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The BackCountry News



Volume 33, Issue 1

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

WINTER 2021

BCHC Loses Quintessential Backcountry Horseman, Ann Lange



LELA ANN LANGE

March 18, 1941 - December 31, 2020

TRIBUTE FROM MYLON FILKINS, DVM

A stalwart of the Backcountry Horsemen of California has passed away.

Ann Lange was a longtime director of the Kern Sierra Unit, delegate to the BCH of California and California director on the BCHA national board. She wrote innumerable letters to public land and governmental officials, attended countless meetings and, with her husband Dr. Detlev Lange, participated in many work projects and Rendezvous.

Ann was the founding chair of the BCHA Wilderness Committee and developed the Wilderness Manual used in education and training about designated wilderness nationwide. Ann made many presentations at local, regional and national symposiums and represented BCHA during congressional visits to Washington, D.C. She was the quintessential Backcountry Horseman.

See ANN LANGE, pages 16 and 17

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

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

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 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 should be sent in a Microsoft Word format to include author and photo credits. Longer articles are subject to edit for space at the discretion of the Editor. Photos may not be returned.

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

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Spring 2021 Edition	April 15, 2021
Summer 2021 Edition	July 15, 2021
Fall 2021 Edition	October 15, 2021
Winter 2022 Edition	January 15, 2022

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

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President's Page

COVID AND COMMUNICATION

Happy New Year to all of you! I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and great spirits.

COVID-19. I'm sorry to say these words in this message, but at this time this darn "bug" continues to plague and vex us. I had high hopes the pandemic would have begun to subside by now but, alas, wishful thinking on my part.

I did have an amusing scenario pop into my head the other day as I was driving along. It was a memory from a long-ago Saturday morning cartoon, and it reminded me somewhat of our current situation.

The scenario was of a dog tied up by a rope in a very large yard. An obnoxious rooster from the barnyard would torment the dog in some fashion or another and then run away to safety. Of course, the dog would take chase and the tormentor would always make it past the end of the rope just as the dog hit the rope's end and was subsequently jerked by his neck to an abrupt stop.

I feel that way now from time to time with the current COVID restrictions. The BCHC Executive Committee makes great plans to move forward with our business, only to be jerked back by new COVID rules and regulations. Those rules severely limit how we can operate and how we conduct our day-to-day business. I know the individual units are experiencing the same things as well. It's frustrating to make a good plan, only to get yanked to a stop.

The most recent example of this is the cancellation of our plans for an in-person BCHC Board of Directors meeting in February. We will now have to conduct our meeting electronically as was successfully done with the October 2020 meeting. In preparation, we need all directors to stay current on the topics at hand. A 30-day Notice with all of the materials will be sent out shortly to the unit presidents and BCHC directors.

Otherwise, we should use the time to make lemonade out of the lemons we've been handed. For example, use the time to individually, or in small groups, ride the trails in your area, making notes of trail work needed and where. Using this data, your unit can later meet by telephone and start making up a work calendar. This pandemic won't last forever. We need to be ready to get back in gear as soon as allowed.

Also, look your tools over and get cleaning and repairs done on those that are in need of service. Another important task is to review your unit bylaws. Look for areas that might need updating.

As I wrote in the last issue of The Backcountry News, a BCHC subcommittee is doing just that with the BCHC 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) bylaws. They are making great progress and we hope to have the proposed revisions ready to present to the board of directors for approval in the fall of this year. I applaud the members of the subcommittee for their hard work on this project. The result will ensure BCHC is ready to move into the future, fully equipped to operate under the new methods of business and laws.

I want to touch on communication now. All units have been hamstrung with



BCHC President
Michael King and "Bella"

the COVID restrictions to some degree or another this past year, with some units almost in relative limbo. They cannot meet, cannot have social gatherings, haven't been able to hold fundraisers, can't do trail work, etc. Some units have had no meetings and no newsletters published and mailed out for close to a year. What are we to say to the membership when their dues notices arrive in the mail? I can potentially hear them now, "Why re-up our membership when it seems nothing is happening? Is the unit / organization still alive?"

We need to show them something IS happening, that your unit IS ALIVE and FUNCTIONING. In short, we need to communicate with them. Send out a newsletter, even if it's small. Tell the members of plans being made to do a work project(s) when the restrictions are lifted. Publish some Dutch oven recipes, do some revisiting of your unit's history and tell others of some historical fact or history of a place name. Hold your elections as laid out in your bylaws. Tell your membership who is now at the helm and who the current board members are.

There is a lot of information out there to share. My brother used to run a column every month entitled "So How Did That Forest Get Its Name?" It was quite popular and interesting.

Whatever you decide to put in your communication, put in something interesting and relevant. We need to keep our membership enthused and engaged.

Now for some good news. The necessary money to fund the 2021 US Forest Intern with the Center of Excellence has, for all intents and purposes, been raised. We are still a few hundred dollars short, but we

See PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, page 4

BCHC NEWS



BCHC Editor
Carol Jo Hargreaves

OF DOLDRUMS AND DEADLINES

By BCHC Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

2020 will forever be etched in our minds as the year COVID-19 altered our lives. It made us wear masks, wash our hands, stay socially distanced and fear getting sick (or making someone else sick). It changed our priorities, curtailed our social activities and forced us to stay home more than we ever have before.

Unfortunately, not only individuals but organizations were negatively affected by the crackdown of COVID-19. Boards couldn't hold meetings and long-calendared activities had to be cancelled. Units suffered from inability to conduct rides, social activities and fundraisers. That which connected us seemed to have disappeared. The rhythm of unit business slowed and, in many cases, stopped. Little was accomplished. Members drifted apart (or away). Treasuries dwindled. We fell into the doldrums.

2020 wasn't all bad though, was it? Maybe you finally had time to finish a long-postponed project. Maybe you spent more quality time with your loved ones. Maybe you got to work from home in your pajamas. Maybe you learned to stay connected on Zoom or keep in touch by video chatting with friends. Maybe you learned a new or better way of doing something. Maybe you discarded some old ideas of what's important and established some new priorities.

The role of this newspaper is to be in touch and stay connected throughout all levels of our organization. Work has been going on behind the scenes as you will see detailed in the many state officers' reports. Many activities were still conducted, as evidenced by unit news articles.

I thank all who contributed to this edition of the Backcountry News. I encourage all of you to send in informational articles about and photos of unit activities, or about something educational and relevant to BCHC members. All upcoming deadlines are listed on page 2 of the paper but here they are for easy reference. Always the 15th of a month, no matter what day that is. Please write these on your calendars:

Thursday, April 15, 2021 for the Spring edition

Thursday, July 15, 2021 for the Summer edition

Friday, October 15, 2021 for the Fall edition (this one might change to accommodate Rendezvous)

Saturday, January 15, 2022 for the Winter edition

You are welcomed to submit articles and photos at any time - you don't have to wait for a deadline. I will hold your submission and consider it for publication in the next edition. Remember, photos need to be as high resolution as possible, preferably 300 dpi.

There is light at the end of the tunnel and hope that 2021 is a better year. Let's look forward to Rendezvous in October - something fun to plan for and anticipate! And let's keep supporting Backcountry Horsemen of California with our time and interest!

Thanks for reading,

Carol Jo

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE, continued from page 3

anticipate that a request for donations through PayPal donation will bring in the final money needed. The link to do that is: <http://www.bchcalifornia.org/donate1.html>

If anyone would like to help via check, send your tax-deductible donation by check to BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner at: Backcountry Horsemen of California, 13061 Rosedale Highway, Suite G, Box 217, Bakersfield, CA 93314. Make a note that it's for the 2021 Intern Program, 501(c)(3) Education Fund.

Finally, STAY ENCOURAGED AND ENGAGED! Tough times never last, and there is a lot which we have yet to accomplish.

Michael King
BCHC President

The deadline for submissions for the
SPRING 2021 EDITION

of The Backcountry News is: **April 15, 2021**

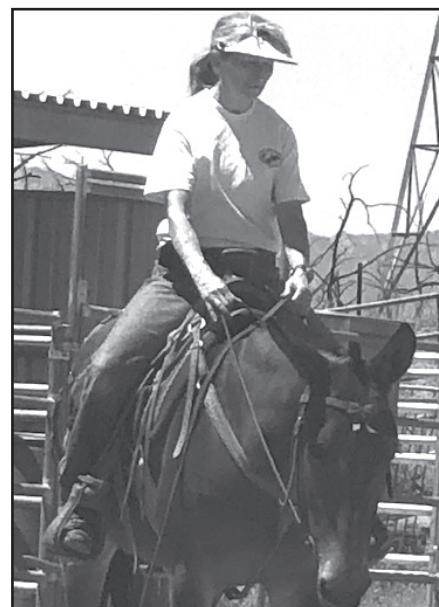
Submissions to:

BCHC Editor at BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

INSURANCE INTELLIGENCE

By BCHC 1st VP Jamie Wilson

As BCHC 1st Vice President, I am the Insurance liaison. I am responsible for sending out the annual applications to each unit and I receive all applications and requests for Additional Insureds and Proof of Insurance from the units. My job is to proofread and make sure that applications are complete before they go to the insurance agent, Misty Mize. The goal is to not overwhelm Misty with emails from individual units and to allow her to send us information through one portal.



BCHC 1st VP - Insurance
Jamie Wilson, DVM

I have enjoyed learning of the many events held by BCHC units around the state. Let's hope this year we don't have to cancel them!

BCHC NEWS

IMPORTANT - PLEASE READ!

COVID-19 NECESSITATES ANOTHER EMAIL DIRECTORS MEETING

By BCHC Secretary Susie Patton

The Executive Committee met December 30 to discuss options for holding our February Board of Directors meeting. We had hoped to hold the meeting at the Bishop Fairgrounds but just before Christmas, Bishop began to experience a high number of COVID cases, and the county shut everything down. They do not anticipate reopening before the end of February.

We discussed holding a meeting on Zoom but realized many people do not have the equipment or Internet services to be able to participate in such a large meeting, over many hours, nor do any of us have enough experience with Zoom to run the meeting, conduct large-group voting, etc.

We have, therefore, decided to carry out another meeting over email. This type of electronic meeting is allowed under the State of California Nonprofit Law. Directors will get the customary 30-day Notice with the agenda and, instead of listening to reports, you will receive them by email. All back-up documents/information will be included in the 30-day Notice.

We will include a voting sheet for each of you to cast your votes on bylaw changes, new policies, etc., by email. If you have any questions/comments about any issue presented, you may send your questions or comments to me at bludog46@gmail.com (or you may call @ (760) 764-2850). All questions will be answered. All questions, answers and comments will be shared with all directors. This gives directors an opportunity to interact and ask questions as though they were in a face-to-face meeting.

This is a unique and developing process and it worked really well with the October 2020 meeting and elections with 100% of the directors participating. Please bear with us as we navigate through the issues and challenges and feel free to ask questions as needed.

DEADLINES FOR UNIT DIRECTORS:

January 19, 2021 – 30-day Notice goes out
February 18, 2021 – Deadline for questions and comments – also for notification of who will be voting for your unit if it is other than your named director

February 20, 2021 at 6 p.m. – All votes due by email to the BCHC State Secretary

BYLAWS SUBCOMMITTEE

By Subcommittee member Carol Jo Hargreaves

A Bylaws Subcommittee comprised of Chip Herzig (VP of Membership), Tammy Bozarth (VP of Youth Education) and Carol Jo Hargreaves (Editor) was appointed by the BCHC Executive Committee when the leadership group realized important continuity between BCHC's 501(c)(3) and 501(c)(4) bylaws was missing. The subcommittee has been meeting by telephone on a weekly basis since the middle of October 2020. In December, Susie Patton (Secretary) was added to the group.

The bylaws of a nonprofit organization such as BCHC are the legally binding rules by which the organization is governed. They set forth the structure of the organization and guide its board of directors in the conduct of business. In essence, bylaws are the nonprofit's "operating manual." Bylaws, therefore, must accurately reflect what an organization does and how it does it.

Beginning with the BCHC Education Fund, Inc.'s 501(c)(3) bylaws, the Bylaws Subcommittee is carefully reviewing each article and section, correcting grammar, spelling and punctuation, making revisions and adding clarifying information where needed to make the document more easily understood and in compliance with California's nonprofit laws. When an article is complete to the satisfaction of subcommittee members, suggested revisions are taken to the Education Fund, Inc. Board for review and discussion. Changes are incorporated. Final revisions are ultimately approved by the Education Fund, Inc. Board. To date, the subcommittee has completed review and revision of all of the 11 articles of the Education Fund's bylaws and expects final approval by the Education Fund Board before the end of February.

Next, the subcommittee will tackle BCHC's 501(c)(4) bylaws. These original organizational bylaws have been completely reviewed and revised only one time in the past, but updates have been made periodically, when needed. The subcommittee's revision process will be similar to that used for the 501(c)(3) bylaws, however the BCHC State Board (unit directors) is responsible for final approval and adoption of the changes. If all goes as planned, the subcommittee hopes to complete the 501(c)(4) bylaw revisions in four to six months and have them ready to bring to the October State Board meeting for first reading.

Unit directors are encouraged to submit input on the 501(c)(4) bylaws. If you are aware of any out of date, confusing or missing sections, please let a member of the Bylaws Subcommittee know. Thank you!

BCHC STRATEGIC PLAN



THE SEVEN PRIORITY OBJECTIVES OF BCHC'S STRATEGIC PLAN

Seven objectives form the core of BCHC's strategic plan. In the plan, each objective is accompanied by a description of desired outcomes and an action plan units can follow to implement the objectives.

Each unit will negotiate its implementation selections and responsibilities after the strategic plan has been formally adopted by Board vote.

The seven objectives are:

1. Enable more trail maintenance and trail support projects

2. Make program of best practices available to local units

3. Rebuild Rendezvous attendance
4. Youth program development
5. New member development and retention
6. Website and social media transition
7. BCHC services available to local units

For more information, see your unit or state leaders.



HERE'S MORE DETAIL:

2. Priority Objective:

Success Measures: Complete outline checklists for the most common BCHC best practices and events (an initial Unit Best Practices Checklist is below).

Strategy: Ask each of our 22 California units to volunteer and select one type of event or program to document in outline and checklist format. These will be shared on our website so that all units can access these best practices. This will make it easier for newer members to accept responsibility for leading one of their unit's events or programs for members. Each unit can select an event they are proud of, and incorporate the Mid Valley checklists.

Unit Action Plans:

Unit Best Practices Checklist

- Trail clearing projects, trailhead camping, pack-ins (example below)
- Horse camp-outs
- Pack trips
- Parades and special rides
- Special events such as youth events, pack clinic, play day
- Fundraising event
- Dutch oven gatherings
- Monthly meetings
- General membership meetings
- New member recruitment
- Holding unit elections
- Public land manager relationships
- Unit volunteer appreciation BBQ each fall

Send above checklists or others to BCHC VP of Membership. Include your name, unit and contact information.

BCHC NEWS

Randy Hackbath of Mother Lode Unit was appointed by BCHC President Michael King to serve until January 1, 2022, the remainder of Bob Magee's term as BCHA National Director.



ATTA GIRL, RANDY!
By Norma and Mike Kohlbaker

We are so pleased to hear that Mother Lode Unit President Randy

Hackbath has agreed to fulfill the remainder of the term of office for the BCHA National Director! As such,

Randy will work alongside Dennis Serpa to represent BCHC at the national level.

Randy joined the BCHC Mother Lode Unit (MLU) in 2000 and has been an integral part of our group ever since. From the very beginning, Randy could be found anywhere the action was. Whether it was helping to cook for a trail crew, promoting BCHC at Horse Expo, manning the BCHA booth at the Sportsman's Expo in Las Vegas, or setting up the static display at AERC in Reno, Randy's smiling face was always there.

Although she is active in a number of trail advocacy groups in our area, Randy stepped up to serve two terms as Vice President (2015 and 2016) before becoming the MLU president in 2017.

Working with BCHA is nothing new for Randy. In 2019, when BCHA and BCHC filed suit against the Tahoe National Forest for its illegal authorization of e-Bike use on over 130 miles of non-motorized trails, she worked closely with the BCHA Director of Public Lands and Recreation, Randy Rasmussen.

Congratulations, Randy! And thank you for your commitment to Backcountry and its mission to *Preserve, Protect and Maintain!*



MEET RANDY HACKBARTH, NEW NATIONAL DIRECTOR

By Lucy Badenhoop

Randy grew up in the Sacramento area, moving to the Placerville area in 1975 with her husband and two sons. She worked for Pacific Bell/AT&T for 28 years doing construction splicing then moved with new the technology into fiber optics and the electronics associated with it. After retiring as an Area Manager for Technical Support – Transport and Network Operations, Randy expanded her equestrian activities.

Randy was a member of the El Dorado County Search and Rescue unit for 20 years and did a few years of endurance riding, completing the TEVIS CUP 100-mile endurance ride twice. She joined the Sweep Riders of the Sierras (SOS), which rode sweep for the Western States 100 Mile Endurance run, Tevis Cup 100 Mile Endurance Ride and other local events, giving aid and ham radio support.

In 2000, Randy became a member of BCHA to support trail politics at the national level in Washington, D.C., and has been active in that organization ever since along with local involvement through BCHC's Mother Lode Unit (MLU). For about 10 years, she worked for Horse Expo in Sacramento, setting up the trail symposium speakers and assisting the BCHC-MLU Gentle Use camp. Additionally, Randy currently works on local public lands issues on behalf of equestrians with the Action Coalition for Equestrians (ACE) that was organized in 2003.



BCHC NEWS



BCHC 2nd VP - Service
Cindy McMurry

DEADLINE FEBRUARY 1!

VOLUNTEER HOURS REPORTING

(From bchcalifornia.org website)

As a result of the all-email October 2020 State Board Meeting, a new requirement was added to the C-4 (Education Fund, Inc.) Bylaws: By February 1st, a Volunteer Hours Report shall be completed by each unit and forwarded to the BCHC 2nd Vice President-Service. The necessary forms and instructions are posted on the BCHC website. Training for keeping Volunteer Hours shall be offered during Officer Training sessions.

DON'T
FORGET!

ADDITIONAL UPCOMING DEADLINES

From the BCHC C-4 Bylaws, Article IV - Members and Local Unit Structure

By February 1 - A Volunteer Service Hours Report to the BCHC 2nd Vice President - Service

By February 22 – Insurance Renewal Application to the 1st Vice President - Insurance

By the end of February - Financial statement for the past year to the BCHC Treasurer

By the end of February - Annual Unit Report to the BCHC Secretary including all events the unit participated in during the previous year (i.e., rides, events, fundraisers, educational workshops, work parties, etc.)

NOTE FROM A SPECIAL MEMBER

From: Terri Arington <tjarington@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 06, 2021 1:45 PM
To: Paul Herzig <chryvchip@msn.com>
Subject: Re: BCHC Renewal Request

Hi Chip... just received my membership receipt, thanks for sending it by snail mail!!

It's my honor to support BCHC in any way that I can. I'm a firm believer in the mission statement of this organization. I was so fortunate to be introduced to the backcountry and wilderness as a child "way back when" and it shaped my life. I want those opportunities to continue for all children past, present and future.

Terri
Sent from my iPhone



BCHC VP of Membership
and Bylaws Subcommittee
Chair
Chip Herzig with "Bert"

BCHA: Dedicated to keeping America's trails open for all



BCHA POSITION ON THE USE OF E-BIKES

From BCHA Public Lands Update On E-Bikes for 2021

By Randy Rasmussen – BCHA Director of Public Lands and Recreation

BCHA has not issued a formal policy statement on e-bike use. In general, however, BCHA opposes attempts by federal land management agencies to superimpose motorized forms of travel on non-motorized trails shared by hikers, equestrians and others. It is our view that allowing motorized vehicles on trails that were neither designed nor previously managed for motorized use could have significant adverse impacts on the safety and enjoyment of non-motorized trail users.

BCHA understands that e-bikes have their place on public lands. The questions of where, and under what circumstances, should be addressed at the local level and include the involvement of affected stakeholders and environmental analysis under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). BCHA's position has been to recognize the opportunity that e-bike use represents to people who would not otherwise have the means (like horses!) or the physical ability to explore and enjoy public lands without the motor assist provided by an e-bike. Yet BCHA supports the view that motorized recreational uses should occur only on routes or in areas that have been officially designated for motorized use.

In cases where a federal agency proposes to change the classification of a non-motorized trail (or trails) to allow e-bike use, BCHA chapters need to be prepared to roll up their sleeves to either change or negotiate the final outcome. Again, a federal agency doing so should follow public engagement and review requirements of NEPA; BCHA chapters need to cry "foul" if the agency is not, or if they claim they can take a short-cut, like use of a "Categorical Exclusion" in lieu of more detailed NEPA analysis. This is important, as it's only through the NEPA process where BCHA and BCHA New Mexico recently convinced the U.S. Forest Service to withdraw a proposal that would have added e-bikes to a proposed non-motorized trail system.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO INCREASE MEMBERSHIP?

By BCHA National Director Dennis Serpa

After a crazy year, we have to look forward to making this year better! Some of us are sitting around with spare time. This is a good time to evaluate what we can do to develop

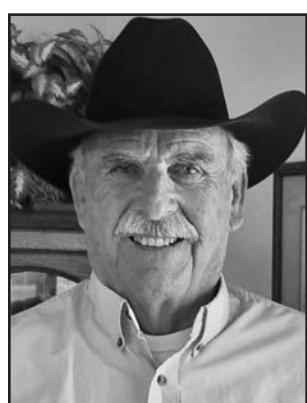
and retain members. All of us, whether we are an officer or not, can do something to improve communication with our members. We can call a member we have not seen in a while to check on them and see why they are not participating in unit activities; give them a little encouragement. Sometimes a simple phone call can go a long way to remind people what Back Country Horsemen is all about.

I know that under today's circumstances it can be challenging to get together but I'm sure this will not and cannot last for long. Last year the BCHA Membership Committee put together a PowerPoint on what we can do to develop and retain members. We encourage every unit to set up a Membership Development and Retention Committee to reach out to members to see what their needs and wants are from BCHA. It takes some special people to reach out and gather information from the members, but they're out there; they just have to be encouraged or arm-twisted. The PowerPoint is available on the bcha.org website under Education Curriculum.

Take advantage of this time of year to do something valuable for Back Country Horsemen!

Dennis M. Serpa
BCHA Ad Hoc Membership Committee
dmserpa@velociter.net
(209) 531-5175

PUBLIC LANDS



PUBLIC LANDS UPDATE

By VP of Public Lands Troy Patton

On October 28, I attended a Zoom meeting with the Sustainable Recreation Collaborative. This group contains over 50 recreation groups including OHV groups, snowmobile groups, biking groups and whitewater rafting groups. The guest speakers were Jim Bacon and Randy Moore, both from Region 5. Randy talked about the huge influx of people onto public lands during the pandemic. He talked about

bringing communities into the discussions about public lands and the recreational uses in different areas. The way the Forest Service is funded is being changed. Monies will go to each region and it will evaluate individual forest projects and decide where the monies will be allocated.

Jim Bacon talked about fire issues and how groups could assist in restoring the forest. Let your forest know about impacts you observe. Offer assistance when they are ready to work. Offer to assess an area. He shared the following information: 1,030 miles of trails were damaged; 72 trail bridges were burned, and 138 recreation sites were lost including visitor centers and trailheads.

I was able to comment that all users groups needed to look to each other and see what we could do to help each other. I mentioned that BCHC has a Sawyer Program, approved by the Forest Service, that allows us to train people on the use of chain saws and crosscut saws and I received some feedback from other groups expressing interest in this program. Jim Bacon thanked me for my contribution to the discussion.

The Great American Outdoors Act funding for 2021 focused on shovel-ready projects and the funds have been allocated. Projects for 2022 have already been submitted for approval. We really need to be looking into the future for this funding as projects are approved more than a year ahead of distribution of the funding.

Thanks to Bob Magee's effort, we were able to have a meeting with Jim Bacon and several Region 5 Foresters as well as Joe Kaminski from San Joaquin Sierra Unit, Stacy Kuhns from Redshank Riders, and Randy Hackbarth and Lucy Badenhoop from Mother Lode Unit. We were able to discuss in depth how the funding works for the Great American Outdoors Act. The importance of planning and getting your projects in front of your forest supervisors was stressed.

The National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance has a series of webinars you can view that are all about wilderness management, news about wilderness, etc. You can log on to their website at <http://www.wildernessalliance.org> and click on Webinars.

The Tahoe National Forest has moved forward with their plan to open 35 miles of trails to e-bikes and answered many of the issues we raised in our comment letters about allowing electric bikes on non-motorized trails. We may not like the solutions the presented, but they are moving forward and have complied with all the guidelines required to make these changes.

A new bill was introduced by Representative Jimmy Panetta (D-CA) titled SAVE OUR FORESTS ACT OF 2020. This bill directs the Forest Service to fill vacancies for Forest Service recreation management and planning staff. We will let you know when we receive more information.

The Sierra Club had a great article in the December 2020 edition of their newsletter titled "Words of the Wild," all about the Wilderness Act and the Center of Excellence. They quote Mike McFadin from Shasta-Trinity National Forest as saying, "As long as we have public lands and wild open spaces that people value, the need for that work is never going to go away. And it's not history, it's not romance, it's how you get the job done," referring to the use of pack stock as a crucial traditional tool that supports wilderness stewardship into the future. I want to take a moment to thank Thor Bodtker for being my Co-Vice President of Public Lands for a number of years. He was a great help and our partnership was and will always be a good example of being able to work together and move in same direction for the betterment of BCHC.

I would also like to congratulate Jen Roeser who was elected to the Inyo County Board of Supervisors. She is a BCHC member and owner, with husband Lee, of the McGee Creek Pack Station. Jen and Lee are both second generation BCHC members (Jen's dad is John Ketchum, former BCHA Director. Lee's Dad is Lou Roeser.)

The deadline for submissions for the
SPRING 2021 EDITION

of The Backcountry News is: **April 15, 2021**
Submissions to:
BCHC Editor
BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

PUBLIC LANDS

CHANGE IN BCHC PUBLIC LANDS LEADERSHIP

By BCHC President Michael King

For several years, the position of Vice President of Public Lands has been co-chaired by long time BCHC members Troy Patton and Thor Bodtker. Due to his significantly changing job dynamics, Thor saw the need and resigned his position, effective January 1, 2021. He felt that he would not be able to serve BCHC in that position to the standards he set for and expected of himself.

In addition to his BCHC duties, Thor also served his home unit, North Bay, most recently as President. He simultaneously resigned that position as well for the same reasons. We recognize that these were difficult decisions for Thor to make, but he made them in the best interest of BCHC and the North Bay Unit.

Per the BCHC Bylaws, when one Co-Vice President resigns, both are considered to have resigned. Bylaws also give the BCHC President the authority to appoint a replacement to fill a position until the next regular elections are held.

Considering that BCHC needed a person right away to fill that most important public lands role, I asked Troy Patton if he would consider and be willing to go ahead on his own. He said that he would.

So, knowing of no one better suited for the job, I appointed Troy Patton to fill the position of BCHC Public Lands Vice President. BCHC could be in no better hands than Troy's as he continues to work on our members behalf. Thank you, Troy, for your loyalty and commitment.

We offer Thor our heartfelt thanks for all of the time and energy he expended for our benefit Backcountry Horsemen. We wish you the best as you pursue your employment requirements. Thank you again for all you did for BCHC!

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE SEEKS BIDDERS TO OPERATE THE HORSE CAMP CONCESSION AT POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE

The National Park Service is seeking concessioner bids to operate overnight camping with horses at Point Reyes National Seashore.

The NPS issued the prospectus on November 16, 2020 under the terms described in the prospectus, with proposals due no later than 4:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) on March 15, 2021. Any proposal, including that of the Existing Concessioner, must be received by the deadline in order to be evaluated and considered for award of the concession

contract. The National Park Service will be accepting proposals for this prospectus electronically. Please consult the Proposal Instructions contained in the prospectus for information on how to submit.

The NPS will hold a one-day site visit at Point Reyes National Seashore on December 10, 2020. Information on how to attend the site visit is included in the prospectus.

The prospectus is available on beta.Sam.gov and on the NPS Commercial Services website at <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/concessions/prospectuses.htm>. There is no cost to download the documents from this website. If you choose to retrieve a copy of the prospectuses from the Service website, please notify Kristen Jontos via email at Kristen_Jontos@nps.gov so you are placed on the mailing list to receive notifications of any future modifications or other correspondence.

Any questions regarding the business opportunity at Point Reyes National Seashore must be received in writing no later than 4:00 p.m. (Pacific Time) on December 18, 2020 to Kristen Jontos, Commercial Services Specialist, National Park Service, Interior Regions 8, 9, 10 & 12, by mail at Kristen_Jontos@nps.gov

WANTED!

Join the Youth Ed Committee

Create fun educational activities for the Kids Corral at future Rendezvous in age brackets from tikes to teens.

Be part of BCHC's future generation.

Contact: Tammy Bozarth, BCHC Vice President of Youth Education,
(661) 322-2545 or by email,
spashiners@yahoo.com

EDUCATION



LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLE #6: RESPECT WILDLIFE

Wildlife Is At Risk

By VP of Education Stacy Kuhns

“Off-leash Dog Kills Threatened Seal Pup in California National Park” — USA Today

“A Friendly Black Bear was Euthanized After it Came to Love People Who Fed it and Took Selfies” — CNN

“Video shows 9-year-old girl tossed in the air by charging bison at Yellowstone” — Washington Post

Most people who visit the outdoors believe that they know how to respect and protect the creatures who live there — but the actions they exhibit sometimes undercut their good intentions. For example, some visitors think that tossing food scraps into the woods will benefit animals. In fact, the effects are usually just the opposite. Animals that learn to associate humans with food lose their innate wariness and may be exposed to dangerous situations. They are also healthier when they stick to the diet they evolved with instead of learning to rely on non-native foods.

Even approaching wildlife too closely can quickly lead to unintended and damaging consequences. At best, it adds unnecessary stress for the animal, perhaps causing it to flee and burn extra calories. At worst, wildlife may shift from a flight instinct to the impulse to fight an intruder. From a charging elk, a coiled rattlesnake or a protective mother bear, animals can injure and even kill humans that get too close.

The Solution

Learn a framework of minimum impact practices for respecting and protecting wildlife.

Leave No Trace Principle #6: Respect Wildlife

Learn about wildlife through quiet observation. Do not disturb wildlife or plants just for a “better look.” Observe wildlife from a distance so they are not scared or forced to flee. Large groups often cause more damage to the environment and can disturb wildlife, so keep your group small. If you have a larger group, divide into smaller groups, if possible, to minimize your impacts.

Quick movements and loud noises are stressful to animals. Travel quietly and do not pursue, feed or force animals to flee. (One exception is in bear country where it is good to make a little noise so as not to startle the bears.) In hot or cold weather, disturbance can affect an animal’s ability to withstand the rigorous environment. Do not touch, get close to, feed or pick up wild animals. It is stressful to the animal and it is possible that the animal may harbor rabies or other diseases.

Sick or wounded animals can bite, peck or scratch and send you to the hospital. Young animals removed or touched by well-meaning people may cause the animal’s parents to abandon them. If you find sick animals or animals in trouble, you should notify a game warden.

Considerate campers observe wildlife from afar, give animals a wide berth, store food securely and keep garbage and food scraps away from animals. Remember that you are a visitor to their home.

Allow animals free access to water sources by giving them the buffer space they need to feel secure. Ideally, camps should be located 200 feet or more from existing water sources. This will minimize disturbance to wildlife and ensure that animals have access to their precious drinking water. By avoiding water holes at night, you will be less likely to frighten animals because desert dwellers are usually most active after dark. With limited water in arid lands, desert travelers must strive to reduce their impact on the animals struggling for survival.

Washing and human waste disposal must be done carefully so the environment is not polluted, and animals and aquatic life are not injured. Swimming in lakes or streams is okay in most instances but in deserts and other very arid areas it’s best to leave scarce water holes undisturbed and unpolluted so animals may drink from them.

To learn more about Leave No Trace principles, contact one of our BCHC educators, Wilderness Riders or Master Educators.



Center for Outdoor Ethics | LNT.org

EDUCATION



VP of Education
Stacy Kuhns

DON'T
FORGET!

BCHC EDUCATION AWARDS

The education efforts of individuals and units throughout the state are deserving of special recognition. Education is a cornerstone and integral part of the organization's purpose. Individuals and units who go the extra mile in their education efforts should be rewarded. BCHC sponsors an annual award to be given to the outstanding individual and the outstanding unit for their education programs. **The will be for the previous year only accomplishments.** Our recommendation for the awards program is as follows:

- Nomination Forms will be available [on the BCH website](#).
- The form is due February 1.
- The nominations **should** be submitted to the Education Steering Committee by Feb 15th.
- The awards would be presented at the Rendezvous in March.

**FORMS DUE
FEBRUARY 1**

The suggested Selection Criteria for the awards is:

Individual Award

- Someone who has demonstrated unique, creative and innovative education programs.
- Someone who has used different methods or made a variety of presentations.
- Someone who has reached a variety of age groups.

Unit Award

- A unit that promotes education using teamwork.
- A unit that participates in a variety of events, such as (but not limited to): parades, fairs, pack clinics, special events, etc.
- A unit that has members who have participated in State sponsored programs such as the Gentle Use Program, the Wilderness Rider Program, the Masters program, etc.
- A unit that has members who contribute articles for unit, state and/or the education newsletters.

BCHC EDUCATION AWARD

NOMINATING FORM

PLEASE RETURN VIA EMAIL TO THE BCHC EDUCATION CHAIR(S) (<http://bchcalifornia.org/education.html>)

Name of Nominee: (Unit or Individual) _____

Response to Criteria for Nominee:

Antelope Valley	Jay Tremblay
Eastern Sierra	Susie Patton
High Country	Kerry Davis
High Sierra	Phil Mirise
Kern River Valley	Pat Shreffler
Kern Sierra	Robert Anderson

Lake-Mendo	Kathy Redden
Los Padres	Carl & Julie Perry
Mid Valley	John Marshall
Mother Lode	Donna Meier
North Bay	Alan Crawford & Alan Sanderson
Pacific Crest	
Redshank Riders	Michael Lewis
Redwood	Bill Mohr
San Diego	Kammi Montanero
San Joaquin Sierra	Gary Van Sickle
Santa Ana River	June Scales
Sequoia	Peg Wilson
Shasta Trinity	Larry Shuman
Sierra Freepackers	Sharon Seslowe
Sutter Buttes	-----
Top of the State	Doug Kaufner

ANN LANGE - QUINTESSENTIAL

Ann Lange was very pleased and humble about being chosen for Best Friend of the Packers this year. When asked, "Why do you think that you were chosen for this honor?" She answered, "I really don't know, but maybe it has something to do with the fact that for the past 20 years, since 1988 as a matter of fact, I have been working with the National Forest Service in documenting and changing their trail inventory". So what does she mean?

On September 3, 1964, the 88th Congress, Second Session passed Public Law 88-577 (16 U.S.C. 1131-1136) cited as the "Wilderness Act". The Act as it is known for short stated "To establish a National Wilderness Preservation System for the permanent good of the whole people, and for other purposes." The statement of policy is as follows:

In order to assure that an increasing population, accompanied by expanding settlement and growing mechanization, does not occupy and modify all areas within the United States and its possessions, leaving no lands designated for preservation and protection in their natural condition, it is hereby declared to be the policy of the Congress to secure for the American people of present and future generations the benefits of an enduring resource of wilderness. For this purpose there is hereby established a National Wilderness Preservation System to be composed of federally owned areas designated by Congress as "wilderness areas", and these shall be administered for the use and enjoyment of the American people in such manner as will leave them unimpaired for future use as wilderness, and so as to provide for the protection of these areas, the preservation of their wilderness character, and for the gathering and dissemination of information regarding their use and enjoyment as wilderness; and no Federal lands shall be designated as "wilderness areas" except as provided for in this Act or by a subsequent Act.

The Act also included special provisions, one of which was Sec. 4 (d) (6): Commercial services may be performed within the wilderness areas designated by this Act to the

extent necessary for activities which are proper for realizing the recreational or other wilderness purposes of the areas.

After this act was passed the Forest Service started to create a trail inventory in the designated wilderness area. The trails included a rating system as to the difficulty of the terrain and included a stock standard whether or not the trail could be used by stock animals.

Getting back to Ann, she and a group of old timers met in the backcountry and discussed the consequences that the wilderness act was having on those that wanted to use the trails. They decided to form a group that would ride the trails and document the terrain and rate them. This way they would be able to refute some of the findings of the Forest Service and keep the trails open for all stock users, both commercial and individual. And that started meeting submitting comments.

Ann is a trail blazer, but not one that we would think of as a machete welding adventurer creating a trail from the jungle, but a paper trail blazer. She tirelessly attends meetings, submits reports showing the actual condition of the trails, and rides the trails herself so that she can speak from a personal point of view.

Raised on the Rankin Ranch in Walker Basin, CA, Ann has ridden horses all her life. Later in life she was introduced to Mules, and now owns six of her own that she uses to pack food and equipment into the backcountry for the volunteers who work on the trails. She is a member of Backcountry Horsemen, Kern Sierra Unit in Kern County and is the Wilderness Chair for Backcountry Horsemen of America.

Best Friend of the Packer is voted on by the packers themselves. I asked Jennifer Roeser to offer a couple of thoughts of Ann and this was her reply; "Ann has worked tirelessly on behalf of backcountry stock users to maintain access to historic and traditional trails and desti-

THE YEAR OF THE CHAMPION • 1



BEST FRIEND OF THE PACKERS, 2011



nations in Wilderness. She has spent countless hours pouring over documents, researching trails and participating in lengthy bureaucratic processes in order to do what is right and recognize the appropriateness of horses and mules on highcountry trails. Both the Backcountry Horsemen of America and the Sierra Packers Association (and those they represent) owe Ann a debt of gratitude for all her hard work.

We could think of no other person at this time who has worked so hard and so long for no other reason than doing what is right. We will always be indebted to Ann for her work. (And to her husband Dr. Detlev Lange, DVM for providing exceptional backup!)

Ann was "Tickled" by being selected for Best Friend of the Packer. She had no idea that she would be chosen for this honor as what she does she is not visible to the public. She states that her job is not "glamorous but somebody has to do it"! She works with a great bunch of people and loves every minute of it.

Ann lives in the Kern River Valley with her husband Dr. Detlev Lange, DVM.

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN

YEARS OF SELFLESS DEDICATION TO BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN

By Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

Ann Lange's cohorts fondly refer to her as "Miss Wilderness." Ann was a member of Kern Sierra Unit since its early beginnings, serving as Public Lands Liaison and State Director. In addition to her unit responsibilities, Ann served as one of two BCHC National Directors to Back Country Horsemen of America. Ann represented California at annual BCHA national meetings and actively participated on the Public Lands Committee.

Ann has been involved with BCHA since its formative days. She was among the first California representatives to the national organization. In 1999, BCHA approved formation of its Wilderness Committee which Ann chaired until the committee was



moved under the BCHA Public Lands Committee in 2008. The committee's official name was "Wilderness Issues and Management Plan Review Committee" and its purpose was to deal with wilderness issues at the national level and to provide expertise and knowledge to assist all BCHA states and chapters in their management planning efforts.

In 2002, Ann received an award from the Equestrian Land and Conservation Resource for her wilderness knowledge, and in 2004, Ann was commended and a donation made in her name to the Legal Fund by BCHA for her dedication to the Kern Sierra Lawsuit.

Over the years Ann has also served as Vice Chair of BCHA and on a variety of BCHA committees including but not limited to Budget, Vision, Legal Fund, and the Incident Response Team.



EDUCATION



BCHC Saw Coordinator
Dan Horn

BCHC SAWYER PROGRAM

By Saw Coordinator Dan Horn

As we all know, BCHC activities have been sort of non-existent for 2020. We finally were able to have a small Chainsaw Class in December in Petaluma. The class was a mixture of BCHC members and NorCal Livestock Rescue folks.

Big shout out to NorCal Livestock Rescue (NLR) for all their help during our fires last summer. If you get a chance, there is an episode of Mike Rowe "Returning

the Favor" on Facebook that features NLR and an interview with one of our BCHC members, Armando, who lost everything including one of his horses to the fire. Several of our BCHC members are involved in this rescue help.

Back to the Saw Class news.

This winter, we gained five new Instructor Trainees - Robert Anderson from Kern Sierra Unit, Jim Griffith from Shasta Trinity Unit, Ryan Turner from Los Padres Unit, and Louwrens (Remco) and Tiffany van der Linden from Mother Lode Unit. Having these folks step up to volunteer will help keep our Saw Program moving forward into the future.

I am very proud to announce Tiffany is our first female Saw Instructor Trainee.

Tiffany van der Linden grew up in Novato, California, where she got involved with horses at a young age. Pleasure riding quickly turned into competing in the Hunter and Jumper rings, where she excelled as a rider and horsewoman working primarily with Thoroughbreds. After moving up to the Sacramento foothills and graduating from Del Oro High School, Tiffany landed a position as the Assistant Trainer at Hunterville Stables in Penryn where she taught English riding lessons and trained Hunter/Jumper horses for the next six years. Her passion for teaching and training prompted her to start her own stables and, filled up her barn.

Tiffany met her husband-to-be, Remco van der Linden, at a horse show in 1993 and the two married in 1995. After the births of their son Gavin and daughter Valerie, Tiffany's focus shifted to teaching and coaching young riders as both Gavin and Valerie had joined Pony Club. Within a few years she found herself back in the show world, focusing solely on coaching her own kids. Her daughter Valerie won the prestigious NorCal Pony Medal Finals as a result.

With her children off to college, Tiffany's next venture would take her away from the show world to focus on trail riding and foundation training of horses. She has been actively involved in the development of new trail systems in Placer County, serving as an invaluable resource to the parks commission and liaising on behalf of local and regional equestrian groups. She currently serves as the President of the Meadow Vista Trails Association as well as being on the board of the BCHC Mother Lode Unit.

And before anybody whines about the above photograph, I was 10 feet away from Tiffany, well outside the area of control and safe COVID spacing, so my face shield, earmuffs and COVID mask were not required.

We have four classes scheduled throughout the state and open to all who would like to attend.

1. Chainsaw Class - February 20 and 21, 2021 -- Los Padres Unit (Note: Class date may vary). Contact Greg Fienberg - (805) 458-2879 - Email feinberg.greg@gmail.com
2. Chainsaw Class - March 27 and 28 - Shasta Trinity Unit. Contact Dan Cartier - (530) 356-0256 - Email dr.outfittin@yahoo.com
3. Chainsaw Class - April 17 and 18 - Kern River Valley Unit. Contact Patrick Shreffler - (661) 303-0362 - Email p.shreffler@outlook.com
4. Crosscut Saw Class - May 15 and 16 - Kern River Valley Unit. Contact Patrick Shreffler - (661) 303-0362 - Email p.shreffler@outlook.com

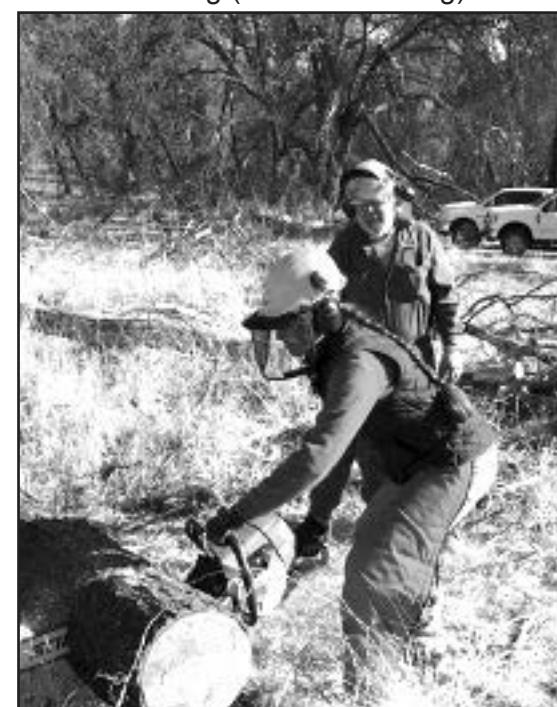
Or you may contact me, Dan Horn, at (707) 953-4903 - Email Bearstrap@msn.com

Application for class and all required reading materials are available on the BCHC State website: BCHC Saw Training (bchcalifornia.org)

All of these classes are contingent on weather and COVID Rules.

If any of you would like to work your way up to help us instruct saw classes, please contact me. We have room for you to help cover the needs of our members statewide.

I'm sure that all this shut down has put us all behind on trail maintenance, so when we do get out there, remember: **"Safety First"**



SAFETY EDUCATION

SAFETY FIRST!

TAHOE NATIONAL FOREST SUPPORTS VOLUNTEER PACKERS

Article by Lucy Badenhoop. Photos by Cordell Van Rees and Remco van der Linden.

BCHC Mother Lode Unit has provided pack support to the Forest Hill Ranger District in the Tahoe National Forest for several years. Annually, Ranger Matt Brownlee (Public Services Staff Officer) requests about seven pack stock for a trail crew that works the North Fork of the American River (NFAR) in a deep granite canyon on the western slope of the Sierra Nevada Mountains.

Usually, the pack-in happens as soon as practical after the spring snowmelt and the pack-out is two to three weeks later. The 2020 request broke precedent in several ways. First, the COVID pandemic and wildfires delayed forest access until October. Second, the trail crew was working farther out along the river, so it was decided to use a different trailhead and trail.

Previous efforts staged out of Mumford Bar and BCHC packers had not used the trail out of Sailor Flat staging area, so a pre-ride was scheduled. It was two miles of service road and four miles of very narrow, very steep, overgrown single track for a one-way total of six miles. The US Forest Service crew(s) performed significant trail maintenance on the single track to make trail conditions suitable for the pack stock.

As a result, the pack-in leg of the project in early October was technically challenging but uneventful. However, the pack-out later in the month was fraught with difficulties. On the trip down to the river, a large tree had fallen across the trail. The packers started delimiting with hand saws while one of them hiked down to the trail crew for a sawyer and chain saw.

On the uphill return trip with cargo, there were no level resting spots on the single-track section, or wide spots for dismounting or adjusting gear or reversing direction. About mid-point, the rear-most pack stock lost footing and tumbled downhill about 200 feet before stopping against a tree on the edge of a dry creek bed.

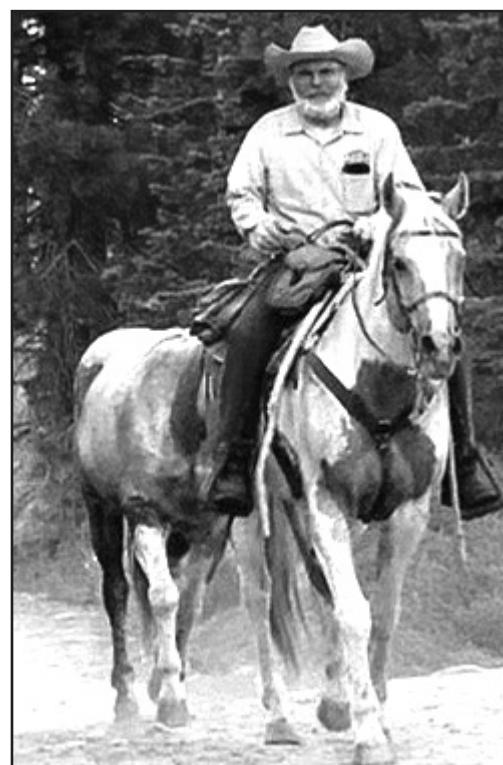
Terrain hampered communication along the trail and up/down



the brushy hill. The two front packers were unable to turn around to render assistance and continued two miles to the end of the single track. The third packer tied his mount to the only tree nearby and blocked the trail for the remaining stock. The four packers scrambled down the steep slope fearing the worst for the downed horse.

Miraculously, the horse had no broken bones and was able to stand after the tack and cargo were cut off. It was necessary to use the hand saw a second time that day to cut brush for a new diagonal path across the steep slope. As the packer doing the pruning reached the trail, the maintenance crew was hiking out and provided a McCloud to hack a ledge into the pathway just cleared of brush.

With the hastily crafted trail, the packers were able to coax the injured horse back up to the main trail and she walked the four miles out to the trailer before dark. Besides many scrapes/scratches, it took stitches on two wounds and open drainage on a third one, plus multiple trips to the vet, but the horse, "Honey," made a full recovery.



The day after the incident, the USFS retrieved the cargo and tack (which was returned to Honey's owner John Marshall), but that was not the end of their support efforts. The MLU crew chief (Mike Kohlbaker) had immediately submitted an Incident Report and about a month later, Matthew Brownlee conducted an After Action Review (AAR) via conference call that included all affected parties (five BCHC volunteers, four USFS staff members and two contractor personnel from Great Basin Institute (the trail maintenance crew)).

The focus of the AAR was to identify ways to mitigate this type

of accidents on future project work. The "no fault" approach taken in the discussion produced an open exchange of information and concerns along with the following abatement procedures being adopted:

- At least one month prior to project work, Forest Service personnel and BCH staff shall walk/ride the trail segment to identify potential hazards.
- A work plan shall be established by trail staff to mitigate safety concerns. Work shall be completed to the agreed upon standards and expectations.
- Pre-work must be completed by trail crew (and approved by BCH staff) before pack stock is used.
- Within the NFAR trail network, only Mumford Bar Trail and sections of the American River Trail shall be used by BCH packers for trail project support (i.e., no pack stock on the Sailor Flat trail).
- Increase communication (SPOT devices, radios and/or satellite phones).
- Trail crew staff to be assigned to packers during drop camp support.

The BCH community greatly appreciates this type of strong client support for our volunteers and their stock. The Mother Lode Unit is planning to buy 10 FSR radios so that each rider on the trail has one on their person (not on their stock) to ensure line-of-sight communication among the crew and relay capability along trails in deep canyons where cell/satellite coverage is not dependable.

UNIT NEWS

LAKE-MENDO:



JACKSON DEMONSTRATION STATE FOREST (JDSF) WORK WEEKEND CAMPOUT

By Justine Allen

Nothing beats a weekend out camping with the horses and some good company! Lake-Mendo Unit planned a work party for the weekend of October 9-11, 2020 and had a great turn out. A few members brought tractors and/or dump trailers that made cleaning up of all the manure so much easier. After the trailers were loaded and pens all clean, we moved onto the corrals. We were able to install two new sets of corrals at the JDSF Horse Camp located just west of the city of Willits on Highway 20.

After some discussion while installing the corrals, we came to an agreement that the Lake-Mendo Unit would be setting a date for another work party to spread fill dirt in all corrals at the camp and possibly adding manure dump stations designated for the camp. Once the funds are accumulated for the dirt there will be an announcement of the date of the work party. Those who brought horses went out on the trails to not only enjoy the scenery but also to inspect and clear any debris or potential falling debris off the trail. We appreciate those who take the time and pack the necessary tools for cutting limbs and doing what consists of trail clearance. It is important to keep the trails clear and safe so that we can continue to enjoy them for years to come.

After a long but very productive day, everyone settled in around the campfire to warm their hands and dry clothes dampened by sporadic rain throughout the day. As a group we discussed potential upcoming events in the new year including plans for a work party at the JDSF Horse Camp and funding for improvements. Business conversation slowly turned into sharing stories. Then stories turned into songs and, with some help from Clint Hanks and his guitar, we had some rhythm to sing along with, too. It was almost enchanting - people conversing, smiling and laughing. As the orange glow from the campfire shone upon the campers' infectious smiles, it brought a wholesome feeling to my heart. Hearing the strum of the guitar followed by a beautiful voice, because, boy, we sure had a few of those out there! It was a memory I'll personally never forget and one of many memories I hope we continue to make as a group of BCHC members!



Sandy Powell, professional photographer from the Eastern Sierra, spent almost five years putting together her new book, "Cowboy Culture; Capturing the Spirit of the Old West in the Sierra Nevada." After many publication delays and a fire that burned most of her town, the book has finally been released. It is about the western life and Old West that remain in the Sierra Nevada.

Sandy's book has 23 chapters including Wagon Trains, Mule-packing, Cowboys/Cattle Drives, Pony Express Re-Ride, 20 Mule Team, USFS Mules that support firefighters, Bodie Day, Bishop Mule Days, Big Hitches, and one on Backcountry Horsemen. BCHC member Dave Stamey wrote review comments on the book's back cover and, if you look closely, you will find photos of some BCHC members you recognize!



UNIT NEWS

LOS PADRES:

LOS PADRES UNIT AND BRASS OAKS DRIVING SOCIETY MEMBERS HELP CREEK FIRE EQUINE EVACUEES

By Lil Clary

(As this is written, the Creek Fire which started on September 4 in the Sierra above Fresno has burned over 346,000 acres. It is the largest single incident fire in California history and the fifth largest in terms of acreage overall.)

On September 10, Ryan Turner, Backcountry Horsemen of California Los Padres Unit member, contacted Shirley Rasmussen and Kaye Bruns and asked that an appeal be sent out to members. Ryan and his girlfriend Jorden Eade-Remo had seen news about the need for supplies for evacuated animals and decided to gather equipment and feed and take them over to the Double S Ranch near Clovis.

Ryan and Jorden felt they could help because they had a heavy hauling truck and a low boy type trailer. They planned their first trip in just three days, heading over to Double S on September 13.

Ryan and Jorden reached out to friends and neighbors first, asking for supplies ranging from water buckets to chairs for volunteer comfort at the evacuation site. BCHC member Lil Clary saw the email from the unit and forwarded information about the situation to members of the Brass Oaks Driving Society (of which she is a member) and to horse folk in the Tepusquet and Cebada Canyon neighborhoods in Santa Barbara County.

Lil also contacted Lisa Moore at Whitehorse Tack in Paso Robles to ask about the possibility of acting as a supply source. Lisa said yes immediately and arranged to hold items for Ryan to pick up. She also said she would charge at her cost only for whatever was purchased.

Ann McClure, Disa Thorensen and Gloria Walter of Brass Oaks got the appeal out immediately. In addition to individual member contributions, Brass Oaks voted to donate \$250.

Over the next few weeks over \$5,000 was donated to purchase supplies and feed!

Ryan and Jorden found over 400 horses, cattle, goats, sheep, llamas, rabbits and donkeys at Double S. Ranch owner Derrick Simpson told local news media that he offered to help because he had lots of space and existing corrals. As trailers arrived, he put up even more pipe corrals. At one point an evacuee turned up with 30 horses which he turned loose in a large arena. Derrick did not charge anyone for the use of his facility.

Friends who contributed to Ryan's efforts stated they were pleased to have an opportunity to help out fellow equine owners, knowing that their

contributions would go directly to the site in need. No one is immune from a potential emergency and all of us empathize deeply with those who face these situations.

In closing, huge thanks to Ryan and Jorden, Shirley, Kaye, Lisa, Ann, Disa and Gloria who went all out to help and spread the word. Very special thanks to all who made contributions of equipment, supplies and funding for this operation.

Side Note: As horse, donkey and mule owners living in rural California, we know what it means to have to evacuate in a wildfire. Narrow roadways, difficulty in maneuvering trailers and trucks in unfamiliar areas, smoke and flames, nighttime conditions, animals that are panicked.

Some lessons for all of us: First, prepare for the worst! Lisa recommends that everyone plan for what to do in case evacuation is necessary. That includes where to go and how to get your critters there. She also suggests that if you believe you may need outside help, make pre-arrangements.

There are equine evacuation organizations (Horse Emergency Evacuation Team/HEET and Santa Barbara Equine Evac operating in Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties) that will come to assist. When our canyon was under a mandatory evacuation order in 2017, HEET volunteers showed up and were on deck into the night to help one neighbor get recalcitrant horses out.

Which brings up the second lesson: Train your animals to load before conditions are dangerous. My husband and I raced out to New Cuyama some years ago to help haul horses as flames encroached, only to discover that these horses had never been loaded and as far as we could tell, had never been haltered. Several had to be left behind. No one wants to have to turn critters loose yet that happens over and over because equines won't load into a trailer. If you aren't home and a neighbor or a total stranger shows up to help, they need to count on your animals to load safely. Do your part.

Contacts: HEET sloheet.org (805) 466-7457
SB Equine Evac sbequineevac.org (805) 892-4484



Ryan Turner (right) and Jorden Eade-Remo gathered equipment and feed to take to evacuated animals housed at the Double S Ranch near Clovis.

UNIT NEWS

HIGH COUNTRY:

SCOUTING THE OWL CREEK TRAIL

Article and photos by Cindy McMurry

Here's a little back story on the Owl Creek Trail Restoration Project. I have lived here since 1985 and in all that time the Owl Creek Trail has been unnavigable by horse back.

The east side of the South Warner is steep with deep drainages and loose soil that is susceptible to severe erosion during the spring snow melt.

In 2011, the Forest Service, under direction of Amy Hartel and with the support of the BCHC High Country Unit, the Shasta Trinity Forest Service Packers and a California Conservation Corps (CCC) crew based out of Redding, spent a good part of the summer rebuilding this spectacularly beautiful trail.

We were very excited to be able to ride the length of the trail, from Emerson Lake to Pepperdine Camp and several of us started planning a multi-day pack trip for the next summer. Early in 2012, a massive thunderstorm settled in over the summit of Dusenbury Peak and Saddleback Mountain and a significant microburst (the severe down-drafts that occur when a thunderstorm collapses), uprooted upwards of 40 massive trees just north of the Raider Creek Basin. This steep section of trail was made almost impassable by the very large trees that fell during the storm. Due to the steepness of the terrain and the massive root balls that blocked the trail, even hikers were finding it very difficult to navigate the trail in this ¼-mile stretch.

Amy was able to secure funding for removing these trees but, due to a significant need elsewhere in Region 5, the funding was borrowed to address that issue. On November 13, Chris Bellechi, the Forest Engineer, asked if I could scout the trail for maintenance needs as \$150,000 was earmarked to make the necessary trail repairs to open up the trail once again.

It being quite late in the season and with short days and very cold nighttime temperatures, I really wasn't excited about making that kind of ride by myself, so Alan Cain agreed to come with me on his new horse! We left the Emerson Trailhead on Friday, November 15, at about 8:30 a.m. It was an amazingly beautiful day for so late in the year and other than a few icy spots and patches of snow, the trail was in great shape.

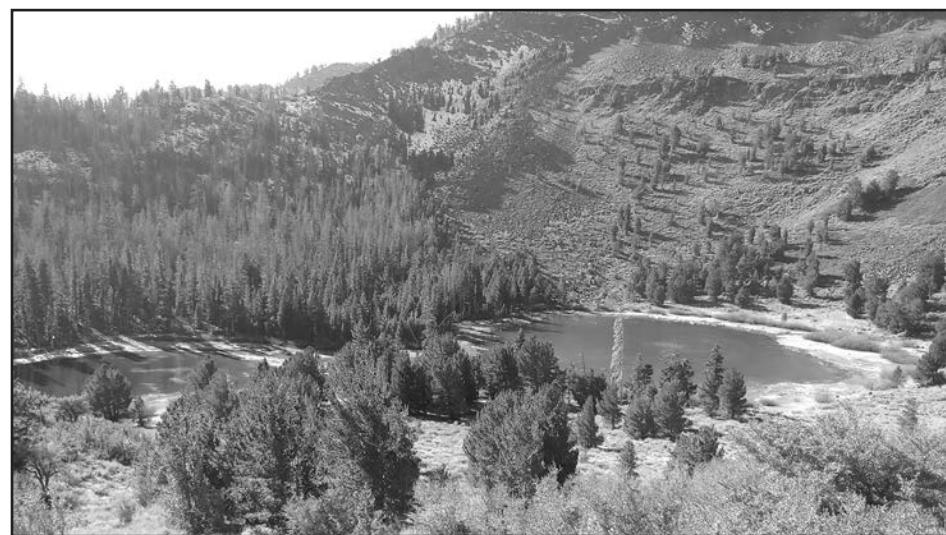
In light of the last couple of very wet, snowy years, I expected to find that the creek crossings the CCC crew spent so much time rebuilding, in poor shape. Much to our surprise, those crossings were in great shape, most were needing just a bit of maintenance and one needing some large rocks moved in to check erosion. There is a fair amount of brushing that needs to be done and about six to eight moderate sized trees that need to be removed from the trail up to Raider Basin.

There was quite a bit of evidence that equestrians and hikers have been using the trail on a regular basis. To top it off, we spotted two elk just south of Raider Basin! In all, we covered about 22 miles and got back to the trailer just as dark fell. Tired horses and tired riders.

I submitted my report of this trip to Chris Bellechi, the Forest Engineer, to help determine how long we will need a trail crew up there and what type of skills they will need.

There are some really neat spots with good grazing and water on this trail and we have scheduled a High Country Unit overnight trip and work party for July 13, 2020* to do some of the brushing and easier tree removal up as far as Raider Basin. This will be a fun trip with an opportunity to apply our packing skills. If folks would like an opportunity to practice before we go, we can make that happen! This will be a member only event and if you know someone that would like to come along, give them a membership form!

**Update: Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we were unable to take our planned trip to the Owl Creek Trail in 2020. The Owl Creek Trail Restoration Project is officially on the Forest Service project list for 2021, the Trail Crew has been contracted for and BCHC High Country Unit will be helping to resupply crews and anything else we can do.*



North Emerson Lake from the Owl Creek Trail.



Meadow just south of Raider Basin where we saw the elk.

UNIT NEWS

TOP OF THE STATE:

MEMBERS RETRIEVE PCT “BOOK” FROM NEW MAILBOX NEAR ETNA SUMMIT

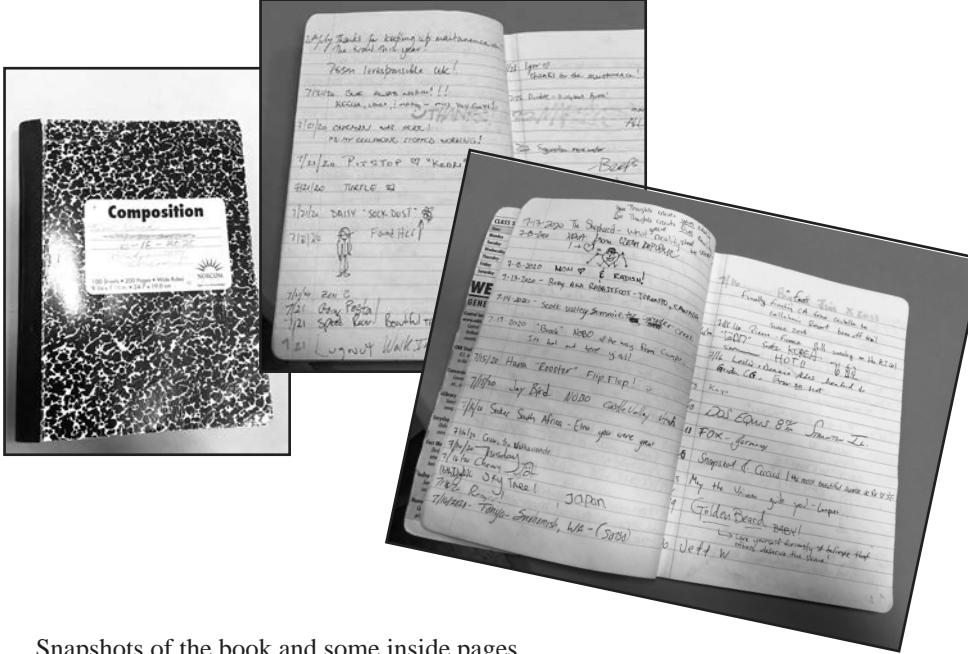
By Michele Machado

A big thanks to Erica Fruht and Mike Journey for keeping a Top of the State Unit tradition alive by picking up the “Book” on the Pacific Crest Trail for the year 2020. In fall of 2019, the mailbox was removed, located 200 feet below the trail and recovered by unit members John Lyons and Bill Bradshaw. In early spring, it was rebuilt by Ed Matthews and installed by Bill, John, Michael Stapleton and Betsy Stapleton a few miles north of Etna Summit. A logbook was provided for hikers and riders to leave their names and “comments and suggestions” as they make their journey down the Pacific Crest Trail.



Erica Fruht and Mike Journey with the logbook on the PCT.

Photo provided by Erica Fruht.



Snapshots of the book and some inside pages.

Photos by Michele Machado.



Lori Luddon was the winner in the Open Class.

SPOOKY GOOD TIME AT TOP OF THE STATE OBSTACLE CHALLENGE

Article and photos by Michele Machado

Top of State Unit members Michele Machado and Alan Woods hosted a Halloween themed Obstacle Course Challenge on October 31, complete with horse/rider costumes, ghoulish decorations and a “Gambler’s Choice” timed event that saw some great strategy play out.

Fourteen riders from Northern California and Southern Oregon participated in three classes on 18 obstacles. The obstacle course was built from mostly “repurposed” materials found almost exclusively on the Machado Ranch.

Erica Fruht won the Novice class, Lori Luddon was first in a competitive Open (advanced) class, and Penny Wells-Thomas won the Gambler’s Choice in full costume.

Thanks go out to John Lyons and Caralee Scala for cooking a fantastic barbecue lunch. Thanks also to Kelly York and Janice Rushton for judging the Challenge and to Judy York for announcing each participant.

RESULTS:

Novice: (1) Erica Fruht, (2) Cindy Pierce, (3) Michele Machado, (4) Sandy Mason, (5) Kaitlyn Kuendig (6) Pam Batchelder, (7) Laurie Robustellini, (8) Cindy Wright, (9) Kim Brown

Open: (1) Lori Luddon, (2) Karen Reeves, (3 tie) Pam Wells, (3 tie) Penny Wells-Thomas, (5) Kaitlyn Kuendig, (6) Claudia Kuendig

Gambler’s Choice: (1) Penny Wells-Thomas, (2) Karen Reeves, (3) Claudia Kuendig, (4) Kaitlyn Kuendig, (5) Pam Wells, (6) Pam Batchelder, (7) Michele Machado, (8) Cindy Wright, (9) Sandy Mason.



Pam Wells steadies her mare in a side-pass obstacle.

IN MEMORY

The following members of Backcountry Horsemen of California are no longer with us but are not forgotten. We sincerely thank them for the support they gave BCHC through their years of participation in unit events, trailwork, Rendezvous and other activities. Rest in peace.

BOB PFAFF, MID VALLEY UNIT

1955 - 2020



Bob Pfaff, friend and longtime member of Mid Valley Unit, passed away October 24, 2020. His sudden death was a shock to all who knew him.

Bob was born in Healdsburg, California, in 1955, and raised there. He attended Fresno State and graduated with an Ag Teaching Credential. Prop. 13 passed and few jobs were available, so Bob began working at Yosemite Farm Credit in Turlock where he was an Ag Appraiser for 39 years.

Bob joined Mid Valley Unit many years ago and was involved in back country work projects as well as helping out anywhere he was needed. He became a Wilderness Rider then a Master of LNT Trainer. He participated at the Stanislaus County Fair and one year his team won a buckle in the Steer Packing competition.

Bob married Lori Pabst and moved from Modesto to her horse ranch in Clements, east of Stockton. His activities and priorities changed but he remained a dedicated member of BCHC.

Bob was a gentleman, soft spoken, a good listener, always ready to help, kind and gentle. When you talked to him, he listened with interest, never interrupted, and the next time you saw him he would ask or talk about what you had discussed. He will be missed.

BRAD WESTON, MOTHER LODE UNIT

1954 - 2020



Brad Weston passed on November 9, 2020 after a brief illness. He was born to Myrtle Jane and Rodney Weston in Richland, Washington, April 24, 1954. His family moved to California and settled in the San Fernando Valley. Brad graduated from Monroe High School in 1972, then attended Pierce Junior College. While in college, he worked part time in a local print shop, followed by a job selling printing paper at Kirk Paper in the City of Industry. He met Merrill at a print shop he called on in Culver City and the two were married.

When their children came along, the Westons moved to Auburn and bought Auburn Letterhouse. Brad ran the business while Merrill worked for a larger printing firm in Sacramento. After three years, the two joined forces, growing their business together, first as Auburn Printers and now as APi-Marketing.

Brad was active in many community organizations. He coached both daughters' soccer teams and enjoyed outdoor activities with his family. He rode countless miles on California's trails with Backcountry Horsemen, Gold Country Trails Council, and El Dorado Trails Association. As members of MLU, Brad and Merrill generously donated the wrap on the MLU Trailer and assisted with T-shirt printing, flags, feathers and Rendezvous program printing.

A memorial service is planned for spring when the wildflowers bloom on the Western States Trail. The family requests that donations be made in Brad's name to Western States Trail Foundation (WSTF) or Placer Land Trust.

In tribute to a Backcountry Horsemen of California member who has died, we welcome units to submit a brief obituary/story and photograph for publication in The Backcountry News. Please send submissions by email to BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

In addition, the BCHC Member site (bchcalifornia.org) contains an "In Memory" tab. This is another place where a photo and obituary of longtime members may be placed. To share stories and pictures, email to BCHC Webmaster Jacque Murphy at brennaluet@hotmail.com

IN MEMORY

FREDI CHRISMAN, SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA UNIT

1942 - 2020



Winifred Mae (Fredi) Chrisman passed away November 9, 2020. She was born to the late Dave and Mary Apple in Van Nuys, California, December 24, 1942. Fredi moved with her family to Fresno in 1944 where she graduated from McLane High School in 1961. She met her husband-to-be, Gary, in 1960 and they married in 1963. They went on to have three children. Fredi was a retired bookkeeper but continued to work seasonally for the IRS.

Fredi had an extraordinary zest for life and was known for her smiling eyes and infectious laugh. She loved being with her family and friends. She was always busy with the clubs and groups she was involved in. Her fondest memories are the outdoor activities including off roading, fishing, camping, motorcycle riding, horseback riding and packing mules. She loved being outside on her ranch with the horses, chickens and dogs. She painted beautiful china pieces for which she won blue ribbons at the fair.

Fredi was predeceased by her husband Gary and daughter Annie Mae. She is survived by her daughter Wendy Baldwin and husband Bill, son Buck Chrisman, Sr. and his wife Julie and two grandchildren, Dallas and Buck, Jr.

Due to COVID-19, a celebration of life will be delayed to the spring. In lieu of flowers, remembrances may be sent to Backcountry Horsemen of California, San Joaquin Sierra Unit. Fredi will be fondly remembered and deeply missed by family and many friends.

ANN LANGE, KERN SIERRA UNIT

1941 - 2020



Ann Lange passed away December 31, 2020. She was born in Bakersfield on March 18, 1941, to Rita and "Andie" Charlton. She was raised on the Rankin Ranch in Walker Basin. She went to school in Caliente, graduated from East Bakersfield High and attended Bakersfield Jr. College before transferring to UC Davis to study History and English for her teaching credential.

Ann met the love of her life, Detlev (often called "Det" or "Dud") Lange, in Davis while teaching in Yuba City. The two became engaged and married six months later at the Rankin Ranch. After Detlev completed his veterinary medical education and passed his State Board exams, he took a job at a mixed animal practice in Ridgecrest. A year later, the couple moved to Lake Isabella to start their own vet clinic since none existed there. It was a difficult struggle, but the practice succeeded. Ann was the office manager, receptionist, bookkeeper and surgical assistant. She saw the need for a licensed technician, so she took the California Veterinary Technician test and passed it. In 2013, Ann finally retired from work to pursue her other interests - wilderness packing, camping, reading and relaxing.

While on a pack trip in 1982, Ann noticed the lack of trail maintenance in the wilderness, creating some dangerous situations for pack animals. At that time the Back Country Horsemen Association was just being formed. Ann joined Kern Sierra Unit of Backcountry Horsemen because it provided a chance to use and work her horse and mules and to experience wilderness camping and campfire camaraderie. As BCHA's National Wilderness Chairperson, she became a recognized advocate of wilderness trails, honorary lifetime member of the Back Country Horsemen Association and, in 2011, rode in the Bishop Mule Days Celebration Parade as "Best Friend of the Packers".

Ann was a "candid" person. She excelled in everything she attempted. Her gentle demeanor, frequent smile and positive attitude lit up the room wherever she was. She will truly be missed and remembered.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, a celebration of life will be held when the pandemic has subsided. In lieu of flowers please donate to the Shriner's Children's Hospital of Los Angeles and the Optimal Hospice foundation of Lake Isabella.

BCHC
sincerely
thanks the
following
2020
Rendezvous
sponsors
for their
generous
support:



**BENNY
BROWN'S RED
BLUFF DODGE,
CHRYSLER,
JEEP**



HALTER Project
LEADING RESIDENTS TO
SAFETY & PREPAREDNESS

Recognition of Special Individuals

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

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS,

10/20/2020 - 1/15/2021

BENEFACITOR (\$100)

Eastern Sierra	Bill Carter Troy Patton
High Sierra	James B. Waggoner Ruth Gerson Nancy Hamill Jacob Hamstra Karl Pendegraft Trish Pendegraft
Kern Sierra	Brad Allen of Rosedale Farrier Supply Robert L. Anderson Mylon Filkins, DVM
Lake-Mendo Los Padres	Larry Mumford Richard Knox Kaye Bruns Robin Cederlof James McGarry Tony Alamo Karen Barindelli Jay Barnes Gary A. Cain Bob Cooper Carol Jo Hargreaves Rian Hudson Bob Magee Jennifer Marshall John V. Marshall MID VALLEY UNIT
Mother Lode	Action Coalition Tom Cooper
North Bay Redshank Riders	Donna Jones Furlow Lynn Cominsky Renee Aberle Allison Renck Ron Robertson
Redwood	Darrel & Carole Polasek

San Diego

David Roy Chevallier
Lee Kelly-Gillen
Walt J. Kirkwood
Lynda Sterns
John Cunningham
Larry Nishma Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta
Stephen Naylon
Werner Ansorge
Kathryn C. Bennett
Steve Ladrigan
Jamie Wilson, DVM
Larry Young
Lyle Charter
Alicia Mosher
Corky Layne

San Joaquin Sierra

Sequoia

Shasta Trinity

Sutter Buttes

PATRON (\$250)

High Country
High Sierra
Kern Sierra
Los Padres
Mid Valley
Sequoia

Lynn Saunders
Richard Cochran
Sonia Shepard McLellan
Lynn Joiner
Otis Calef
Sarah Rivers
Jim Holly

MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Eastern Sierra
Mid Valley
Mother Lode
Shasta Trinity

Sarah C. Sheehan
Dennis M. Serpa
Terri Arington
Lloyd Erlandson
Timothy Durbin
Dean Angelides

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
SUPPORT!**

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



CALIFORNIA

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined BCHC from
10/20/2020 through 1/15/2021.
THANK YOU, NEW MEMBERS
We look forward to meeting you!

High Sierra	Bob W. Hodgkins
Kern Sierra	Tim Briggs
Lake-Mendo	Katharine Payne
Los Padres	Laura Fullilove
	Jason Nikolakakis
Mid Valley	Lyle Thomas
	Laura Frerking
	Kaitlyn Rumsey
Mother Lode	Dorothy J. Foster
	Holger Klippstein
	Hannah Rokni
Redwood	Julie Baron
San Diego	Janeen & Tom Reed
San Joaquin Sierra	Kathy Bird
	Pat Fletcher
	Randi Holley
Santa Ana River	Rosemary Reeder
Sequoia	Amy Gibson
	Shelley Cumming
Shasta Trinity	Carly Ladrigan
Top of the State	Kee-Ann Batory
	Teri Arrwood
	Lauren Sweezey

DID YOU KNOW? The annual BCHC Rendezvous is a primary fundraiser for our organization. It helps pay for day-to-day operational expenses such as production and distribution of this newsletter.

WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

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

WHY JOIN BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

(From bchcalifornia.org)

As a member, you'll:

- Get to participate in state and unit activities
- Learn valuable backcountry skills and outdoor ethics
- Gain new friends in our wonderful members
- Receive the BCHC newsletter
- Be kept up to date on public lands issues
- And more!

Even if you don't ride or aren't an active member, your dues contribute to our cause! You'll be helping pay for work projects, educational materials, training and insurances. Help support our efforts to keep trails open to equestrians!

JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE

1. Fill out the **ONLINE MEMBERSHIP FORM**, save it and print a copy for your records.
2. Submit the online form. A copy will be sent to Chip Herzig, VP of Membersio. **IMPORTANT:** Youth Memberships MUST also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will NOT be valid until the forms are received.
3. Pay with your Paypal

JOIN OR RENEW BY MAIL

1. Fill out the **MEMBERSHIP FORM** on page 27, make a copy for your records. **IMPORTANT:** Youth Memberships MUST also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will NOT be valid until the forms are received.
2. Mail the completed form(s) and check* to:

Chip Herzig
BCHC Membership
1280 State Rte 208
Yerington, NV 89447

*Please make checks payable to Backcountry Horsemen of California. You may also pay via Paypal.

BCHC Units Around the State

ANTELOPE VALLEY

PO Box 84
Pearblossom, CA 93553
Marcy Watton
(661) 878-1791
HorsingRound@aol.com

EASTERN SIERRA

PO Box 157
Olancha, CA 93549
Troy Patton
(760) 764-2850
outdoortroy46@gmail.com

HIGH COUNTRY

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

HIGH SIERRA

P. O. Box 6632
Exeter, CA 93221
www.highsierraunit.org
Dan Baumgardner
(559) 334-7731
danbdraffhorse@yahoo.com

KERN RIVER VALLEY

PO Box 2179
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
4HRanch@earthlink.net
Steve Horst
(661) 867-2777
horststephenc@yahoo.com

KERN SIERRA

16347 Stephenie Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669
Robert Anderson
(661) 978-9630
lazya01@yahoo.com

LAKE-MENDO

6980 Potter Valley Rd
Ukiah, CA 95482
Traci Glentzer
(707) 972-6256
blackhorsetack10@gmail.com

LOS PADRES

Box 472
Atascadero CA 93422
www.bchc-lpunit.org
Ryan Turner
(805) 286-0850
rt91.ltec@gmail.com

MID VALLEY

PO Box 1709
Modesto, CA 95353
www.bchcmidvalley.org
Doug Dollarhide
(209) 605-2403
bootsandspur@att.net

MOTHER LODE

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

NORTH BAY

PO Box 9435
Santa Rosa Ca. 95405
www.northbayunit.com
Dan Horn
(707) 544-4543
bearstrap@msn.com

PACIFIC CREST

PO Box 720684
Pinon Hills, CA 92372
Jennifer Sponsler
(760) 868-1588
jnjspon@aol.com

REDSHANK RIDERS

PO Box 383
Aguanga, CA 92536-0383
www.redshankriders.com
Mike Lewis
(951) 760-9255
mike@stumblinlranch.com

REDWOOD

PO Box 6023
Eureka, CA 95502-6023
www.redwoodunit.com
Carole Polasek
(707) 786-9637cell: (707) 599-8021
muleride15@gmail.com

SAN DIEGO

PO Box 833
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www.bchesd.com
Walt J. Kirkwood
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suzannepkirk@gmail.com

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

PO Box 25693
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www.bchcsjsu.org.
Joe Kaminski
(559) 733-9170
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

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www.sarubchc.org
Mike Williams
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SEQUOIA

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

SHASTA TRINITY

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

SIERRA FREEPACKERS

PO Box 64
Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064
www.sierrafreepackers.com
Patricia Vallentyne
(559) 683-8099
pcvallentyne@gmail.com

SUTTER BUTTES

2568 Lake Hills Dr
Butte Valley, CA 95965
Gary Paul
(530) 693-0420
muleguy54@gmail.com

TOP OF THE STATE

PO Box 461
Etna, CA 96027-0461
www.bchc-tos.com
Michele Machado
(817) 308-0258
meechele418@gmail.com

Questions? Membership Matters

BCHC VP of Membership is
Chip Herzig.

He will be happy to address
your questions or concerns.

Chip may be reached
Monday through Friday.

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

Email: chipherzig@gmail.
com

Phone: (775) 463-3634

Planning a Trip? Use



You will find the same airlines, hotels, rental cars
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You'll get great travel prices!

Each time you book travel a portion of the travel
commissions will go to support BCHC!

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It's that simple!

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MEMBERSHIP

Backcountry Horsemen of California



MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New Renewal
 Change

PARENT UNIT AFFILIATION: (Select and CHECK a Unit as your Affiliation)							
<input type="checkbox"/>	Antelope Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lake-Mendo	<input type="checkbox"/>	Redshank Riders	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shasta Trinity
<input type="checkbox"/>	Eastern Sierra	<input type="checkbox"/>	Los Padres	<input type="checkbox"/>	Redwood	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sierra Freepackers
<input type="checkbox"/>	High Country	<input type="checkbox"/>	Mid Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego	<input type="checkbox"/>	Sutter Buttes
<input type="checkbox"/>	High Sierra	<input type="checkbox"/>	Motherlode	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Joaquin Sierra	<input type="checkbox"/>	Top of the State
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kern River Valley	<input type="checkbox"/>	North Bay	<input type="checkbox"/>	Santa Ana River		
<input type="checkbox"/>	Kern Sierra	<input type="checkbox"/>	Pacific Crest	<input type="checkbox"/>	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: _____

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

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old) \$15*	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family \$150	*Youth members MUST fill out BOTH Youth Membership forms (available online)	<input type="checkbox"/> 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 is for two adults with differing last names who share a common address.

Associate Memberships

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

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 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

DON'T FORGET: The BCHC Executive Committee will no longer send out membership renewal verification "green slips" via regular mail. Instead, each unit president and membership chair will get a personal email from the BCHC VP of Membership (Chip Herzig) with each units' data AND it will be put on the BCHC web page in the password protected section.

**Rendezvous 2021 will now be held October 29-31 in Tulare
Please correct your calendars and plan to attend!**



RENDEZVOUS 2021

By Rendezvous Co-Chairs Lynn Joiner and Dan Baumgardner

The 2021 Rendezvous will be held at the Tulare County Fairgrounds in Tulare, California, on October 29-31, 2021. The theme for the Rendezvous is "Preserving Our Trails for Future Generations."

We plan to have several clinicians including JoDe Collins and Sarah Muzquiz. We will have Wilderness Riders presenting Leave No Trace classes. There will be packing contests, pack saddle fitting classes, dutch oven contests, Kids Corral, an art show, Trail Trials, Pack 'n Trail and lots of vendors.

San Joaquin Sierra Unit will be cooking the meals and we will have a bluegrass band providing entertainment. This will be a good time to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. We will be having a gun raffle and a Lee Roeser pack saddle raffle. We are looking forward to a great time and hope you will plan to join us.

Rendezvous 2020 was cancelled due to the corona virus but the committee, headed by Chairman Larry Shuman, put in many hours of planning. Due to the generosity of our sponsors and members that had registered for the Rendezvous, we made a little over \$9,800. The BCHC State Board would like to say a big "Thank You" to Larry Shuman and his committee.