting your trip. Canisters are for sale and rent at sporting goods stores and some ranger stations. Panniers are available through some saddle shops. Using a bear-resistant container allows for maximum freedom and safety while traveling and when choosing a camp location. The counter-balance method should be your last resort. This method is hard to do well, requires trees and rope, and bears often thwart it. In fact, bears will probably get your food if you do not get out of your warm bed and make some mighty loud noise and keep a sentinel on watch after the first visit.

## **PROPER FOOD STORAGE AT CAMPGROUNDS AND TRAILHEADS**

Food storage is just as important at campgrounds and trailheads. Having more people and vehicles around doesn't mean there is less danger of losing your food. To a bear, more people means more food. STORE ALL FOOD IN FOOD STORAGE LOCKERS IF THEY ARE AVAILABLE. If there are no lockers, then store the food and ice chest in your vehicle (better in the trunk), keep them covered and out of sight. Leaving food in your vehicle at the trailhead while you are in the



## BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

# HIGH COUNTRY MANNERS

### A COMMON SENSE GUIDE FOR GENTLE USE OF THE BACKCOUNTRY

## TRAILHEAD MANNERS

- Leave your vehicle parked with other visitors able to exit, park, load and unload around you.
- Be sure to lock your vehicle doors, camper shells and tool boxes.
- Clean up all food scraps. Bears will break into your vehicle, if they suspect it contains food.
- Do your part in keeping the trailhead clean and accessible to others. Bring a rake and shovel.
- Use proper sanitary facilities at the trailhead.



## TRAIL MANNERS

- Be polite and helpful when meeting livestock, backpackers, hikers, and other users of the wilderness.
- Always yield the trail to faster hikers or riders. Move aside as soon as you can and let them go on ahead.
- Common sense and courtesy should prevail in matters of right-of-way on the trail. In most cases, riders and pack animals do have the right-of-way. Those traveling uphill have the right-of-way over those going downhill.
- To ease possible congestion, avoid stopping in the trail at a creek or trail junction. Move to the next available place to pull out and get completely off the trail.
- Loose herded livestock are difficult to control and, in many places, illegal. It is wise to lead all your animals to minimize the chance for trail conflicts.
- Remove obstacles from trails whenever possible rather than riding around them, as this creates a secondary trail.
- Stay on the trail. Cutting switchbacks creates erosion.
- Explain to those not accustomed to stock that a hiker can control his/her movements on and off the trail easier than a rider can control the movements of a string of pack animals.
- Some horses and mules can be skittish while on the trail, therefore, it is wise to give them some room.
- Explain to those not accustomed to stock, that it is safer for you, them and the resource, to step to the downhill side of the trail and to stay in sight. Be sure the person feels safe before you start to pass.

- Explain to hikers that it would be helpful to speak in a calm voice to the animals as they pass, thus assuring the stock that the colorful hiker is not a bear. Remind them not to touch the animals as they go by and to please wait a few seconds before starting along the trail.
- Leaving any equipment in the middle of the trail, near a water crossing or bridge is like leaving your suitcase in the middle of the highway. Your equipment may get run over.
- Dogs can be good companions where permitted on the trail. Dogs not familiar with livestock can be intimidated and scare the stock. Remember to keep dogs under control at all times so they are not a threat to the safety of other visitors or to wildlife.
- An “encounter” session with local llamas and their handlers before you enter the backcountry might be worthwhile.



## CAMP MANNERS

- Set up camp on hard ground away from grass and marsh areas where you and your stock will appreciate being away from mosquitoes. Be sure the location is at least 100 feet from any water source.
- Proper sanitation practices are very important. Choose a site at least 100 feet away from any water source or campsite. Use a shovel or trowel to bury human waste.
- Choose a campsite that has plenty of feed or pack in pellets and grain.
- If you need to restrain the stock, tie to a high line located on durable ground, 100 feet away from any water source, and out of sight of other camps and trails.
- The use of a portable electric fence is encouraged as it is an excellent way to control grazing pack and saddle stock. It is important to train them to respect the wire or tape prior to setting up in the backcountry. Move the fence often to avoid excessive impact on the meadow.
- Use only dead and downed firewood for fuel. Conserve wood by using a propane or gas stove for cooking.
- Pack out all garbage and trash. This means food scraps too. Remember foil does not burn.
- Remove, scatter or bury all manure in the campsite and at the trailhead.

## PROPER PREPARATION

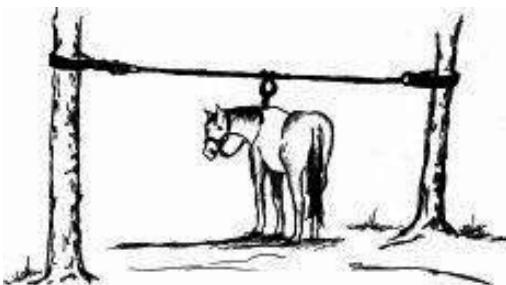
One of the most important aspects to consider when planning any trip is proper planning and preparation. This is especially true of backcountry trips. Try to be prepared for any eventuality.

- Consider the goals and needs of the group: scenery, lakes, fishing, moving camp, ages and experiences, etc.
- Know where you are going. Ask those who have been there before. Know how long it will take you to get to your destination each day of your trip.
- Know what maps you will need, study them and know how to use them. Have a compass along.
- Find out if you need to have a wilderness and/or campfire permit. Ask if there are any restricted areas you will be going through.
- Find out if you stay overnight at the trailhead. Learn what facilities are available: corrals, water, one night stay limit, manure dumps, etc.
- Know how many people are in your group and what kind of appetites/restrictions they may have.
- Determine if there is enough feed, water and proper campsite for each day's destination.
- Have first-aid kits for both people and animals, directions for use and a flashlight.
- Have at least one emergency light-weight meal along for the group.
- Be sure to have the appropriate clothing and equipment for the season.
- Have "strike anywhere matches" or a lighter in water-proof containers.

## A MESSAGE TO HORSEMEN FROM YOUR FOREST SERVICE



Horses, Mules, Burros and Llamas too!



- Take only the minimum number of animals needed.
- During short stops, you may tie horses to trees which are at least eight inches in diameter.
- For long periods, tie horses to a high-line stretched between two sturdy trees. A good rule of thumb is 7 feet away from tree and 7 feet high.
- If you picket horses, move them often.
- Keep tied, picketed, and hobbled horses well away from camp, lakes and streams.
- Tie, picket, or hobble horses only in dry areas to minimize trampling.

## WHO ARE THE BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

Backcountry Horsemen of California is a group of dedicated men and women working to preserve the historic use of trails with recreational pack and saddle stock. They perform public service activities for numerous land management agencies and they are continually working to educate their members on how to be "Gentle Users."

The use of livestock has played an important role in the American culture. California and the western states have particularly had a long tradition of using pack and saddle stock in the backcountry. The Backcountry Horsemen of California carry on this tradition in modern times. With this use comes the responsibility and obligation to care for our public lands and to ensure their use for generations.

Backcountry Horsemen of California works in cooperation with government agencies to help clear trails, maintain historic sites, construct new facilities, sponsor educational seminars and clinics, and assist with service projects as requested. They also strive to stay current on relevant issues and to provide input on management plans and activities that pertain to backcountry trails on public lands.

Backcountry Horsemen of California focuses its efforts in three key areas:

- Service Projects
- Education
- Public Lands Issues.



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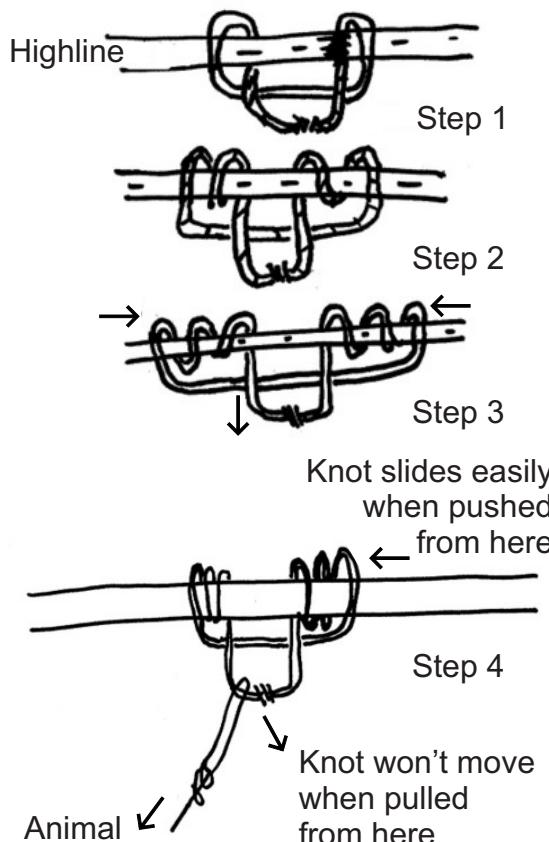
## MAKING A PRUSSIC LOOP

Loop is about 40" long  
1/4" climbing cord

Must be smaller diameter than highline  
Knots: Prussic Knot or Double Overhand



## USING A PRUSSIC LOOP



## THE HIGHLINE:

### A. Tree Considerations:

1. Use tree saver straps.
2. Use on trees 8" diameter or larger.
3. Tie stock away from tree trunk to avoid root damage.

### B. Turf Considerations:

1. Use on durable surfaces.
2. Rake area free of pine cones and debris before stock use. Rake back into place afterwards.
3. Move stock at first sign of over-use or damage.

### C. Easy to Tie, Adjust and Untie:

1. Basic Prussian loops.
2. Coupling loops with carabiners and pulleys: mechanical advantage.

### D. Animal Considerations:

1. Secure system: All components are strong.
2. Easily adjust distance between animals after the highline is tightened.
3. In an Emergency simply cut loops to free animals.

### E. Versatile Uses of Components:

1. Highline used as lash rope.
2. Loops can be used for rope extenders, etc.
3. Carabiners can be used to hang lanterns to a dining fly, etc.
4. Safety and rescue applications. Use loops on vertical rope for foot and hand holds. Carabiner and Prussic loop Come-along.
5. Carabiners can be used for pack hitches.

## THE HIGHLINE RULE OF SEVENS:

1. The highline should be about seven feet high.
2. The animals should be at least seven feet from any tree trunk.
3. The animals should be at least seven feet apart.
4. The length of leadrope from highline to halter should be about seventeen inches.

## BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA



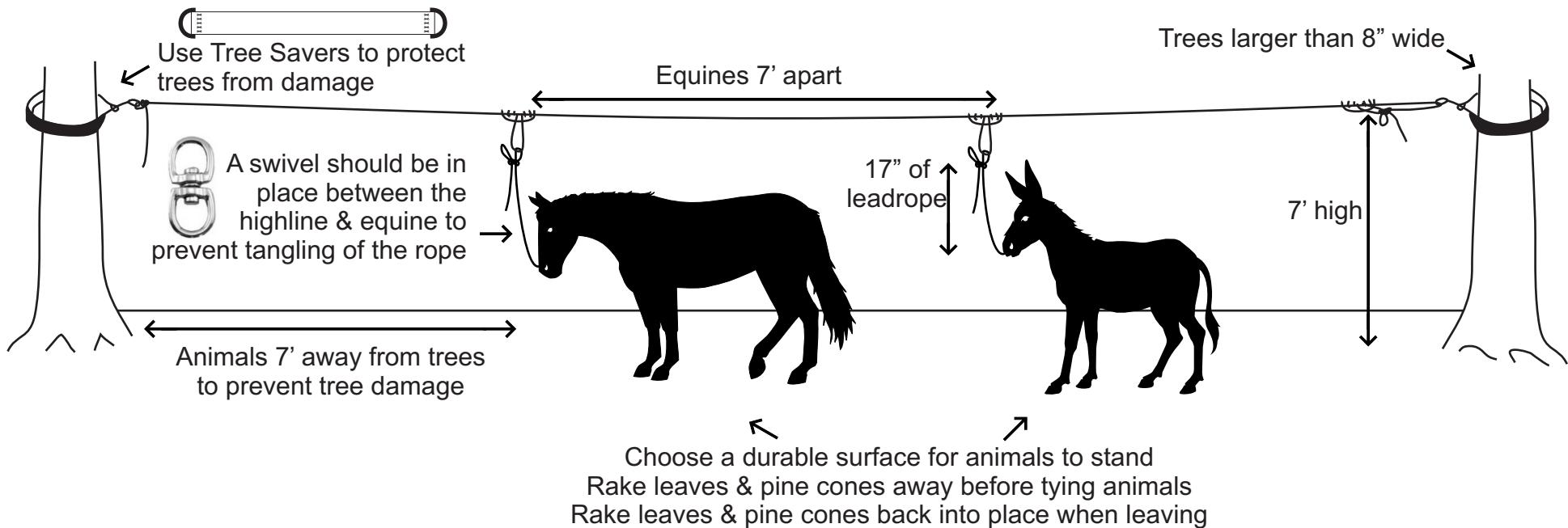
A VERSATILE SYSTEM THAT  
PROTECTS THE RESOURCES, YOUR  
STOCK AND YOUR GEAR!



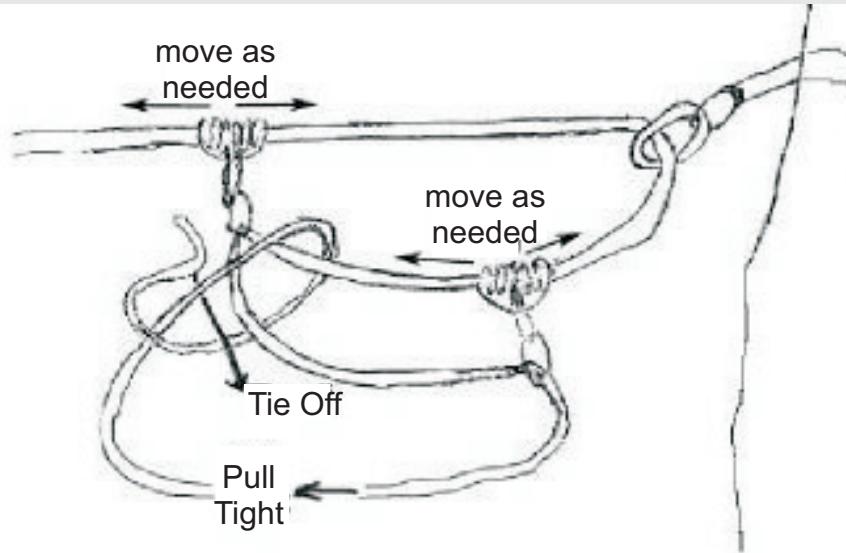
CONCERNED MEN AND  
WOMEN DEDICATED TO  
GENTLE USE OF CALIFORNIA  
TRAILS AND BACK COUNTRY

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# SETTING UP A HIGHLINE



## TYING OFF THE LAST PART OF A HIGHLINE



### Step 1

- Tree savers on both trees
- Click carabiners (or loop rope) through tree savers
- Place 1st Prussian Loop on highline (with carabiner & pulley optional)

### Step 2

- Attach 2nd Prussian Loop on highline (with carabiner & pulley optional)
- Pull tight
- Tie Off between loops with quick release knot, lock with 2 half hitches, and daisey chain any excess

## THE MECHANICAL ADVANTAGE



Using carabiners and pulleys can give you a mechanical advantage. Pulleys can exponentially reduce the amount of force needed to tighten the highline when used in multiples. Carabiners also can make attaching the highline components together fast and easy, and are handy in a pinch!

# Backcountry Horsemen of California



## What's the BUZZ???

*So what is that buzz or hum of wings? Is it a bee or wasp? What is it doing? Where is it going?*

*Could it be a danger to me or my animals?*

*One thing we know: a small, flying speck of life, can certainly pack a powerful punch!*

Bees and wasps can be a serious nuisance problem especially in the late summer when the populations are high and the food source is low. In the balance of nature, however, these insects are beneficial in their activities, particularly as pollinators and predators of pest insects. Bees sustain themselves on nectar or pollen. Wasps develop by feeding primarily on insects, and in the late season are drawn to human food and garbage. There are honey bees, bumble bees, carpenter bees, mining bees, sweat bees, leaf cutter bees and parasite bees. There are hornets, paper wasps, yellow jackets "meat bees", cicada killer wasps, spider wasps, and parasite wasps.

The yellow jacket, commonly known as "meat bee" is attributed to most of the "bee stings" in mountainous areas. According to entomologist George Poinar, "one sting is enough to kill a hypersensitive human and 50 to 75 stings is enough to kill a normal human." Weather is a factor with yellow jacket populations. A mild winter in the mountains allows more queens to survive and set up new nests in the spring. Fall is when the workers become more assertive in their quest to obtain protein to stock the queen's winter nest. Anything that resembles meat or sugar is what the workers want and will be aggressive to take to the nest. They tend to defend their nests vigorously when disturbed. Their mandibles are how they bite and can take a piece of your flesh, but the venom is contained in the stinger and they can sting repeatedly. Their nests are similar to paper wasps, building paper cylinders from chewed organic materials and using sticky saliva to mold the cylinders together in organized cells. Nests can usually be found in the ground or at ground level in fallen logs, tree stumps, rodent tunnels and natural cavities along meadow edges, trails, etc.

**PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:** Forget the perfume and fragrances while in the wilderness. Wear light or natural colored clothing. Flowers are bright and you don't want to attract bees. Insect repellent may help.

**IN CAMP:** Keep your camp CLEAN. Minimize your trash/garbage and keep it sealed. Keep all food covered. Traps may help to lure meat bees away from the camp. Meat bees seem to like meat and fruits best. The use of spray is best done in the early morning or at night when it is cooler. Meat bees do not move as fast and your chances of getting stung are reduced. Those mosquito net tents are very nice and light weight to pack.

**ON THE TRAIL:** Be alert! You must be aware of your surroundings and what is happening at all times. Be certain your group knows the plan of action should you encounter an aggressive hive. Watch for that little flying flicker of activity that is either coming or going from a hole in the ground, rotten wood or natural cavities that you and your animals must go past. Watch the animal in front of you. Does he drop his head to get something off his nose? Aggressively swish his tail and stomp his feet? You had better not miss these warning signs! If you believe you are among the stinging critters: give a loud holler "bees" and have everyone pick up a trot and move through the area. (A lope is a greater danger to everyone and harder to control the situation). Continue to trot until the entire group is at a safe distance from the nest. Check for any stings on both humans and animals. Take appropriate measures for first-aid treatment.



## FIRST AID MEASURES

Honey bees—but not other bees or wasps—generally leave the stinger embedded in the skin. Remove the stinger as soon as possible. Honey bee stingers are best removed by scraping (not crushing) the stinger with a finger nail or knife blade. Wasps do not leave a stinger but instead can bite several times.

Localized swelling and pain are typical reactions. In most people, these symptoms will gradually disappear. Wash the area with soapy water or alcohol. Apply antiseptic to area to help prevent possible infection. Cool lotions or compresses can help relieve pain and swelling. Various materials applied to site may also reduce pain such as: crushed aspirin, a paste made of baking soda or meat tenderizer. If multiple stings are received oral antihistamines can be helpful.

A small percentage of humans are hypersensitive to stings. A systemic allergic reaction can involve difficulty in breathing, dizziness, nausea, and development of hives. These symptoms may require immediate medical attention from a physician. Most hypersensitive individuals carry an injectable antidote and know how to administer the medicine. They should be evacuated immediately.

Name	Nest/Location	Colony Permanence & Size	Food Habits	Stinger
Honey Bee	wax comb loc: large hollows, hives	perennial > 10,000	nectar, pollen sweet foods	barbed left during sting
Bumble Bee	wax comb loc: rodent burrows, small hollow spaces with lots of insulated debris	annually 50–500	nectar, pollen	no barb
Paper Wasp	paper comb, no envelope loc: under eaves in small voids	annually < 100	live insects	no barb
Yellow Jacket “Meat Bee”	paper comb, covered with paper envelope loc: usually underground	annually 100's	dead insects garbage, meats, sweet foods	no barb
Hornet	paper comb, covered with paper envelope loc: above ground in trees, shrubs and under eaves	annually 100's	live insects	no barb

**LURE TRAPS:** Available at many retail stores. These are easy to use. Best used to catch the queen in late winter and spring. They may help reduce but not eliminate large populations. Change the bait every 2-4 weeks and more often when temperature is high.

**WATER TRAPS:** Generally homemade and consist of a 5 gallon bucket, string and protein bait such as turkey, ham or fish. (Do not use cat food). The bucket is filled with soapy water and the protein bait is suspended 1-2 inches above the water. (The use of a wide mesh screen over the bucket will prevent other animals from taking the bait). After the yellow jacket takes the protein, it flies down and becomes trapped in the water and drowns. Place the traps away from your eating area.

**NEST SPRAYS:** Aerosol formulations of insecticides which are labeled for wasps and hornets and must be used with extreme caution. Wasps will attack when sensing a poison applied to their nests. Always wear protective clothing. Underground nests can be quite a distance from the visual entrance and the spray may not reach far enough to hit the wasps. Partially intoxicated, agitated wasps can still be stinging you at some distance from the nest.

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## THE BITE

Rattlesnakes are members of the pit viper family. They have heat sensors, or pits, on each side of their head below the nostrils that detect infrared. These sensors allow the snake to find its warm blooded prey. The rattlesnake can also follow the trail of its prey by flicking its tongue along the ground. The rattlesnake uses this hunting technique as well as ambushing its prey. When it is within striking distance, which is 1/3 to 1/2 of its body length, it quickly lunges forward and aims for the prey. While in the forward motion, the snake's jaws will open, extending the two top front fangs that are tucked



backwards under its upper jaw. These fangs act as hypodermic needles and inject the venom directly into the snake's target. The venom not only subdues the prey, but also begins breaking down the tissue of the prey to make it easier to digest. Usually it is a strike and release, however in some cases the snake will hang on to the victim until the struggling ceases.

One important note to remember is that one should never handle a dead rattlesnake. Although dead, the snake could still have a jerk reaction and bite you. If you kill a rattlesnake for food, be certain to remove the head first and bury it.

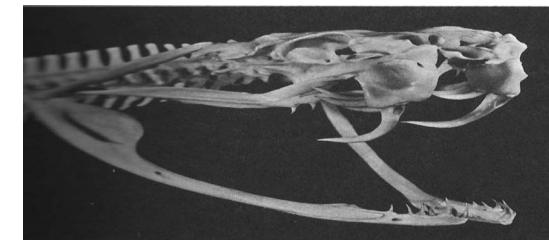
## GENERAL INFORMATION

The heads of rattlesnakes found in California are different from other snake species. Most snake species have heads that are the same width as their bodies. However, our rattlesnakes have bulges at the base of their head, giving them a triangular shape. These bulges are where the venom sacks are located. Rattlesnakes are very thick and heavy bodied which makes their tracks easy to distinguish in dirt. They move very slowly with their rattles held up off the ground .

During days of extreme heat, rattlesnakes will seek shelter in the shade, venturing out in the cooler evenings to hunt for food.

Even though it is a dangerous animal, rattlesnakes are not without predators of their own. Raptors consider them fair game and, after killing them with piercing talons, will eat rattlesnakes. Roadrunners also feed on rattlesnakes and will beat them to death with their strong beaks. Opossums are immune to the rattlesnake venom and can help keep them out of your yard. King snakes will imitate a rattlesnake to scare humans away, which usually ends in the snake's death. However, king snakes will often make a meal out of a rattlesnake!

Rattlesnakes will hibernate during cold weather, emerging in the Spring to hunt for food. This is also when you'll see more babies, which are born live in late Fall or early Spring.



## AVOID THE BITE!

Rattlesnakes are not out to get you. Their venom is strictly designed for subduing prey and for protection, and they don't want to waste it on humans. By following a few simple rules you can avoid a painful incident.

- Use trails that are cleared enough to allow complete visibility.
- Don't allow children and pets to run ahead of you.
- Do not reach under rocks; be aware of where you put your hands and feet.
- Check the area thoroughly before setting up camp or staking out your stock
- When clearing brush or doing trail work, consider wearing 'gators' for protection, especially if running equipment.
- If you encounter a rattlesnake on the trail, give it a wide berth.
- Always be aware of your surroundings and the trail ahead of you.

Did you know more people die from rodent related causes than from rattlesnake bites? A rattlesnake's main prey is rodents!

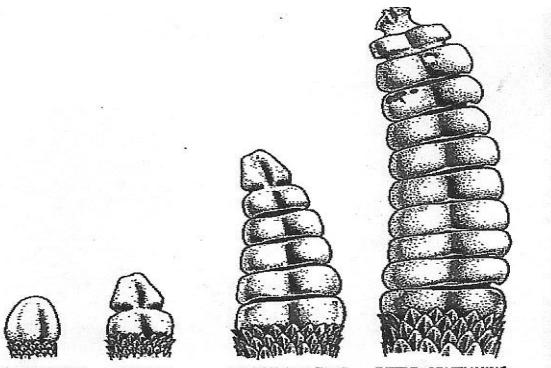


Rattlesnakes can unhinge their jaws, allowing them to swallow large rodents whole. When closing their mouths, the fangs tuck backwards against the roof of the mouth



Rattlesnakes have a triangular shaped head as demonstrated by this red diamond .

Each time they shed, a new segment is added to their rattle. This can happen 2-3 times per year.



## IF BITTEN BY A RATTLESNAKE

- Keep the bite area still. Try using a splint to immobilize the bite
- Remove anything that could cause constriction if there is swelling
- Keep the area of the bite lower than the heart. Remain calm.
- Seek immediate medical help

## IF YOUR HORSE IS BITTEN

Most bites in horses happen in the face. This is due to the horse's natural curiosity when encountering a snake. Swelling of the nose probably will happen and because a horse can only breathe through the nose, suffocation could occur. Take two 5-6" sections of garden hose and insert carefully into each nostril. Using Vaseline or spittle on the end of the hose will help it to glide in smoothly. Do not cut or apply ice to the bite area. Contact a vet immediately. If out on the trail walk your horse slowly to the trailer. Try to keep the horse calm. Remove any tack that might be constrictive during swelling.

If the bite happens in the leg, it might not swell as much. This does not mean that it isn't as serious. Immediately contact your vet and keep your horse calm.

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4/2011

# *Living With Rattlesnakes*

## *AVOID THE BITE!*

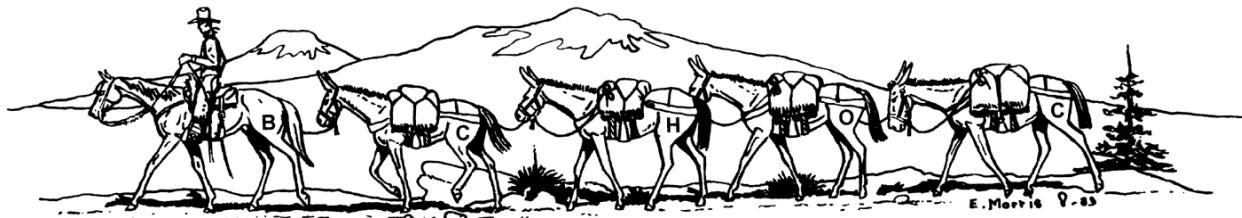


**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA**



*Concerned Men and Women  
Dedicated to Gentle Use of  
California Trails & Backcountry*

*A Pocket Guide for  
Backcountry Stock  
Users*



# Rendezvous

Once a year, Backcountry Horsemen of California holds a Rendezvous. It's a three-day public event, open to all. There is no admission fee. This annual event is held in a different location in the state each year sponsored by the local BCHC units in the area.

Friday gates open for an assortment of classes and demonstrations. Friday evening a dinner and awards presentations are held. Saturday morning continues with classes and demonstrations. Saturday noon is often a parade. Saturday afternoon there are contests and competitions. Saturday evening a members' dinner, an auction and entertainment. Sunday morning starts with Cowboy Church and might continue with classes and demonstrations until noon.

Below are just a few examples of the seminars, classes, contests, demonstrations and trainers that BCHC has had at past Rendezvous. Check the [BCHCalifornia.org](http://BCHCalifornia.org) website for current information.

## Seminars:

- Packing 101
- US Forest Service wilderness Packing
- Equine Dentistry
- General Equine Health
- Poison Plants
- Emergency Hoof Care
- Fire safety (LNT)
- Plan Ahead & Prepare (LNT)
- Other Users (LNT)
- Waste Materials (LNT)
- Stock Care (LNT)
- Trailhead Horse Camping
- Pack Saddle Fitting
- Pack Stock & Packing Techniques
- Military Packing Techniques

## Kids Classes:

- Parents Taking Kids in the Wilderness
- What Kids Should Know in an Emergency
- LNT for Kids
- Iron Mules for Kids
- Kids Safety around Stock

## Contests:

- Dutch Oven Cooking Contest
- Pack Scramble & Unscramble Contests
- Odd Load Packing Contest
- Kids Art Contest

## Trainers:

- Jerry Tindell Horse Trainer
- Steve Bauhr
- Robin Bond

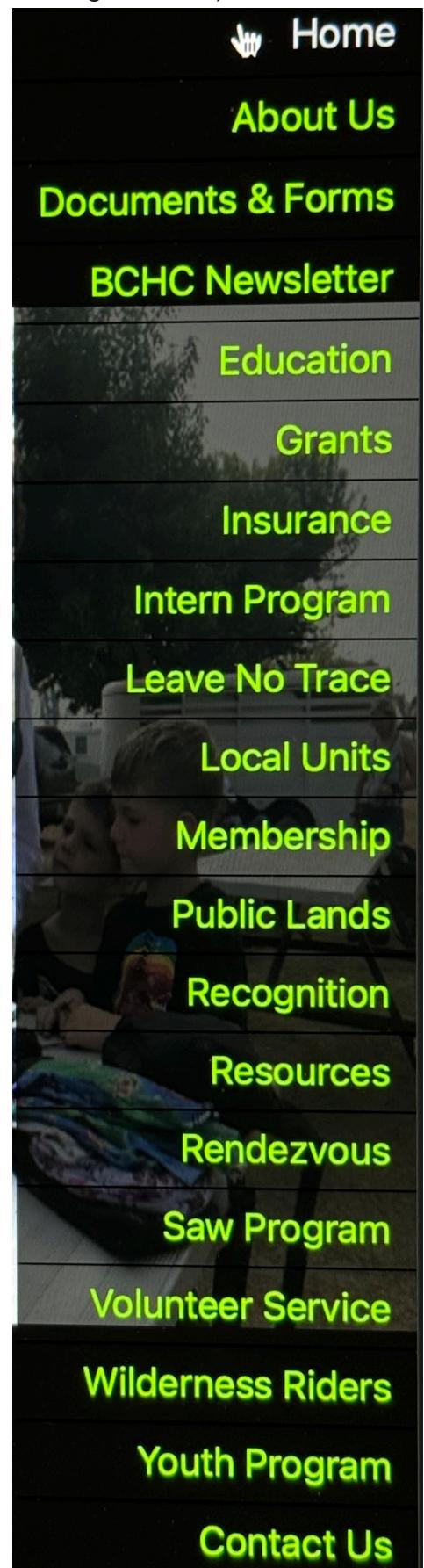
We also have lots of vendors and a good time for all. Rendezvous is a time to meet with fellow members and friends from all over the state who share a common interest.

# Backcountry Horsemen of California

## Website Resource Guide

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

(Explanation of what you will find on the website's Navigation Bar)



### Home

- "Who We Are & What We Do" (video)
- History of BCHC
- Current event notices (for example, Rendezvous, BCHA updates, Public Lands Alerts/Action Items)

### About Us

- BCHC Objectives & Purpose
- BCHC Strategic Plan
- What Backcountry Horsemen in California do (photo essay)

### Documents & Forms

- A compilation of BCHC-created materials (documents, forms and policies, organized by topic)

### BCHC Newsletter

- Library of BCHC's quarterly newsletter, 2009 to date
- List of newsletter deadlines, advertising rates, link to BCHA online Newsletter

### Education

- How to know what's going on with BCHC Education
- Education Awards

### Grants

- Purpose of Ed Fund Grants
- The Education Fund Grant Committee
- How to donate and how to apply for an Ed Fund Grant

### Insurance

- BCHC's third party liability insurance coverage – what is covered, how to show an event is BCHC sanctioned, how to file a claim, how to request Certificates of Additional Insured/Proof of Insurance
- Unit-owned trailer and equipment/tool insurance

### Intern Program

- History, mission, goals and funding

### Leave No Trace

- Program description and the seven principles of Leave No Trace
- "Leave No Trace for Stock Users" (video)

### Local Units

- California unit map
- Unit contact information and resources

### Membership

- Benefits of joining BCHC
- California unit map and unit information
- Membership information – types, how to join/renew, unit data

### Public Lands

- Alerts
- Working with public lands agencies
- How to know what's going on with BCHC Public Lands
- Public Lands awards

**Recognition**

- List and descriptions of annual awards and winners
- Recognition of special members (Benefactor, Patron, Mt. Whitney)

**Resources**

- Helpful non-BCHC resources for trail construction/maintenance, trail safety, packing, pack stations, with links to agencies, organizations and BCHA affiliates

**Rendezvous**

- Description of annual event, registration packet, flyers, required forms, list of sponsors

**Saw Program**

- History and purpose of BCHC's Sawyer Certification Program
- Who can become a sawyer? Who can become an instructor?
- Important policies and governing documents (saw program training, project and safety, saw-specific documents)

**Volunteer Service**

- What volunteer service hours are and how to track them by reporting type
- Volunteer Service Awards

**Wilderness Riders**

- Job description, requirements, selection procedure
- Forms and documents

**Youth Program**

- Description of BCHC;s Youth Education Program and its resources
- Custodian of Record job description and qualifications

**Contact Us**

- Who to contact for help and how to contact them

## **BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA**

# **WHICH UNIT WILL YOU JOIN?**



**WHETHER YOU LIVE IN THE MOUNTAINS,  
DESERT, FOOTHILLS, COASTAL AREA OR  
VALLEY, THERE'S A UNIT FOR YOU!**

**[WWW.BCHCALIFORNIA.ORG](http://WWW.BCHCALIFORNIA.ORG)**

# Backcountry Horsemen of California

A FAMILY AND YOUTH  
ORIENTED ORGANIZATION

# MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION



MAIL TO:

BCHC  
MEMBERSHIP  
1280 State Rt. 208  
Yerington, NV 89447

- New
- Renewal
- Change

Antelope Valley	Lake-Mendo	Pacific Crest	Shasta Trinity
Eastern Sierra	Los Padres	Redshank Riders	Sierra Freepackers
High Country	Manzanita Riders	Redwood	Sutter Buttes
High Sierra	Mid Valley	San Joaquin Sierra	Top of the State
Kern River Valley	Motherlode	Santa Ana River	
Kern Sierra	North Bay	Sequoia	

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

MEMBER'S NAME - No Business Names, Print Clearly

SPOUSE/CO-MEMBER'S NAME - MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address/PO Box

City

State

Zip Code (full 9 digits if known)

Area Code

Phone Number

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

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

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (Tax deductible) \_\_\_\_\_

Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

- 1 Year Individual \$50
- 2 Year Individual \$90
- 3 Year Individual \$125

- 1 Year Family \$60
- 2 Year Family \$110
- 3 Year Family \$150

Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15

Youth (12-17 years old) \$15\*

\*Youth members MUST fill out BOTH  
Youth Membership forms (available online)

- Benefactor \$100
- Patron \$250
- Mt. Whitney \$500

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

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

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/Unit

Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/Unit

Unit Name (from above list)

Add additional choices here

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

### Parent BCHC Membership Types

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

A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit.

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

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

### Associate Memberships

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

### Youth Memberships

Youth Memberships MUST be accompanied by a signed Youth Membership Permission Release and Youth Parent Permission Form. A Youth Membership is NOT valid until BCHC or the Parent Unit has received signed copies of these forms.

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

### KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family	\$110
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old)	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old)	\$15*
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney	\$500

On that form, I also requested:

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Memberships

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

My Total Remittance:

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

My Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Verification of BCHC Membership

Verification of BCHC  
Membership is  
available via:

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