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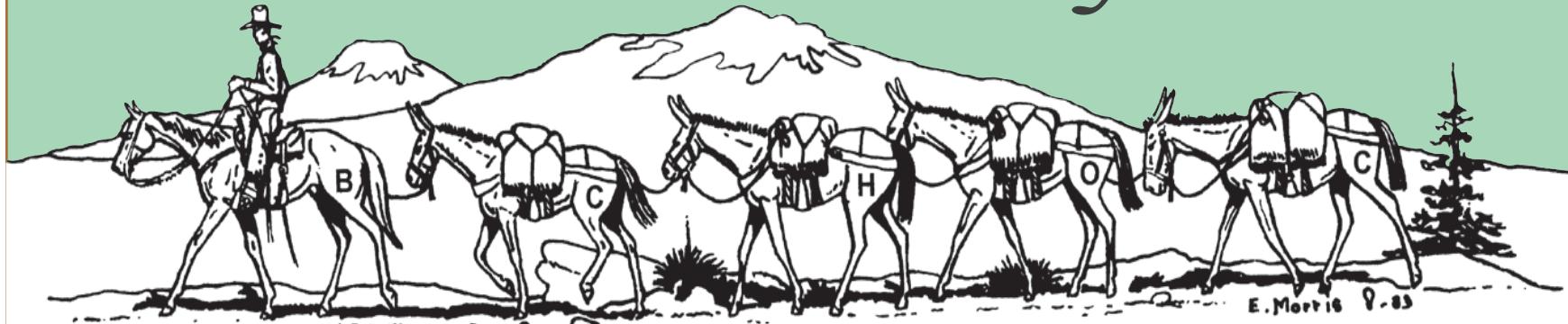
*For more BCHC information, see our website:
bchcalifornia.org*

BCHC

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The Backcountry News



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Winter 2011

BCHC 2011 RENDEZVOUS GALLOPS TO NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

BCHC Rendezvous will be setting up camp for its annual Rendezvous in the Tehama County Fairgrounds, Red Bluff, California, April 1 – 3, and promises to be bigger, grander, wilder. Plenty of camping will be available within the fairgrounds with hotels and RV parks around Red Bluff offering special Rendezvous Rates. During Rendezvous, more clinics, seminars, trail trial, Dutch oven cook-off, Sunday Cowboy Church, over 30 vendors, trainers, auctions, raffles, classes, art show, kids' activities, wine/cheese tasting, contests, dinner/dance plus the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center personnel and mules from Pickel Meadow, California will keep folks' attention! And for any day of Rendezvous — **FREE admission to fairgrounds for BCHC members, non-members and the general public!!**

The Valley Mule Company from Corvallis, Oregon is supplying two mules for auction! Gracy, an 11-year-old dapple-gray molly mule described as "loves people, easy to catch in pasture, easy to work with, great mountain trail mule, rides, packs, easy to shoe, bath and clip". Jill is a 14-year-old dark bay molly mule and a "great trail mule, good for beginner, rides, packs, leads a pack string, loads in trailer easily, good with her feet, clips, bathes, easy to catch in pasture and loves people!" And to keep either one or both mules in, one could possibly win the Round Pen offered by simply buying a few raffle tickets!!

Among the clinicians, speakers, and presenters are well-known trainers Jerry Tindell, who will provide daily demonstrations, and Barry Krohn of the Valley Mule Company. After hearing these two trainers talk and demonstrate how it's done — or should be done — try out your own skills at the CSHA-sponsored Trail Obstacle Challenge in the covered arena. One can choose from "rider only class" or "rider and one pack animal class". Plus the BLM will be on-site with their popular Wild Horse and Burro Adoption program. For qualified individuals, this is a unique opportunity to care for and then own a living legend, a symbol of American history.

The three-day Rendezvous meal package (2 breakfasts and 2 dinners) is only \$65 per person, RV space \$30/night or three nights for \$85, and a stall, \$12/day.

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY! OPEN TO THE PUBLIC! Improve your backcountry riding and packing skills while 'Building Wilderness Skills' at the 2011 BCHC Rendezvous, April 1 - 3, Tehama County Fairgrounds, Red Bluff. More information can be found on www.bchcalifornia.org, click on 2011 Rendezvous. Or contact Larry Shuman by phone (530) 527-8907 or (530) 526-0590 or email Lshuman62@gmail.com.

For more Rendezvous 2011 information turn to Page 14

The Backcountry News

A Quarterly Publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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

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

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

Longer articles are subject to edit for space at the discretion of the Editor. Photos will not be returned.

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

Deadline

April 15, 2011

August 19, 2011

December 16, 2011

Publication Date

May 2011 - Spring/Summer

September 2011 - Fall

January 2012 - Winter

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

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

Advertising: All ads must include all fonts and images used in artwork. Ads must be at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch at the actual size used in the artwork. Mail payment to the BCHC Treasurer. Checks returned from the bank will have a \$25.00 return check fee. No advertising will be accepted from advertisers with outstanding balances. Liability by The Backcountry News shall not exceed the space occupied by the error. Never shall The Backcountry News be liable for any general, special or consequential damages. All claims for adjustments must be made within 30 days of the first publication of said ad.

2011 Executive Committee

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

BCHA Alternate Director

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Rendezvous 2011

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

Web Coordinator

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

Membership Matters

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

Chip & Linda may be reached Monday through Friday.

By mail: BCHC Membership

PO Box 535, Beaumont CA 92223

By email: membership@bchcalifornia.org

By toll free phone: (866) 748-2033

President's Page



INTRODUCING DENNIS SERPA, 2011 BCHC PRESIDENT

I have been farming since I graduated from Cal Poly in 1968. Then I finally got my first horse with the intention of going to the mountains. I continued going to the mountains with my growing family, with "Joe Back" in one hand, learning to pack as I went. I didn't learn of Backcountry Horsemen until some 20 years ago while attending Bishop Mule Days. I thought I'd hit the jackpot of organizations! BCHC was just what I was looking for to further my backcountry education. Well, it's been a great experience learning from some distinguished teachers, some of whom are now gone. Many of my teachers are still around and I have immense respect for all of them. We have been blessed with some excellent leaders in BCHC that have brought us a long ways in the last quarter century.

I have been involved in my local unit (Mid Valley), mostly in setting up projects with the Forest Service, doing trail clearing, and packing for the Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). I look forward to the challenge of being President of BCHC but my passion is packing in the backcountry. We may have to arrange our meetings in the mountains! I have been a Wilderness Rider since 1997 and have enjoyed educating and still learning from others. One of what I consider to be my most important projects was going to Washington, DC, to testify in a congressional hearing in favor of the check dams in the Emigrant Wilderness. This project was ongoing for over 10 years and we finally lost our appeal to keep and maintain these dams.

So, what holds for the future of BCHC? We are a gray-headed bunch, so we have to concentrate on training the next generation of packers. Youth of today are so busy with sports and any number other activities that they have little time to enjoy the benefits of the backcountry. I see this as our number one challenge for the future. We have taken

steps to start a program to get youth started on a path to becoming our future packers. It's up to us to get our children and grandchildren active in our upcoming programs.

Another area we need to focus on is infrequent users of the backcountry who only go there once or twice a year and don't think they need any further education. Some people don't feel a need to join our organization and reap the benefits of our educational programs. We even have some BCHC members that don't pay heed to our educational programs. We need to come up with new and innovative ways to solve these problems.

I'm open to any ideas and suggestions as to how we can overcome these obstacles and take BCHC to higher levels of effectiveness. We are in the age of new technologies that we must utilize to further our efforts. Since we only meet as a Board twice a year, we need to come up with some ideas as to how we can better communicate between meetings.

Please drop me a line or give me a call if you have any input. YOU are the ones that can make a difference!

Dennis M Serpa

OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

of the

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

from the BCHC Bylaws

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

Continued at top of next column

BCHC



GOODBYE

As I sit here writing this I have two weeks left as your BCHC President. It has been fun, sometimes frustrating, always interesting, and to tell the truth I am glad I served. The memories of the past three years will always be with me and I am sure I will probably embellish some of them when I relate those memories to my grandchildren and great grandson.

I have been sitting here the past couple of weeks trying to finalize the classes and seminars we will offer at the 2011 Rendezvous. The classes are getting close to complete. I gave our current list to CJ to publish in the Backcountry News so you can get a feel for what we will offer. Remember, this is not the final list and is subject to change. I hope you will find seminars that will peak your interest and get you to contemplate coming to Red Bluff. We have a local youth fiddle group that will be at the Rendezvous performing for us. We have a young man I have watched grow up who is now 18 or 19 years old to perform also. I believe he just signed a contract. Local DVMs, local agencies such as the Forest Service and CCC, and others have all stepped up to help out and provide either classes or information. Rendezvous will be a fun time and decidedly not boring!

The local youth fiddlers came out of the blue. Red Bluff has a big fiddler contest at the Fairgrounds each year that is widely promoted in the area. I went to a luncheon today and was joined by one of my former coworkers and his wife, both also retired. We were talking and Rendezvous came up and she said she is with the group that works with local youth fiddlers and the venue seemed to be right up their alley. I thought that was a great idea and as we talked and made preliminary plans of what the kids could provide. You just never know when something unexpected will come up.

Another item has also presented itself. I got a call about a week back asking about a booth and I ended up with a mule trainer and two head of stock for the Auction! Barry Krohn has worked the Klamath Falls BCH Oregon function the past several years and said he would provide us with the same service if we wanted. I took him up on the offer. He will also provide us with a seminar.

I wish all of the Rendezvous planning went that easily but it hasn't and there is still lots to be done. The northern California BCHC units have done an excellent job in providing a lot of indispensable input, legwork, and other help. Rendezvous cannot happen without people like that. Thank you to all of them and to the Rendezvous Committee for making my last duty easier!

Hope to see all of you in April!!

Your [soon to be] Past President, Larry Shuman



**MARK YOUR CALENDARS
BCHC Rendezvous 2011
April 1-3, 2011
Tehama District Fairgrounds, Red Bluff, CA**

2011 BCHC OFFICERS

Officers were elected at the October State Board meeting in Visalia. Following are the election results.

President	Dennis Serpa (Mid Valley)
1st Vice President	Sam Burrows (Shasta Trinity)
2nd Vice President	Carrie Johnen (Mother Lode)
Secretary	Kaye Bruns (Antelope Valley)
Treasurer	Lynn Joiner (Kern Sierra)
Co-VP Public Lands	Bruce DeMott and Ruth Gerson (Mid Valley and High Sierra)
Co-VP Education	Lisa Deas and Dan Horn (both North Bay)
BCHA Natl Directors	Michael Murphy and Ann Lange (North Bay and Kern Sierra)
BCHA Alt. Natl Director	Dan Clifford (San Diego)
Past President	Larry Shuman (Shasta Trinity)
Editor	CJ Hargreaves (Mid Valley)
Membership	Chip and Linda Herzig (San Gorgonio Pass)

Congratulations to all incoming officers! Thank you for your dedication and service to BCHC!

Ccontinued at top of next column



A NEW YEAR AND NEW MEMBERSHIP COORDINATORS

By Chip Herzig, BCHC Membership Coordinator

Linda and I assumed responsibility for Membership Coordinator duties as of January 1, 2011. The 800# phone and the email for Membership on the BCHC web site have been changed to our addresses. You may also contact me by email at chipherzig@gmail.com or call (951) 769-3781

New ideas:

- We're looking into on-line payment of dues. We are investigating the possibility of placing a PayPal link on the BCHC web site which will lead you through the process of paying electronically.
- We're looking into setting up a spot on the BCHC web to see Membership data, such as your renewal status. In addition, we hope to have a way to download an "I'm a member in good standing" slip for events that need such things.
- We will post each Unit's membership on the BCHC website on a monthly basis for access by designated Unit officers.

All these ideas are currently in progress; some might not be able to be completed real quickly so be patient with us "newbies" as we learn the ropes and implement new things.



HUGE THANKS to Karen Harper for her many years as BCHC Membership Coordinator!!

DRAFT BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN OF CALIFORNIA STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Saturday, October 16, 2010
Holiday Inn, Visalia, CA

A. Call to Order: Meeting was called to order at 1:20pm by President, Larry Shuman. The following items were removed from the agenda:

New Business:

1. Wilderness Rider Insurance
2. Guest speaker: Scott from Pasco, Washington

The following items were added to the agenda:

Old Business:

1. Budget
2. Rendezvous assignments

New Business:

1. Membership Coordinator change
2. Elections

B. Roll Call: Attendance was taken as Unit Directors signed in. All units were represented, although several units did not send in their Directors changes.

C. Minutes: Kay Brickner made the motion to accept the Minutes of March 19, 2010. Second by Cheryl Wegner. Motion carried.

D. Secretary's Report/Correspondences: Kaye Bruns reported the correspondence since March 19, 2010 at Rendezvous. (attached to minutes in Secretary's notebook)

E. REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Joiner reported:

-insurance includes money that goes in and out of the account
-benefactor account= savings account available money for the general account
-2009 vs. 2010 fairground costs= the fairgrounds did not disclose hidden costs
-they showed us an \$8,000 savings, so that is why we moved to Merced

Steve Rennebu made the motion to approve the Treasurer's Report. Second by Dave Rigoli. Motion carried.

BCHC Action Report: Michael Murphy reported:

-education foundation brochure
-two people were sent to the Nine Mile training
-coloring books have been prepared by Missouri BCH
-will be on the BCHA and BCHC website
-Minute Man Express- Contact Sam: 417-532-3225
-will personalize for any unit who calls
-BCHA uses conference calls to deal with issues that come up
-CD now available for the Public Lands presentation
-Education Foundation gave out two grants
-BCHA is looking for corporate sponsors

Continued on Page 6

Draft State Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, continued from Page 5

-other state reports available to view, see Michael.

Ann Lange reported:

- Trail classification process: BCHA working hard to get trail data
 - each state will be responsible to work with Forest Service in updating trail information
- need to write up a resolution to present to BCHA requesting that the National meetings be held in locations where it would not cost so much to get there. Kay Brickner made the motion to have Ann Lange work with Washington State to write this resolution. Second by Thor Bodtker.
Motion carried.
- Dan Clifford wrote a resolution to work out confrontational situations. Easy way to get through mediation process to settle dispute. Did not have to use it.
- BCHA has lots of support in Washington, D.C.
 - Dennis Daly has been a great help.

Insurance Report: Garry Stauber reported:

- question being asked- what age is dictated for family membership
 - Ex. Board made a formal policy: anyone in the household living at the same physical/permanent address-no age limit for a family membership. Motion to approve by Mike Hughes. Second by Erica Canaveri. Motion carried.
- reminder: if you go and work with the Forest Service and doing physical labor, you must get the MOU in place. Work agreement with F.S. covers you under Workman's Comp.
- Public invited to an activity: free day as long as you do not use livestock
 - insurance will not be going up.

Membership Report: Karen Harper reported:

- current membership lists given to Directors
- demographics current as of October 2010
- membership lists are sent out monthly
- question asked? What marketing avenues are we going to pursue to increase membership?
 - units do their own recruiting, extra publicity during Rendezvous
 - good ideas were presented at the Education meeting
- membership fees returned to unit
 - \$21.50 for family, \$16.50 for individual

Education Committee: Dan Horn reported:

- rattlesnake flyer approved at Ed meeting and presented to Board for approval. Motion made by Joan Lewis. Second by Gail Lyons. Motion carried.
- classroom flyer 8-1/2 " x 11" will now be made into a tri-fold flyer.
- tri-fold: who we are, what we do, will be updated and put on our website
- equine first aid flyer approved
- new flyers in the works: wilderness first aid and equine evacuation
- Wilderness Rider review class will be in November at Ruthie Heuer's home
 - interviews to take place at Rendezvous 2011
 - Wilderness Rider course will be September 2-9, 2011. Location TBA
- need to review the Bear Bottom Basics flyer for corrections

Public Lands: Ruth Gerson reported that the PL meeting was very successful and there was lots of input from everyone.

Bruce DeMott reported:

- "purity" language will be removed from Forest Service Manual.
- cooperation: this is an agency term. The FS will listen but do not have to do anything about it.
- coordination: Federal Land Mgt. and Policy Act- agencies must resolve inconsistencies.
- mission statement formed: reflects purpose, philosophy and guide for Public Lands
- creating a PL forum for public lands chairs: will need a password for this forum/chat room
- Wilderness Society using BHC to lead on FS that we are for eliminating road access. We need a letter to Region 5 F.S. that BHC is not in support of Wilderness Society letter of April 2010. BHC hereby resolves our position of no net loss of road access through attrition and/or rehabilitation. Cc. of letter to Wilderness Society and Forest Service. Letter to be written by Melba Leal and sent to BCHA after approval from Larry. Dave Rigoli made the motion to approve, amended by Pete Spencer. Second by Becky Wolk. Motion carried with one opposed.

Public Service: Carrie Johnen reported:

- sent Directors an email with the volunteer hours report
 - report is easier to use
 - need information by January 31st
- trail miles cleared will be new for the 2011 report
- Wilderness Riders information rolls over- their information goes to Carrie and she sends it to Kenny Graves.
- very important: stay within the blue or yellow cells
- EXCEL program needed for reporting:

Website: Lisa Deas reported:

- site is updated regularly
- new packers page, send in your photos, articles, history, etc.
- separate page for the BCH newsletter
- links for other states of BCH
- 2011 calendar will be: Wilderness skills, need photos by Nov. 15th
- our website is getting viewed 1000 times each month
- Facebook stories: keep it clean and positive
- webpage guidelines are located under the forms link
- advertising is OK, if it helps BHC

Newsletter: CJ Hargreaves reported:

- 2 editions already this year: Rendezvous wrap-up and Fall Edition. Extra copies are approximately \$1.00 each to print. Will need the following:
 - Feb: Equine Affaire: 350- send to Chip Herzig
 - March: No. Cal Sports Expo: 100- send to Sam Burrows
 - April- Rendezvous: 300- send to CJ
 - April: Clovis Rodeo: 100- send to Ted Fischer
 - May: Mule Days: 100- send to Chip Herzig
 - May: Vaquero Days: 50- send to Patty Heyden
 - June: Horse Expo: 150- send to Mother Lode Unit

Draft State Board Meeting Minutes

DRAFT STATE BOARD MEETING MINUTES, continued from Page 6

Sept: LA County Fair: 300- send to Terry Heider
 -the last few newsletters are now on the website
 -send in your unit news to be published in the newsletter

Travel Site: CJ Hargreaves reported:
 -\$6.50 earned each month, this is free money
 -Zamzuu: link on travel site for shopping over 700 stores, up to 20% commission

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. BCHC Education Fund By-laws: Chip Herzig reported the newest version of the 501(c)3 bylaws incorporates the CPA's recommendations:
 -conflict of interest
 -how we assess and apply for grants

Also added a Public Lands person on the board. Goes into effect as of 10-15-2010.

2. Emailing of 45-day notice. Executive Board members, Directors and Presidents will be sent a postcard informing them that the notice was emailed on _____(date). Information in the 45-day notice will also be posted on our website.

3. Rendezvous updates: Larry Shuman reported:
 -booth space - before Jan. 1st: \$150, after Jan 1st: \$200 10' x 10' space
 -outdoor space unlimited if requested
 -if do not sell anything, space is free
 -174 vendor packets sent out
 -700 tickets for wine and cheese, open to public
 -500 Saturday dinner tickets, open to public for tickets not sold
 -if sell all raffle tickets = \$20-25,000
 -buy your unit contribution gifts from the vendors

4. Budget: Lynn Joiner reported of the C4 budget:
 -insurance to be kept the same
 -board to vote again next year to see if units still pay for their insurance
 Motion to approve by Kay Brickner. Second by Cheryl Wegner Motion carried.
 -Need ideas for Rendezvous that we could use as a fundraiser.

5. Rendezvous assignments: Units volunteered to cover assignments. Larry Shuman has the assignments on his laptop.
 -Rendezvous: April 1-3, 2011, Red Bluff, CA, Tehama County Fairgrounds
 **Theme: Building Wilderness Skills
 -Executive Committee meeting on Thursday night
 -Public Lands, Education, Board of Directors meeting on Friday afternoon.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Membership Coordinator change:
 -Chip and Linda Herzig have volunteered to take over this position free of charge

-this will save BCHC \$6,000 a year
 -position starts January 1st
 -new membership address: P.O. Box 535, Beaumont, CA 92223
 -send all applications and checks to new address
 -new PO Box in So. Bakersfield closer to Lynn. This is for all other BCHC mail.

2. Elections: Chip Herzig informed the Board that we have an unopposed slate, and would like a motion to accept the nominations on the ballot. Motion made by Larry Cigainero. Second by Margaret McNeil. Motion carried.

H. Announcements/Other Business:

1. Youth Coordinator: needs to be an adult, is this something we want?
 -possible board/education committee position
 -put an article in the BCH newsletter and announce it at Rendezvous
 -need to create a job description: Larry and Lisa will work on this
 -manual created by Ruthie Heuer years ago

I. Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at 4:50pm

Respectfully submitted,
 Kaye Bruns
 BCHC Secretary



The BCHC Education Fund is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

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

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

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

THANK YOU!

Education

EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

By Lisa Deas. Co-VP Education

What a fabulous year! Backcountry Horsemen of California have bundled up millions of volunteer hours, provided assistance in our front and back country, educated, participated in parades, Dutch Oven cook demos, pack clinics, horse camping events, attended and represented Backcountry Horsemen of California at Bishop Mule Days, Horse Expo, Equine Affair, rodeos, public forums, fun rides, catered rides, trail trials, and so much more.

THANK YOU! Thank you all very much for making this organization a stellar example of good horsemanship! It is through our good deeds that our name is the gauge others hold the bar up to!

On the Education side of the house, several flyers were finally approved and posted to the state website, new flyers are in the works, Rendezvous is in full planning mode and there is still much to do.

We are reaching out to Wilderness Riders again to help with evaluations at the Rendezvous. Many have already committed to teaching classes as well as many other tasks required. Please contact Lisa Deas, Dan Horn or Larry Shuman if you would like to help. We NEED your help to put on a very unique and special Rendezvous this year to be held in Red Bluff! April 1st, see you there!

On a local level, I attended a meeting between local politicians, California State University Monterey Bay Provost, Monterey Peninsula College Board Directors, bikers, hikers and horseback riders to team up for a dialog regarding the use of safe trails at Fort Ord/BLM and future development. None of the developers were present but we hope to have them attend the next session!!

Two organizations, Sustainable Seaside and Citizens for Sustainable Marina, hosted this event in December and there was a tremendous turnout for the forum. The two groups held a discussion and presentation on **“Keeping Public Access Alive at Fort Ord: A Regional Recreation Area for All”**. The excellent attendance showed the passion many Monterey Bay residents feel for this acreage. By continuing to work together we can assure it remains accessible. This was a remarkable beginning of what is no doubt to become a highly effective collaboration.

The presentation and Q&A session was filmed and will be available on our local Access Monterey Peninsula on starting Monday, December 20. The event was broadcast in two segments of one hour each, taking the Green Party and Science & Nature slots. It should also be available for download on ampmedia.org.

We are thankful to the Friends of Recreation Trails (FORT Friends), Monterey Off Road Cycling Association, Friends of the Fort Ord Warhorse, Marina Equestrian Center Park, and the Bureau of Land

Management, and to Bill Weigle for his excellent work on preparing map displays of the trails and informative overlays. We also thank those who came to display their work at a table including Return of the Natives, and Monterey County Search and Rescue Dogs.

This was a classic example of a community working TOGETHER. I represented Backcountry Horsemen of California and Monterey Bay Equestrians. Ft. Ord/BLM has over 83 miles of trails, shared by all who have the same passion - the right to access.

Back to the BCHC Education side, congrats to Jacque Murphy who has graciously accepted a position on our Steering Committee in addition to the vast amount of work she does for the Rendezvous! Steering Committee members are very sorry to have to say goodbye to the brilliant and endless energy of Jo Johnson. Our sincere and deepest thanks to Jo for her positive contributions to our committee and the entire organization in general. THANKS, JO!

On a side note, I'm sorry that this year I was unable to piece together a BCHC calendar. I simply did not receive enough pictures to complete this project. If anyone would ever like to take on this challenge or even create a BCHC Dutch oven cookbook or any other type of fundraiser, please RAISE YOUR HAND. Each and every penny helps us accomplish our mission! Don't forget to buy your gifts and book your travel through the BCHC Getaway travel site: <http://www.ytbtravel.com/bchc>

We welcome incoming President, Dennis Serpa as our new fearless leader. A BIG thanks to Larry Shuman for his years of service and contributions. We also want to recognize and thank the Membership Coordinator, Karen Harper. Chip Herzig is now the new Membership Coordinator and we NEED you all to **PLEASE provide your email address to Chip** membership@bchcalifornia.org. We are all about Leave No Trace and saving monies, so having your email address we can provide you the Backcountry News, State Meeting information, Rendezvous forms and COMING SOON, online membership payments and renewals. We need to practice what we preach and the cost and waste of printing materials is what we need to continue to eliminate!

Please submit your new 2011 officer listing to Kaye Bruns, BCHC Secretary, at kowgirl@juno.com

I hope all of your holidays were happy! Thank you for being a member and caring. You do count and we do care!

**The deadline for submissions for the
Spring 2011 edition
of The Backcountry News is:
FRIDAY, APRIL 15, 2011
Send submissions to news@bchcalifornia.org OR
cjohargreaves@verizon.net
or mail to
1229 Maple Hill Ct., Manteca, CA 95336-5125**

Education

MORE TRAIL MEMORIES FROM BILL BALFREY, TOP OF THE STATE UNIT

Bill's goal in writing Trail Memories of the Northfork of the Salmon River and More was to share some 30+ pages of stories that have shaped or touched his life. He hopes the stories hold some interest for you. Here are a couple you might enjoy...the first is from Bill's youngers and the second refers to Bill's wife, Willo.

#26 – I did the dishes and they rode out of camp. Told to “get wood and water” and going the extra mile.

I was raised with the saying, “Bring in all the camp wood and keep the water buckets full and you’ll be invited back”. I always did that and more. One morning in cow camp (Upper cabin) I was doing the dishes with Albert. When the dishes were done I walked out to saddle my horse (the nose bag was on having fed oats a little earlier) and to my horror I saw that others (Calvin) had saddled Albert’s horse, but not mine. Albert got on, the others mounted up and rode out of camp – they left me. I had to saddle as my horse was jumping all over the place. I had to do a running mount and caught up with them. I learned a good lesson – I thereafter took care of me first, the camp second. They never ever caught me off guard again. I was also raised with the rule, “You feed and take care of the stock before you eat”.

#59 – Thad – Mountain Lion at gate site.

We moved the Five mile gate down closer to the cabin by half a mile. The gate butts up against a rock bluff. Willo and I often comment that the site is ideal for a mountain lion home castle. Two years ago our family, with all the grandkids, were all camped at the cabin and they all walked up in the late afternoon to go swimming and to check if the gate was closed and Willo spoke of the ideal lion site when our quiet grandson, Thad, said in a soft voice, “mountain lion”. He repeated again, “mountain lion”. Someone then looked up and said, “MOUNTAIN LION!”



There sat a cat looking at them! At that point, the cat got up and walked off. About 30 minutes before this, a single teenage male walker came down the trail with his shirt off, not a care in the world – there was a hiker “without a clue”.

Mountain lion photo by Jim and Jamie Dutcher, National Geographic Magazine, www.nationalgeographic.com

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO PREPARE FOR WINTER

by Michael Murphy, BCHC National Director

Michael is Past President of the Sonoma County Horse Council and a member of BCHC North Bay Unit. A busy guy, Michael is co-parenting his 6-year-old daughter, sells ranch real estate, serves on the Sonoma County Animal Welfare Advisory Committee, is an Associate Director of Gold Ridge Resource Conservation District and a Certified Arborist. This Spring Michael will teach a class on Equine Facility Planning for Clean Water at Santa Rosa Junior College.

Preparing for rainy season while the weather is still nice can save a lot of time in the long run. Take time to inspect your facility before the rains start. Write and post a “winterization” checklist in your barn to help set priorities, organize work, and take action. It is important to check many areas throughout the winter, particularly during and after major storms. A sample list below covers management strategies. These will be discussed in detail in Michael’s class at Santa Rosa Junior College, March 23 - May 18.

Buildings

- Inspect, repair, and remove debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Make sure gutters and downspouts and pipelines are connected.
- Clear debris from diversions, pipe inlets, grates, culverts, and trash racks.
- Make sure energy dissipaters (such as rock) are placed at outlets.

High-Use Areas

- Replenish footing in high-use areas.
- Make sure kick boards are in place to help keep footing material in place.
- Clear debris from diversions and other drainage structures.

Manure Management

- Scrupulously clean out paddocks.
- Remove all horse waste from manure storage areas by the fall.
- Cover manure storage areas and provide runoff controls. Make sure “clean” water is diverted from manured areas.
- Apply manure to pastures in early fall and in spring when grasses are actively growing. Do not spread manure near creeks.

Education



TRAIL PRUNING

By Michael Murphy, North Bay Unit

The North Bay Unit just approved a purchase of a pole saw to better prune the trees and shrubs adjacent to the trails. I thought that this would be a perfect time to introduce some information concerning pruning of trees and vegetation. I am a Certified Arborist with the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA).

Pruning tasks vary in scope - from removing large limbs to pinching out new growth - and your goals will differ, too. Here are a few reasons to prune: to maintain the health of your plants; to direct growth; to remove undesirable growth; to increase quality or yield of flowers or fruit; to maintain safety; or to create hedges or topiary.

Pruning on the trail we are usually concerned with directing growth away from the trail and maintaining safety by removing any split or broken branches that threaten to fall, injuring people, animals, or buildings. Also we want to prune away any branches that obscure oncoming traffic from view.

Most pruning involves four basic techniques: thinning, heading, shearing, and pinching. What sets these methods apart from each other is where you cut in relation to growth buds and side branches. Most cuts we will be making will be thinning or heading. Thinning cuts can direct growth, eliminate competing or old stems, reduce overall size, and open up plant's structure. To thin you remove an entire stem or branch, taking it back to its point of origin or to its junction with another branch. Thinning lets you reduce the bulk of a plant with minimal regrowth.

Heading cuts let you remove just part of the stem or branch - not the whole thing as thinning cuts do. These cuts can be made back to a bud or twig or branch too small to take over the terminal role (terminal buds produce hormones that move down the stem and inhibit the growth of other buds on the stem).

When pruning, always cut back to a part that will continue to grow - trunk, another branch, or a bud. At these points of active growth, callus tissue will start to grow inward from the cells at the end of the cut; in time the wound will seal off. Clean cuts callus over faster than ragged ones, so it is important to use an appropriate, well-sharpened pruning tool. Forcing a tool to cut a branch bigger than it is designed to handle can result in ragged, uneven cuts that can damage the tool and the tree.

When removing a branch, don't make a flush cut. Position your shears or saw just outside of the branch collar, the wrinkled area (or bulge) at the branch's base where it meets another branch or the trunk. Also

refrain from cutting into the branch bark ridge (raised bark in the branch crotch). Leaving these areas intact keeps decay to a minimum.

If you need to remove larger branches (any that are too big to support in one hand while sawing with the other), make the cut in three steps to avoid ripping the bark and tearing the tissue around the branch collar. First shorten the branch to a stub before cutting it off just outside the branch collar. Make the final cut by placing your saw just outside the branch bark ridge and cutting downward and just outside of the branch collar. This type of cut will heal up nicely with little impact to the tree.

I almost forgot to mention Sudden Oak Death (SOD). We have a major problem with this in the Coastal forests. The trees we see dead the most are the Tan Oak. If you cut any of these dead, dying, or infected trees there are some precautions you need to remember. First thing, this is caused by a fungus so the less you spread the limbs or branches the better. Also, clean all tools used to cut diseased branches with Lysol to disinfect equipment before you use them again on healthy trees.

I don't expect all of you to become experts in pruning when on the trail but these simple suggestions are the way to prune and keep the forest healthy. I will be glad to answer any question you may have or you can refer to Sunset Western Garden Book. It is our responsibility as Backcountry Horsemen of California to do everything we can to have as little impact on the forest as possible.



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR WINTER, *continued from Page 9*

Pasture Management and Filter Strips

- Re-seed pastures and grass filter strips by October 15 (if possible), if needed. Remove weeds regularly.
- Mow, maintain and /or reseed grass filter strips downslope of high use areas.
- In the fall, check Residual Dry Matter (RDM) levels in pastures.

Roads and Trails

- Clean out ditches, culvert inlets, and trash racks.
- Make sure water bars and energy dissipaters are in place and functional.
- Check roads and trails after storms for any emergency repairs.
- Close roads and trails not essential for winter traffic. Seed and mulch seldom used roads or trails by October 15.

Public Lands

PUBLIC LANDS

By Bruce De Mott and Ruth Gerson, Co-VPs of Public Lands

Public Lands Chairs have been afforded tools for dealing with agencies with the newly introduced vehicle titled COORDINATION. Coordination is an opportunity to become much more than what may have been perceived by some as a complaint department. Passion and love of our trails, our equines and our outdoor pursuits has driven us to discuss situations that appear broken. We get together hoping to fix or discuss fixing the apparent problem. It may be fair to say that the results have not been what some would wish them to be.

First and foremost, remember that all Federal agencies are mandated to coordinate.

Coordination and Cooperation are two different animals. Cooperation has some disguise and is covered with the skin of gentleness and accomplishment for the common good, especially as the agencies see it. The real animal under the peaceful skin does not have to act upon any of your needs. Coordination has no disguise. When you coordinate, it is on an equal basis. No agency or person as coordinator is better than the other. They are equal, and the agencies are mandated to help resolve conflicts.

Here is a table demonstrating the differences between Cooperation and Coordination

<u>COOPERATING</u> Agency	<u>COORDINATION</u>
1. Must obtain permission from agencies	1. Mandatory to All Agencies
2. Found in Regulations	2. Congress Mandated in Statute
3. Local Government Pays for Studies	3. Agencies Pay for Studies
4. Local Government Staffs	4. Agencies Must Use their Staff
5. MOU required/pREFERRED	5. No MOU Required
6. Information Confidential	6. All Public Meetings
7. Input Can be Ignored	7. Input Must be Included in Agency Study
8. Litigation may not Help	8. Litigation Available as Last Resort
9. Only Available under NEPA	9. Available for all Management Activities

An instructional DVD by Fred Kelly Grant introducing Coordination was filmed by a professional videographer at the March 2010 Rendezvous Public Lands meeting in Merced. A copy of the DVD plus a primer discussion of the process was handed out to all the unit public lands chairs. This information should serve as a start for understanding the process.

An article titled VEHICLE, TOOLS and THE JOB was sent to all Public Lands Chairs. It is now on the BCHC website. The article is an allegory with practical insights to Coordination as a vehicle to the agencies. It is worth reviewing to enhance understanding.

By a consensus of those attending the meeting, the Public Lands Committee developed a Mission Statement to guide us in our pursuits of access and protection for public lands.

The encyclopedia definition of a mission statement is:
A mission statement is a short, formal, written statement of the purpose of a company or organization. The mission statement should guide the actions of the organization, spell out its overall goal, provide a sense of direction, and guide decision-making. It provides “the framework or context within which the company’s strategies are formulated.”

At the October 12, 2010 State meeting the Public Lands Committee comprised of Public Lands Chairs from the units developed the following Mission Statement by consensus.

PUBLIC LANDS MISSION STATEMENT

BCHC is a service organization & the Public Lands officers should:

- Work & assist to maintain Accessibility into, through and on public lands for all traditional, historical, educational & environmentally sensitive uses of pack & saddle stock
- Understand existing laws & case setting precedents
- Promote inter- & intra-cooperation of all open spaces
- Use Coordination of Federal, State & local government in Planning, Maintaining & Management of public lands while Promoting Conservation of the lands

A forum is being developed for Public Lands Unit Chairpersons. This forum enables Public Lands persons to seek other chair persons' experiences in implementing the congressionally mandated tool of COORDINATION. This forum will enable clarification and understanding of terms and procedures. Initial successes will benefit others with the daunting task of interesting a tax-based entity (government) to formulate a resolution and then a policy. Formulation of a resolution and policy electronically forwarded to all agencies is mandated by Congress so that the agencies must come to the tax-based entity to resolve agency conflicts with their policies.

TRAIL CLASSIFICATION

It is difficult to go in several directions at once. However, being a Unit Public Lands Chair carries a responsibility for keeping track of our trails systems. Last March Ann Lange and Jerry Ledbetter brought a very

Public Lands

PUBLIC LANDS, continued from Page 11

well done presentation on keeping track of the agencies' classification of our trails. At our October meeting in Visalia, Ann reiterated that it is a very important job to handle trail classification tracking. Each unit should make an effort to have a record of the trails in their area. We strongly encourage each unit to step up to this task. Training materials can be generated to help you make an accurate report. Our understanding is that this goes into a collective record that is kept by BCHA as part of an agreement with the Forest Service. Please contact Ann for additional information.

Our compliments to the Public Lands Chairs who participated in formulating a Mission Statement at the meeting in Visalia. We appreciated your help in reaching a goal. We are proud to serve as your State Co-Chairs and will continue to work hard to bring effective means to protecting our right to ride on public lands.



Using the BCHC Getaway Travel Site earns "easy money" for BCHC. With little effort on your part you can book travel, order flowers, rent a car, or buy a gift! Start using the link from the BCHC website NOW!

TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THE HISTORY AND PURPOSE OF OUR ORGANIZATION

Visit

BCHC Website

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

BCHA Website

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

HIGH SIERRA HIKER'S ASSOCIATION SEEKS TO SET ASIDE SEQUOIA AND KINGS CANYON NATIONAL PARKS GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN

Submitted by Richard H. Cochran, Esq., Ruddell, Cochran, Stanton, Smith, Bixler & Wisehart, LLP, Visalia, CA. Member of High Sierra Unit.

In a lawsuit filed on September 30, 2009, in the United States District Court, Northern District of California against the United States Department of the Interior, as well as other specific defendants such as Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, the High Sierra Hiker's Association ("HSHA") is seeking injunctive and declaratory relief to require the Government to set aside the General Management Plan ("GMP") it adopted in 2007 and cease issuing or renewing permits issued to commercial packers until it complies with all applicable federal laws. Of course, the HSHA has its own interpretation of which federal laws are applicable.

The lawsuit claims that it is necessary for the Court to set aside the GMP and stop issuing or renewing the commercial packer permits in order to protect "these fragile wilderness ecosystems".

The HSHA has engaged the services of one of the largest law firms in the State of California to pursue the lawsuit for it, Morrison & Foerster, LLP. The lawsuit was filed in San Francisco which is in the Northern District of California.

At the present time the HSHA and the Government are fighting a battle over what documents comprise the administrative record that the Court should consider when it decides whether or not to grant relief to the HSHA.

The HSHA has set a hearing on December 16, 2010 at 10:00 a.m. for the Court to hear its motion to augment and supplement the administrative record. Specifically, the HSHA has a very lengthy list of additional documents that the Government did not include in the administrative record which was filed by the Government with the Court. Although the HSHA and the Government met several times in an effort to informally agree upon which documents should be added to the administrative record to make it complete, they were only able to agree on a few documents that would be added to the administrative record. Of course, the very numerous additional documents HSHA wants added to the record, support their claim that the Government violated certain applicable Federal laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act ("NEPA") because HSHA claims that the Government failed to analyze an adequate range of reasonable alternatives or to consider environmental harms caused by continued stock use. Probably the most significant claim made by HSHA is that the Government failed to conduct a full environmental analysis but instead relied upon the categorical exclusions the Government had relied upon when establishing the Sequoia and Kings

Ccniued on Page 13

Public Lands

HIGH SIERRA HIKERS ASSOCIATION, *continued from Page 12*

Canyon National Parks Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan and the Backcountry Management Plan.

Several times in the moving pleadings in support of its motion to augment the administrative record the HSHA makes the statement that “[T]he devastating impact of livestock on the parks is widespread and well-known to the Government”. The pleadings also state, in part, that “commercial outfitters run pack and saddle stock throughout the parks, where the animals trample soils, pollute the water, and provoke numerous complaints from park visitors”.

The Government has suspected from very early on in the process of developing the current GMP that the HSHA intended to file a lawsuit to challenge it. HSHA and its attorneys have made numerous requests under the Freedom of Information Act for various documents, including correspondence and e-mails. The e-mails requested apparently are internal e-mails amongst Government staff as well as e-mails back and forth from Government staff and outside parties.

It even appears that the HSHA has been setting the Government up so-to-speak. The titular head of the HSHA, Peter Browning, has written numerous letters and received numerous replies from the Government about the GMP process.

In the motion which is to be heard on December 16, 2010 the HSHA takes the position that the Government is hindering the judicial review process by providing an incomplete record.

The HSHA also is requesting that certain allegedly relevant scientific data be made part of the record on the basis that these records show that the Government failed to consider certain information when adopting the GMP.

Another action that the HSHA claims is a direct violation of the Wilderness Act is that the GMP permits the use of commercial stock services without there having been “needs assessment” conducted.

The moving papers filed by the HSHA for the motion to supplement the administrative record also claims that visitors to Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks are using commercial spot and dunnage trips to circumvent the wilderness permit quota system. The pleadings claim that serious public criticism exists of this practice of using commercial spot and dunnage trips to circumvent the wilderness permit quota system. The pleadings also criticize dunnage trips that originate on United States Forest Service lands and claim that they are used to circumvent the permit system.

The HSHA pleadings also claim that the GMP does not discuss the impact of stock use on water quality under the Preferred Alternative. The HSHA pleadings place specific and particular emphasis upon the claimed failings of the Government’s meadow monitoring programs and claims that they fail to address the aesthetic impacts of stock use or the

responses to the aesthetic impact of stock on the wilderness (such as damage to trails, dust, and odors) should be included in the administrative record.

While the pleadings on their surface do not allege an overt bias against stock use and supposedly try to use the law and documents which they claim support their position, they could not resist specifically describing a specific document that they wanted to have included in the record. This is apparently Document No. 104. Document No. 104 apparently contains the following statement that HSHA would like to have the judge read and consider even if the judge decides not to include the letter in the administrative record. The partial contents of the letter are apparently as follows:

“Three men who had packed in to a campsite a few hundred feet away were enjoying the comforts of a full-sized two-burner Coleman stove, a folding aluminum camp table and cold beers, among other things....”

This quote is followed by another quote that reads as follows: “These people aren’t having a wilderness experience, they’re moving the city into the backcountry.” This quote is followed by another quote which reads as follows: “The character, of the wilderness experience that we can usually count on when three or four days from the trailhead is completely destroyed when a large group of people camp in the area with all the comforts of home, including alcohol and radios”.

A persistent theme in the motion filed by the HSHA is that in a series of letters the Government admits the need for and promises to conduct NEPA analysis before issuing packer permits but then retracted that promise. The HSHA claims that the Government acknowledges that environmental compliance efforts must be conducted and expresses an intention to complete those efforts by December 31, 2005. The pleadings complained that the Government, instead, chose to rely on “obsolete” Environmental Assessments conducted in preparing the two decades-old plans—the Stock Use and Meadow Management Plan and the Backcountry Management Plan. The HSHA pleadings claim that the Government internal documents reveal a pattern of continually deferring NEPA compliance.

The complaint (lawsuit) itself sets forth the position of the HSHA but it could not resist lumping all stock users together as the villains in the alleged “devastating impact” occurring in Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks.

NEW PUBLIC LANDS FORUM

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

Rendezvous 2011

IMPORTANT NEWS!

NEW RENDEZVOUS REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

As some of you are aware, the last Rendezvous took a pretty big hit financially, which means we need to look at ways to save money on this event. The longest pole in the cost tent is the fairgrounds rental, next is the registration process which includes printing and mailing of the 8-10 page packets, sorting and sifting by two units worth of effort and, finally, the return questions/problems. All this amounts to a whole lot of effort for a sparse return on investment. Normally in a good year about 10% of our membership responds to the packet.

So we've come up with a couple of registration cost saving ideas:

Step 1. A mailing in early to mid-January of a postcard notice to all members indicating the registration packet is posted on the BCHC website for their downloading pleasure.

Step 2. One paper copy of the packet will be sent to each Unit President so those who do not want to download it can copy it for their use.

We're all hoping that you understand the need to be cash conservative and will help us make Rendezvous 2011 a success.

**Thanks!! Chip & Linda Herzog
(Rendezvous Registration)**



REMEMBER THESE DEADLINES

Each Unit is responsible for a variety of year-end reports. Here's a reminder of what's coming up:

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS - Members turn Volunteer Service and Education Hours in to the Unit Education Chair. Wilderness Riders submit Volunteer Service Hours through the Unit Education Chair to Carrie Johnen. Due by: 1/31/2011. Unit Education Chairs (only) turn aggregated Unit Volunteer Service Hours in to Carrie.

TOP HAND AWARD - Unit Presidents select the individual(s) who provided the greatest service to the President and his/her Unit. Turn names in to Lynn Joiner by 2/1/2011.

MAX & IRENE COCHRAN JOURNALISM AWARD - Mail paper copies of your Unit newsletters, *as they were mailed to your Unit members*, to: Carol Jo Hargreaves, Editor, no later than 2/1/2011.

INDIVIDUAL and UNIT EDUCATION AWARDS - Submit nomination forms to Education Co-VPs, Lisa Deas and Dan Horn by 2/1/2011.

BEN YORK TRAILBLAZER AWARD - Any member may nominate, by letter, anyone he/she feels has demonstrated qualities of a "trail blazer" (blazed new trails in some facet of the operations of the organization). Submit nominations to Lynn Joiner no later than 2/1/2011.

LETTER TO ALL BCHC UNITS

There are several ways your Unit can help obtain auction/raffle items for Rendezvous. (1) Sell advertisements in the Rendezvous program booklet. (2) Request donations from vendors (vendors have the option to buy an ad or give BCHC an item of equal wholesale value that can be used in our auction or raffle). (3) Members or others may donate a tax-deductible item of \$25 minimum value. (The donor is responsible for specifying the item's value.)

As we have done every year, we also request each Unit donate \$1.00 per Unit member. We will use the money to buy items for the auction and raffle from Rendezvous vendors. Doing this supports both the BCHC Education Fund and the vendors participating in our event. Units may also provide an item of equal value in lieu of the \$1.00 cash donation. If the Unit decides to purchase an item, try to purchase from a Rendezvous vendor to show them your support.

The 2011 Rendezvous, "Building Wilderness Skills," is shaping up to be a great event! It can only be successful if we ALL pitch in. Remember, any money made on this event goes to the BCHC Ed Fund and will be used for grants to Units to provide education.

Thank you for your help!

Larry Shuman, Rendezvous
2011 General Chairman

Rendezvous 2011

ALL PROGRAM BOOKLET ADVERTISING

DUE 2/28

We have come up with the following costs for advertising in the Rendezvous 2011 program booklet. If you know someone in your Unit that would like to solicit ads to help defray the costs of Rendezvous, we would love to have the help! Help may come from any Unit – you do not have to be located in Northern California to solicit advertisements.

ADVERTISING FEES:

Back Page	\$250*	<i>* Please notify Larry Shuman ASAP when this is sold. We do not need to sell it twice.</i>
Inside Back Page	\$150*	
Full Page	\$100	
Half Page (v/h)	\$75	
Quarter Page (v/h)	\$50	
Business Card	\$25	

Remember, advertisers must supply camera-ready copy, ready for publication in the program booklet. BCHC does not have staff to create advertisements.

Raffle tickets will be sold to BCHC members as well as the general public at entry to the seminar and vendor halls. If we have good items, we should be able to sell lots of raffle tickets!

NOTE: An advertiser may donate an item for the auction or raffle, equal to the above advertising cost in wholesale value and receive the same benefit.

In regard to donated items:

- Use your best judgment to make sure any donated item will sell at the auction or raffle.
- If you accept a donated item, you are responsible for making arrangements to get that item to the Rendezvous.

DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF ADS TO BE PUBLISHED IN THE PROGRAM BOOKLET IS FEBRUARY 28, 2011. Please send all ads, fees and information about donated items to Larry Shuman (see contact information below). He will ensure the ads are included in the program booklet and vendors receive credit for their payments and/or donations.

Contact information:

Larry Shuman
General Chairman, Rendezvous 2011
16900 C Road, Cottonwood CA 96022
530-527-8907
Cell 530-526-0590
Email Lshuman62@gmail.com

MANY NEW CLASSES*

Trail Classes & Seminars

- Building Trail with the Grip Hoist (USFS)
- Trail Maintenance & Construction in Wilderness (CCC)
- Trail Grading with an ATV (Dan Horn BCHC)
- Tool School (Pete Fish)
- Pack Stock & Packing Techniques in Wilderness

Equine Classes & Seminars

- Natural Hoof Care
- General Equine Health (DVM)
- Equine Dentistry (DVM)
- Saddle Fitting (Joe Maxwell)
- Stock Emergency First Aid (DVM)
- Poison Plants (U.C. Extension)
- Predators (Yuba Sutter Ag Dept)

Packing Classes & Seminars

- Packing 101 – Open to anyone \$10 – Hands on
- Packing 101 – Hands on with Stock – BCHC Only
- US Marine Corp Packing Demonstration
- Horse Packing for Beginners

Trainers

- Jerry Tindell from Bishop, California
- Barry Krohn from Corvallis, Oregon

Gentle Use Classes (BCHC Wilderness Riders)

- Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Other Users
- Waste Materials
- Stock Care
- Concepts

Misc Classes & Seminars, and Other

- Dutch Oven Cooking
- Trail Trial Horse Preparation and Training
- Using a GPS
- Cowboy Church

Kids' Classes and Activities

- Animal Footprints
- Sparkle Pony Parade (Opening Ceremonies)
- Youth Packing on Iron Mules
- Youth Safety with Stock
- Kids' Art Contest

Contests & Competitions

- Western Art Show
- Trail Trials (CSHA)
- Pack Scramble
- Pack Unscramble
- Dutch Oven Cook-off
- Odd Load Packing, Using CCC Trail Crew Equipment
- Gentle Use Camp – BCHC Only

*tentative list of classes, etc., as of date of publication

**For more information Contact Larry Shuman at (530)527-8907
or (530)526-0590**

On the Web at <http://www.bchcalifornia.org/>



**BLM WILD HORSE AND BURRO
ADOPTION
COMING TO RED BLUFF!**

Rendezvous 2011

JOIN THE PRE-RENDEZVOUS RIDE!

Backcountry Horsemen, The Lake-Mendo Unit is interested in having several pre-Rendezvous day rides into the Ishi Wilderness Area as a Unit fundraiser. Rides would be held Wednesday, 3/30, or Thursday, 3/31/2011. We would trailer to a trailhead about ½-hour from the Rendezvous site to begin a ride (weather permitting) that would last about 4 hours. We have several different trail options. The price of \$20.00 includes a lunch. The chosen area is beautifully riparian with canyons, meadows and mixed forest cover, full of wildflowers at this time of year.

There will be no charge for horses high-lined or tied at trailers. The price of a stall will be \$20 per day, and a pen will be \$6. These options are up to each individual. We will not make these reservations for stalls/pens for you! The number of available stall and pen spaces is limited.

Anyone interested in this pre-Rendezvous ride opportunity, please email or call me. Time is limited, so your prompt reply will be appreciated. We need to hear from folks no later than 1/25/2011.

Laurie Knispell
cowgirlcatt@yahoo.com or (707) 275-2536

Remember: Rendezvous registration forms may be found on-line at bchcalifornia.org.

KROHN AND TINDELL WILL SHARE TRAINING TECHNIQUES



Barry and Amy Krohn, of Corvallis, Oregon, use a 4-step program to steadily and safely move a mule or horse through several stages of development. First, desensitizing

exposes the mule or horse to strange people and animals. After one or two round pen rides, step two adds obstacles to be ridden around, over and through. They ask the mule to pull heavy sacks or logs through the obstacle course. The third step is to ride in a small fenced field, out onto roads, on trails and through an obstacle course in the woods as well as on several trail rides. The final step is hands-on involvement of the owner with their mule. Barry and Amy want the owner to know exactly how the animal was trained and how to safely ride and enjoy their mule in the mountains and trails.



Trail Obstacle Challenge



California State Horsemen's Association

and Trail Trial Clinic
At the Backcountry Horsemen of California Rendezvous
Friday & Saturday, April 1 & 2, 2011
Tehama District Fairgrounds-Red Bluff
in the Bull Sale covered arena rain or shine!

Are you ready for riding in the backcountry? Trail Trials are an excellent measure of skills necessary to safely negotiate trails and obstacles found along your way. This is an obstacle contest which will be held in an arena. This contest is one of the most popular at the rendezvous, are you up to the challenge??!

One contest, enter either Friday or Saturday 1:00-3:00 p.m. at the gate.

New this year.....A trail trial clinic covering how obstacles are judged, how rules apply to obstacles, how you can improve your obstacle scores, improving your performance with your animal as a team. Clinic offered 10am-noon both Friday and Saturday with or without a mount. Free!

Contest Rules:

- CSHA Trail Trial rules will be used. Rules are available at www.trailtrials.com
- An animal may only be used on the course once (no multiple rider entries).
- A rider may enter only **one** of the classes.
Choose from:
 - Rider only class
 - Rider and one pack animal class
- Rider must furnish own pack animal, pack saddle and carry a load for Pack class.
➤Buckles to winner of each class
➤Awards 2nd-5th

➤Entry fee: \$15/rider

Admission to the Rendezvous is free
Both the clinic and the contest are open to all participants
RV parking and stalls available, details at www.bchcalifornia.org

CSHA Trail Trials allows only BCHC units sanctioning a Trail Trial with CSHA to add a "pack class".



Jerry and Toni Tindell, of Bishop, California, emphasize establishing a solid foundation; making sure the animal understands and can comfortably perform the basic principles of soft, flexible movement, while also developing good manners. This program is strongly recommended for all aspects of handling, including riding, packing and driving. It is equally suitable to English or Western riding traditions.

Rendezvous 2011



THE MARINES ARE COMING!

Backcountry Horsemen of California is honored to welcome representatives of the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center to Rendezvous 2011. Packing Leader Tony Parkhurst will return with several of his men to participate in our Opening Day Ceremonies and lead a seminar on packing the Marine way.

The Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Pickel Meadow, near Bridgeport, CA, is one of the Corps' most remote and isolated posts. Established in 1951 as a Cold Weather Battalion, it occupies 46,000 acres of Toiyabe National Forest under a management MOU with the US Forest Service. By using pack animals, extra weight is taken off the backs of Marines and put on mules, making the Marines more mobile. Mules can carry heavy loads on treacherous terrain for long distances on little food and water, so they are vital to the military mission when pursuing the enemy in mountainous combat zones like Afghanistan.

Parkhurst and two Marines joined BCHC at Rendezvous 2009 in Turlock where they demonstrated their half hitch stock packing techniques and engaged the audience in a lively question and answer session. Come join us at Rendezvous 2011 for another informative Marine packing class!!

.....

Mother Lode Unit is conducting the annual Large Raffle at Rendezvous. You could win a 60-foot round pen or an educational and exciting pack trip! Tickets are available through your Unit and at the Rendezvous in Red Bluff. \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00

OPENING CEREMONY Saturday, April 2, at Noon

This year's Rendezvous Opening Ceremony will take place Saturday, April 2, during the lunch break and last approximately one hour.

Two Color Guards will lead the Parade of Units around the Fairgrounds into the Opening Ceremony gathering area. The Young Marines Color Guard and the mounted "Youth for BCHC" Color Guard will carry national, state and their organization's flags. Again this year, kids will decorate and parade with the Sparkle Ponies provided by Ohlone Riders Unit.

All BCHC members are invited to join in the parade. Please carry a unit banner or sign to identify your group. You may ride or walk and are welcomed to bring dogs or other critters on leashes.

This year's Opening Ceremony line-up spotlights young local talent from the Red Bluff area. Chad Bushnell will sing the National Anthem. Bushnell has been performing the National Anthem since he was four years old in venues including Junior Rodeos, Future Farmers of America Conventions, high school talent shows and for the Enterprise Rent-A-Car Professional Bull Riders events. Chad performed at the Tehama District Fair as the opening act for James Otto, opened for country music artist Billy Currington at the Redding Convention Center in April 2010 and for the Gospel group, the Crist Family in January 2011.

Besides playing and writing country music, Chad is a student at Shasta College, majoring in business so that he can transfer later to Chico State University. He wants to study music at a college that specializes in the industry. While not in school or out playing his music, Bushnell works with his father, Wade Bushnell, shoeing horses for a living. He also announces for the Wrangler Junior High School Division Rodeos.

A second highlight of the Opening Ceremony will be a group of youth fiddlers who'll treat us to "Amazing Grace" and a selection of patriotic tunes. Many of these youngsters competed in the Western Open Fiddle Championships held in Red Bluff last October where they played three tunes including a hoedown and a waltz.

Other items on the Opening Ceremony agenda include the BCHC President's Welcome, Invocation, and a brief packing demonstration by personnel from the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center.

Please plan to join us for this fun kick-off to Rendezvous 2011!



Rendezvous 2011

WESTERN ART SHOW

The Western Art Show includes paintings, photographs, leatherwork, sewing & knitting, carving, arts-n-crafts, and miscellaneous. If your item does not fit into any of these categories, submit it anyway, explain the category and we will find a place for it!

Prizes will be awarded. Artwork will be displayed in the Vendor Building for people to admire. Judging will occur Saturday afternoon and winners will be announced during the Wine & Cheese Vendor Reception, Saturday before dinner.

In addition to the Judge's selections for prizes, one entry will be selected to win the "People's Choice" award, by popular vote.

If you wish, you may sell your work by simply attaching a price tag to it. You may also donate your item to our Saturday night auction. The Western Art Show Committee is not responsible for the sale of your item but the display will be done in a fashion that will help put you in contact with interested parties.

All items entered must be picked up
NO LATER THAN 9:00 a.m., SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2011

CONTEST RULES

1. Entered item (e.g., painting, photograph, etc.) must be created by you and your name must be on the entry form. One entry form per item. Entry number will be assigned at time of submission.
2. Paintings, photographs and drawings must be framed (including wire on the back) for their protection and display.
3. Entry forms are available on-line at www.bchcalifornia.org or you may obtain a form to copy from your Unit President.
4. All contest entry forms must have contestant's name, address and phone numbers so we can reach you *during the Rendezvous weekend*. The form with your name, address, and phone numbers should be attached to your entry for display as well. \$5.00 entry fee charged per item.
5. Entries are due no later than Saturday, April 2, 2011, before noon and must be picked up **no later than 9:00 a.m., Sunday, April 3, 2011**.
6. Prizes will be awarded for each category at the discretion of the Western Art Show Judge.
7. The Western Art Show Judge and Committee are not responsible for the sale of items. Interested buyers will need to look up the information on the item tag and track down the artist.

NORTH STATE
ARTIST TO JUDGE
WESTERN ART SHOW



Willo Balfrey and her husband, Bill, are Top of the State Unit members who reside in Weed, CA, surrounded by beautiful mountains, trees and open air. Strongly influenced by the out-of-doors, Willo's oil and pastel landscape paintings depict flower-filled meadows, rushing mountain streams and ice-covered rivers. Willo has mentored under Pastel Society of America Hall of Fame Honoree, Richard McKinley, for ten years, and studied with other well-known painters such as Anita West, Harley Brown and Albert Handell. Willo's work is currently hanging at Mt. Shasta Art Gallery, the Marmont Gallery in Mt. Shasta, Smith Gallery in Sacramento, and Stone Griffin Gallery in Campbell, as well as at Art and Soul Gallery in Ashland, OR.

**JOIN US FOR
COWBOY CHURCH,
SUNDAY, APRIL 3**

Coy Huffman Ministries will be leading us in Cowboy Church on Rendezvous Sunday morning. Jesus Christ became Coy and Donna Huffman's Lord and Savior in January of 1970. Since that moment of the new birth their lives have been brand-new. Coy and Donna are the founders of Cowboy Church International and Pro Rodeo Ministries. For over 40 years they have been following the vision to go and reach all ages of cowboys and cowgirls with the good News of Christ. Their goal is to bring folks into God's forever family, train them in Christ-like maturity, and equip them to minister in the Church and change their world.

Coy Huffman Ministries invites you to attend Cowboy Church at Rendezvous and join them for a great adventure in Christ.

The annual Rendezvous is BCHC's only state-wide fundraiser and opportunity to get all members together in one place. It's a fun event where you can learn new things, socialize with old friends, buy western and packing-related merchandise and try out your skills in hands-on competitions. BCHC needs your support. Please plan to attend!

Rendezvous 2011

DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF

BCHC RENDEZVOUS 2011

SATURDAY, APRIL 2, 2011

If you enjoy cooking in the outdoors and would like to share your skills, here is the event for you!

ENTRY FEE: \$20.00 per team

DATE & SCHEDULE: The Cook-Off will be held on Saturday, April 2, 2011

Check in: 8:30 – 9:00 am Cooks Meeting: 9:10 am (draw for presentation order)

Cooking time: 9:30 – 11:30 am Awards Presentation: 12:00 pm

LOCATION: The Cook-Off will take place at the fairgrounds in Red Bluff.

CATEGORIES: Amateur Division is a ONE POT MAIN DISH Cook-Off; the recipe must include a beef ingredient. Professional Division is a ONE POT MAIN DISH Cook Off; ONE POT BREAD and a ONE POT DESSERT.

Basic fire pits if needed and notified prior to rendezvous, for each team, kitchen facilities for clean up, judges and wonderful prizes. You may provide your own fire pit as long as it protects the ground from heat damage.

CONTESTANTS WILL PROVIDE: Dutch Ovens, culinary water, charcoal, lighter fluid, cooking utensils, all food and other essential items necessary to prepare their recipe(s). All cooking must be done at least 12" from the ground.

TEAMS: Contestant teams will consist of two persons. One member must be over the age of 18 and the other over the age of 12. Spectators are welcome but only team members will be allowed inside the Cook-Off area.

DRESS: Dress should reflect "western" or "pioneer" attire.

JUDGING: Team contestants will be judged in one of two divisions: Amateur or Professional. Professionals are team members who have been paid to prepare Dutch Oven meals or who are Dutch Oven caterers or who have competed before. Entries will be judged on aroma, appearance, taste, quality of entry, team dress, cooking technique, spectator interaction and presentation. All team entrants will prepare contest recipe during the Cook-Off. Teams who prepare portions or all of an entry prior to the contest will be disqualified. A judging criteria sheet will be mailed to all entrants.

RECIPES: All recipes must be included with your Entry Form and Entry Fee.

RECIPE RELEASE: Your names, photograph and/or recipe may be selected for use by various media covering these events as well as future Dutch Oven Cook-Offs. Your entry in the Rendezvous 2011 Dutch Oven Cook-Off establishes your agreement for the release of the same and their use by the Cook-Off Committee, the Cook-Off sponsors and the media.

PRIZES: Amateur Division – 1st place, 2nd

Professional Division – TBA

HEALTH & SAFETY: Contestants are solely responsible for the proper selection, storage and refrigeration (if necessary) of all ingredients, the sanitation of their cooking area and the preparation of foods that are safe for human consumption. Aside from a simple rope barrier separating cooking and spectator areas, responsibility for safety of contestants and spectators rests solely with the contestants. Safe use of fires, other heat sources and cooking equipment is the responsibility of the individual contestants.

FOOD SAMPLE DISTRIBUTION: In so much as there are strict laws governing the distribution of food to the general public, the BCHC Dutch Oven Cook-Off Committee and Rendezvous 2011 Committee do not sanction, endorse, or encourage the distribution of "samples" of any food to the general public. Contestants who wish to give samples must provide their own serving utensils and sample cup containers.

WHAT DO MULES, CHICKENS, PACKERS AND EGGS HAVE IN COMMON??



A SCRAMBLE!!!!



Pack Scramble and Unscramble – Sunday,

April 3rd at 10:00 a.m.

This is a two man/woman team event. The cost is \$10/
team for the Pack Scramble and \$10/team for the Pack
Unscramble.

Bring your Mules and try your hand.



For more information contact Ken Graves

kgravesthepacker@yahoo.com

Phone: 530-352-4012 or 530-352-4211

On the web at:

DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF, continued:

DISCLAIMER: Judges' decisions on contestant rules and the Cook-Off Committee's decision on policies and procedure are final. Complete contestant rules will be distributed to all Cook-Off teams at the Cook-Off and are available upon request.

Contact Paul Walther (530) 347-4555

For more information go to <http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

Unit News

Odd Load Packing Contest

Test your hand at packing the misshapen, the "How Do I Pack That" item!



This is a two man team event

Teams will pack actual items used by the Calif. Conservation Corp Trail Crews.

We will supply loads and packing gear. Just bring the team

Teams will be judged on quality of knots, security of the loads, and how well teams coordinate and work together. Time will be used for a tie breaker.



Prize for 1st Place

Entry Fee \$20.00/Team

Contact Sam Burrows for more information

Phone: (530)547-5975 or sburrows@frontier.com

Let us help you plan your Rendezvous trip! There's a list of Red Bluff Hotels/Motels on page 26. Some are offering special BCHC rates. Support local Red Bluff merchants. Remember to book your reservations through the BCHC Getaway travel site.

MID VALLEY UNIT CLEARS TRAIL TO HUCKLEBERRY LAKE

By Dennis Serpa, Public Lands Liaison, MidValley Unit

Mid Valley Unit's annual trail-clearing trip to Huckleberry Lake started out from Pine Valley Horse Camp. Carl Perry and Dennis Wetherington got an early start and blazed a trail from Lertora Lake to lower Huckleberry; the trail had not been used for years. It made it a little easier for us to follow but the boxes still banged on rocks and the trail disappeared many times. Tony Moules, Rudy Dezzani, Dan Prine, Dr. Craig Brooks and I made it in after an interesting eight-hour ride. Adam Barnett, our USFS Wilderness Manager left earlier and had found us a really nice campsite.

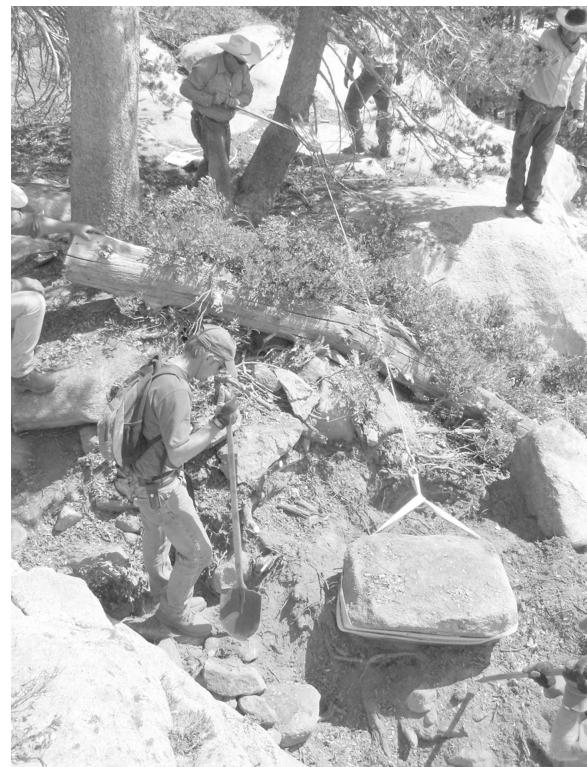
Day one started with clearing brush along about one mile of the south side of the lake. We hope it won't need brushing again for maybe another five years if we're lucky. That afternoon we worked the trail downstream to Lords Meadow. The trail was not too bad; it just needed a little rock work.

The next day we worked the trail we came in on. That was a major undertaking! There were many big logs that we moved with the help of our newly purchased Griphoist®. That purchase really paid off when the only way we could move some boulders was uphill. The eight of us put in a long day but the rewards were great, knowing that the trail was now suitable for pack stock to pass safely.

We ate well during this project with Dutch oven cooking and BBQ ribs and of course Dutch oven desserts every night. Our final day was spent trying to fish Huckleberry, without too much luck...we caught just a few to taste with our meal. (See our astute fishermen in the photos that accompany this article.)

We were well-prepared for the trip as we had our resident farrier (Dezzani), veterinarian (Brooks), and psychologist (Prine) on hand to take care of all our needs as they arose! The ride out was pretty much uneventful except for replacing a few shoes when we stopped for lunch.

Thanks to all who helped and to all who support BCHC through our fund-raising efforts. (Those who questioned the expenditure for the Griphoist®, partly covered by grants we obtained, may be assured that it really was money well spent!)



Unit News



MID VALLEY UNIT CONCLUDES CRABTREE ROAD RAC GRANT PROJECT

*By Rich Kirchner, Vice President, Mid Valley Unit
Photos by Vicki Whisler*

I would like to thank everyone who participated in the planning, implementation and finishing phases of our most ambitious project to date. The project managers and coordinators were: Donna Peterson, Rich Moody, Steve Tucker and me. Mid Valley Unit members who participated were: Don Butler, Vicki Morales, Sam Flippins and his daughter, Kathy O'Neil, Ron Stearns, Richard Hodgson, Katherine Reeves, Vicki Whisler, Sandy Kirchner, Jean Tucker, Terry Ryan, Carl and Julie Perry, Lloyd Erlandson, Josh Bloom, Doug Decker, Joan Lewis and Rick Tilbury. Without the dedication of our members, this project could not have been executed. The many hours of planning resulted in a coordinated effort to bring this project in on time and on budget.

Our partners involved in the project included the U.S. Forest Service, Tuolumne County Trail Council, Aspen Meadows Pack Station, Kennedy Meadows Pack Station and the volunteer efforts of Backcountry Horsemen, Mid Valley Unit.

The project work began on October 10th preparing the road with a pre-grade surface. It took three days to clear culverts, cut ditches, clear brush, remove rocks from the road surface and fill holes with road base. Equipment provided for the project included: Rich Moody's backhoe/loader, my box scraper/loader, Josh Bloom's backhoe/loader, a 1,000-gallon water truck, a 3,000-gallon water truck, and Sam Flippins' box scraper. We rented a roller and a 6-wheel motor grader; an operator was obtained from George Reed. The large rental equipment proved to be vital in handling the magnitude of work we did in such a short period of time. As an example, I put 21.7 hours on my tractor during the 5 days we worked!

Donna Peterson was overall project manager. I handled the coordination of the crews for traffic control, dump spotters, road crews and shift relief. Steve Tucker handled coordination of the drop of material and load tickets. Rich Moody spent most of his time working the roadway, clearing brush and grading.

On Tuesday, October 12th, the first loads of road base arrived before 8:00 a.m. We received 38 truckloads the first day that provided a 2-inch lift after rolling. On Wednesday, October 13th, we received 36 truckloads for the second 2-inch lift that rolled to a total of 4 inches. We finished the final roll by 6:00 p.m. We now have a smooth, 14-foot wide secondary road surface from the end of the pavement past the Aspen Meadows Pack Station to the Crabtree Trailhead junction, some 1.4 miles on FS Road 4N26.

My thanks, again, to all the participants of this project who helped with the many hours of planning, to the execution and finish of the road improvement. The positive relationship-building that took place during this project has established Mid Valley Unit as a major player in partnering work with the U.S. Forest Service for the betterment of the thousands of users of this important gateway to the Emigrant Wilderness.



BCHC UNITS OPEN TRAIL FOR 15TH YEAR

Submitted by Cheryl Wegner, San Diego Unit

Members from three BCHC units - San Diego, Redshank Riders and San Gorgonio Pass - came together Veteran's Day Weekend at Vern Whitaker Horse Camp at the mouth of Coyote Canyon in the Anza Borrego Desert to once again open up the Lower Willows for the season. It was a superb weekend, with good weather, great riding, and wonderful camaraderie. What a terrific surprise it was to see our ol' friend Melanie and her daughter Megan, who moved to Ridgecrest a number of years ago!

2010 marked the 15th year that Backcountry Horsemen has opened the trail in this California State Park. Without our efforts the trail up the canyon would be blocked by seasonal growth that makes it nearly impassable to all.

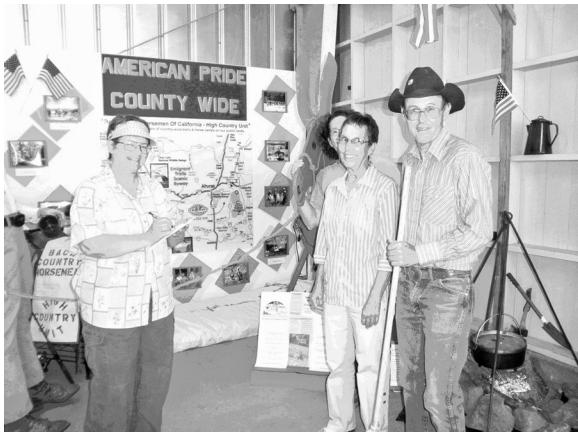
Thank you to the San Gorgonio Pass Unit for their continued leadership of this project. Some members went up the canyon on Friday to get a head start on the trail work. Saturday we all pitched in and got 'er done! The days' hard work was followed by much needed showers and a wonderful dinner cooked and served by Linda Marshall and her helpers. The next day most of us took rides

Unit News

HIGH COUNTRY UNIT NEWS Summer through Fall 2010

Submitted by Jeanne Goldman, Editor

Backcountry Horsemen High Country Unit received 1st Place and Best in Show at the Modoc County Fair in August.



From left to right: Valerie Lantz, Cindy McMurray, Dolores and Clarence Wager finalize the BCH High Country Booth Entry at the Modoc County Fair, August 2010



You really had to be there! Our campfire, complete with Dutch oven, was "lit" by lights with batteries and foil flames. Our mule was the "sassiest" steed around. We think that the packer must just have crawled out of his bed sack in need of some coffee, biscuits and gravy!

The Warner Mountains, in our backyard here in Northeast California, have multitudes of lakes visited by the many travelers that come our way for camping, hiking, riding and fishing. We like folks to visit and come again the following year and, to keep the anglers happy, High Country Unit members regularly sign up to pack fingerling trout into two of the lakes in the Warner Mountains. Alan Cain has been the leader in this effort and again, this year, did the same.

Patterson Lake Fish Plant

By Alan Cain

High Country Unit members Cindy McMurray and Alan Cain volunteered (as if they needed arm twisting) to pack fingerling trout into Patterson Lake on August 26, an annual project for the Modoc County Fish & Game Commission.

The day started with the arrival of the fish in Alturas around 9:00 a.m., and the drive to Pepperdine Equestrian Camp. The fish were loaded on Woodie and Molly (Alan's pack stock) and the trek to the lake was underway by 11:30.

In all, 3000 trout were planted with a known loss of only 21 fish. Not bad for those little guys being in transport for approximately 8 hours! The day was very enjoyable, the stock all did an excellent job, and the picnic lunch at the lake was the proverbial "frosting on the cake".

It's never known exactly how many of the plants grow to catchable size, but with the lack of streams for spawning, the fisher needs this injection of new life. Patterson Lake remains a premier destination for fishermen of all stripes as well as for us horse camping folks so it is with pride that High Country Unit volunteers for this project each year.

As Alan Cain and Cindy McMurray were packing the fish into Patterson Lake on one end of the Warner Mountains, at the other end were Edie Asrow and Curt Sjoberg packing 1,000 fingerlings into North Emerson Lake.

Looking at 2011 – A New Year

"You want me for WHAT?" Stan Sylva, recently retired Modoc Forest Supervisor, graciously accepted our nomination and vote for Unit President for 2011! Stan and his wife LuRena have been active in the High Country Unit for many years and we all welcome him on board as our new Unit leader.

ATV Recon rides are becoming more popular and some of our Unit is best able to show their scouting talents aboard their "Iron Horses". After two or three rides on our High Grade Trail, we have more planned for 2011. Regulars Sharon Enderlin, Kerry Davis, Pam Couch and Jeanne Goldman will again head a team for the ongoing trail identification project. Hearing of all the fun and picnicking, we are usually joined by guests who will hopefully become members: Sharon DeCarly and Ron Eisenman, Jeanne Bilodeaux, Linda Harrison and Mike DeCarly. As soon as the winter weather clears up we'll be out there again to finish the identification and erect new signs.

Stevens Camp – Nevada

By Alan Cain

High Country Unit once again has the opportunity to assist the BLM at Stevens Camp. The Unit has been contacted by our comadre, Sandy Gracia, of the BLM's Black Rock Desert and High Rock National Canyon Conservation Area (NCA), and asked if we would roll up our sleeves and give a hand with a project at the cabin in Stevens Camp.

Slated for next spring (usually Memorial Day weekend), the project entails refurbishing an old kitchen sink and cabinet and installing them in the cabin. The fixtures are period correct and have the added benefit of being "mouse proof", a tall order as we well know!

The sink and cabinet were delivered to High Country Unit member Alan Cain and are being worked on in his shop during the winter and spring. Prior to installation a wood splash board will be built, the

Cncontinued on Page 23

Unit News

HIGH COUNTRY UNIT NEWS, continued from Page 22

lower cabinet painted and period correct faucets installed. All this seems very do-able for our talented High Country crew.

An added bonus of this project is that we can spend a spring weekend at Stevens Camp and enjoy the facilities and gorgeous country as we have done many times in the past. Hopefully many members will be able to participate in the project and enjoy the fellowship, camping, riding and good food. (Oh, yes, good food!)

East Creek Trail

We've achieved the ultimate horse camping facilities in the southern area of the Warner Mountains, adjacent to the Warner Mountain Wilderness Area. One of the more perfect projects with all agencies and volunteer groups participating (including, of course, High Country Unit), is working on a remaining area of trail that was damaged during a fire in 2001. Large piles of logs present difficult and technically challenging obstacles to re-opening about two miles of the trail. High Country Unit member Valerie Lantz applied for a Modoc County RAC Grant to re-open the trail via a special contract. The Unit will learn the outcome of the grant application by July 2011, for project implementation to occur in the summer of 2012, if the grant is approved.

SUTTER BUTTES MEMBER RESCUES PCT PACKER

Submitted by Corky Layne, Sutter Buttes Unit Editor

On the afternoon of November 18, Ralph Looney received a telephone call from Larry Kling asking for assistance. Bob Gage dropped Larry off at Humboldt Summit with a horse, three mules, a chop saw and a handsaw. Bob then took Larry's rig back to Belden. Larry camped at Poison Springs in about a foot of snow and then headed toward Belden on the portion of the Pacific Crest Trail that the Sutter Buttes Unit maintains.

On the way to Belden, Larry stopped at Myrtle Flat to clean up some metal roofing. He had done this on two previous trips. Using a chop saw he broke up the roofing and packed it on his mules. He then headed on down toward Belden. But, lo and behold, Larry became trapped by a downed cedar snag and could go no further. It would take forever to cut through the tree with a handsaw — and his rig was in Belden. Thus the call to Ralph for HELP!

Well, Ralph was coming to the rescue but first he had to de-winterize his rig and air the tires back up to running pressure, etc. He got everything ready, picked up two chainsaws and took off for the two-hour drive to Belden. Ralph saddled up at Little Indian Creek and headed north, finally running into Larry on the trail at about seven that evening. Ralph said it was a nice night for a moonlight ride and he had no problem finding Larry as he had built a fire in the middle of the trail.

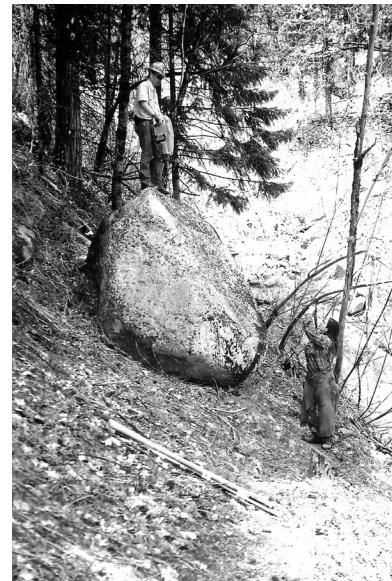
Ralph had to cut the big 30-inch snag that was blocking Larry's stock. He and Larry then proceeded to Belden, arriving about 9:00 p.m.

It all turned out well and the Sutter Buttes Unit will be back to clear the rest of the trail around the end of March.

BIG ROCK BLOCKS THE PCT (BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY)

At the August 2010, meeting, Ralph Looney reported that the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) work is done for the year. He said he had worked a total of 29 days this year, making six trips and riding a total of 260 miles, covering all but a six-mile section of the trail. Ralph talked to some hikers that had come up the trail from Mexico and they said that was the first time they had seen horses on the trail.

Ben Dubose reported that his nephew, a teenager, had gone up with the crew to help with the trail work and in doing so, had ridden 18 miles. While there, some hikers on the trail personally thanked him for the work he was doing. As a result, this young man felt very good about his accomplishments. The hikers were very appreciative of the work done to remove logs from the trail.



Matt O'Dell gets ready to break up the boulder as Elizabeth May looks on. It was broken up and removed from the section of the PCT starting near Belden that is maintained by members of the Sutter Buttes Unit.

THANK YOU!!

Backcountry Horsemen of California thanks

LARRY CIGAINERO

for using the BCH Getaway Travel Site from 9/1/2010 through 12/31/2010.



Thanks to this support (and that of previous site users), the BCHC Treasury is earning almost \$80 each year!! WE COULD BE EARNING MORE!

Unit News



SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA UNIT HORSE CAMP 10 YEARS OLD

By Alice Nelson

Photo by Katie Horst

As part of the BCHC San Joaquin Sierra Unit week-long work project at the Sequoia National Monument's Big Meadows Group Horse Camp, welding work on the 16 corrals was completed by Mark

Nelson and Don Byrd on August 7, 2010. The two worked on welding new gateway braces in each pen, and also worked on repairs of gate chains, snaps and top rails of the corrals.

This year marks the 10th anniversary of the completion of the group horse camp, which was built in 1999-2000 in conjunction with the US Forest Service and by members of the BCHC San Joaquin Sierra Unit, with help from the High Sierra Unit. Our unit can take pride in the knowledge that with the help of so many, the camp has been constructed and maintained to provide a great place for the public to take advantage of all the recreational and educational opportunities that our nearby forests and public lands have to offer.

Many thanks to the Clyde Johnson family for the use of their welding equipment for this part of the camp repairs and maintenance.

Photo: SJSU member Jan Mikkelsen tries out newly built poop dumpster ramp.

**Will we see you at Rendezvous 2011?
Don't miss the fun!**

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

**Take a look at the list of these
special members on Page 26**

THE SAGA OF BUFORD THE DONKEY

June 23-26, 2010

By Lynn Joiner, Kern Sierra Unit

This pack trip began on a sad note. My faithful pack mule, Judy, had to be put down on the Thursday before we were leaving on our trip into Grey Meadow. I decided to take our pasture ornament, AKA Buford. I borrowed donkey packing equipment from Joy McCain so we were ready to go. Well, that is I was ready to go. Buford was the last one to be loaded in the trailer. I was sure that he wouldn't want to be left home so he would load right in behind Mary Mary, my mule. That was my first mistake! After 20 minutes of coaxing, bribing, pushing and pulling we finally got Buford in the trailer.



When I got to the trailhead it took Buford a bit to decide that he could exit the trailer. Packing him was a breeze! I definitely didn't have to lift anything up as Buford is only about 12 hands.

I loose herded him, which was very interesting. He would be ahead of us then behind and sometimes in between. He had a ball checking things out and then trotting to catch up! All was well

until we got to Fish Creek. The two little wet places in the trail prior to Fish Creek, he just jumped! Bonny and I led our stock through Fish Creek and then dragged Buford across the creek. He jumped the next two streams and got to Grey just fine.

I got the nose bag thing down pat and Buford was always anxious to be caught.

When we loaded up to come home I was dreading the Fish Creek crossing. When we got to Fish Creek I was the last one across and had to wait for Bonny's stock to water. Low and behold, Buford walked right up behind Robby, the packhorse, and just walked through the creek like an old pro!

As we got close to the trailhead we met three gentlemen that were hiking to Jug Springs, looking at wild flowers. Buford decided to visit with them for awhile. I kept calling him, to no avail. I finally asked the gentlemen to quit petting him and started heading down the trail. All of a sudden Buford looked up at us and came loping down the trail.

Packing with a donkey is quite an experience' one I don't plan on repeating anytime soon!

Membership Application

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

Backcountry Horsemen of California



DCTR (YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER) _____

**NEW MEMBERS WILL BE ASSIGNED NUMBER BY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR

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

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

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

Donate to BCHC Education Fund?

Tax Deductible

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

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

SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME – MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

ADDRESS

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

EMAIL ADDRESS

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

CHECK # _____

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

BUSINESS NAME – DONATIONS ONLY:

PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)

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

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNIT AFFILIATIONS MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT.

Associate Membership for: _____	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))
Associate Membership for: _____ Please write additional choices on back	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))

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

PARENT BCHC MEMBERSHIP TYPES

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

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

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

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

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

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I SUBMITTED AN Application Form for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Whitney Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation – Packer	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mule Skinner	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> You're the Greatest!	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership	\$ _____
Total Remittance	\$ _____
Check Number _____	
Date Mailed _____	

Questions: Contact membership@bchcalifornia.org

The “Round Up”

WELCOME!!

A heartfelt welcome to the **364** new members who joined BCHC in 2010. We are pleased to have you among us!

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

From 9/1/2010 through 12/31/2010, these are our Benefactor and Patron members:

BENEFACTORS: (67)

ACQUISTAPACE, Robert E.
AIROZA, Charles and Dahne
ALLEMANG, Dan and Joyce
BARINDELLI, Karen
BARNES, Jay and Elizabeth
BATES, Susan and Buton
BOURN, Ken and Gerry
BROWN, III, John D. and Susie Harms-Brown
BURROUGHS, Ernest C.
BUTLER, Don and Vicki Morales
CAFFEE, Boyce ‘Buzz’ R. and Joann F.
CALEF, Otis
CAUDILL, Jon and Kathy Zumbrunn
CEDERLOF, Robin
COCHRAN, Richard and Dena
CUNNINGHAM, John and Jenise
DALBY, Kenneth and Diane
DAVIS, Dennise A.
DEVINE, Eve, Sean, Sarah & Jacob
DOORNENBAL, Rien and Lieske
DURANDO, Sylvia
ERLANDSON, Lloyd and Susan
FILKINS, DVM, Mylon and Pat
FINCH, Ken and Betty
FRICK, Edith
FURER, Heidi and Latha Hylton
GEBHART, Al and Donna
GERSON, Ruth and Grant
GOLTS, Debora and Chuck Mills
HARGREAVES, Carol Jo and Larry Schneider
HAWKINS, Maris
HENDERSON, Lori and Gary W.
HERZIG, Paul and Linda
HILL, Elaine E. and John H. Schoettler
HORST, Toby and Katie
HUFFMAN, Jim
JAMES, Don and Donna
KELLER, Dennis and Cathlyn A.
KIRKWOOD, Walt J. and Suzie
KNAPP-YOSEMITE TRLS PK STA,
Larry & Nishma
KRAFT, David and Kristine
LADOW, Peter R. and Dede
LAYNE, Corky
LAYNE, Michelle

LONG, Gregory and Deborah
MAHONEY, Alan and Carolyn
MCCOMBS, Rano and Bobetta
MCGEE, Jack
MID VALLEY UNIT - BCHC
MITCHELL, John H. and Wendy A.
MOHR, Bruce and Blanche
NICOLAIDES, Michelle (Nicolaides
Enterprises, Inc.)
PAULSEN, Janice D., Kelly & Lars
POLASEK, Darrel and Carole
PUGH, Don
RENCK, Ken and Allison
ROBERTSON, Ron and Korky
ROGERS, Scott and Grant
SALZMAN, Holly and Dan
SCHOEN, Sarah and David
SERPA, Dennis M. and Loretta
SHERWOOD, Shirley
TEIXEIRA, Glenn and Karen
WILSON, DVM, Jamie
WOLFF, Pat
WOOD, William E.
YORK, Ben

PATRONS: (13)

ARINGTON, Terri
BARNES, Stan
BAY AREA BARNS & TRAILS TRUST
(Barbara Weitz)
COLF, Stephen and Mary Ann
HOLLY, Jim and Pat
JENKINS, Si and Karen
KAMPEN, Jeff and Alice
MOREHART, Marty
PENDEGRAFT, Karl and Trish
REGINATTO, Leon
YOUNG, Larry
ZANINOVICH, Vincent and Donna

MT. WHITNEY:

None at this time.

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

THANK YOU!!

RED BLUFF HOTELS/MOTELS FOR YOUR RENDEZVOUS STAY

Travelodge	(530)527-6020
38 Antelope Blvd AAA/AARP Discounts	
Red Bluff CA 96080	Rates: \$59.00/Single \$65.00 Double
Motel 6	(530)527-9200
20 Williams Ave	
Red Bluff CA 96080	Rates: \$39.99 Flat Rate
Super 8	(530)529-2028
30 Gilmore Rd	AAA Discount
Red Bluff CA 96080	Rates: \$50.00/Single \$60.00 Double
Comfort Inn	(530)529-7060
90 Sale Lane	Complimentary full breakfast
Red Bluff CA 96080	Rates: \$85.00/Single \$95.00 Double
Best Western	(530)527-8882
203 Antelope Blvd	Complimentary full breakfast
Red Bluff CA 96080	Rates: \$78.00/Single \$84.00 Double (Mention Corporate Rate offer)
Hampton Inn Suites	(530)527-8882
520 Adobe Road	Complimentary full breakfast
Red Bluff CA 96080	Rates: \$78.00/Single \$84.00 Double
Durango RV Resort	(530)527-5300
100 Lake Ave	Full Hookups for your RV
Red Bluff CA 96080	Rates: \$41.00/Standard Site, \$49.00 Fountain Site, \$55.00 River Front Site

BCHC Units Around the State

Information in this section may be out of date. Please submit the names and contact information for your 2011 unit officers to BCHC Secretary Kaye Bruns as soon as possible. Thank you!

Antelope Valley

P.O. Box 3361
Quartz Hill, CA 93586-0361
Kaye Bruns
(661) 944-4927
kowgrl@juno.com

Eastern Sierra

c/o 293 Willow Street
Bishop, CA 93514-2720
Sarah C. Sheehan
(760) 872-4039
scsheehan1@gmail.com

High Country

P.O. Box 1047
Alturas, CA 96101-1047
Valerie Lantz
(530) 233-5540
mtn.horseider2@gmail.com

High Sierra

P.O. Box 4427
Visalia, CA 93278-4427
Art Jones
(559) 338-1124
horsesaddlecow@yahoo.com

Kern River Valley

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

Kern Sierra

16347 Stephenie Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669
Lynn Joiner
(661) 747-6347
lynnjoiner@sbcglobal.net

Lake-Mendo

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Potter Valley, CA 95469-0191
Robert Sterling
(707) 275-8742
rwster52@yahoo.com

Los Padres

P.O. Box 6773
Santa Maria, CA 93456-6773
Dave Rigoli
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melindavoigt@aol.com

Mid Valley

P.O. Box 1709
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Michael King
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mickngig@sbcglobal.net

Mother Lode

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Elk Grove, CA 95759-2088
Becky Wolk
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Denise Gilseth
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dgilseth@sbcglobal.net

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ksmithwoods@yahoo.com

Redshank Riders

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Aguanga, CA 92536-0383
Bob Jones
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drumbeat2000@gmail.com

Redwood

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

San Diego

236 Oak St
Ramona, CA 92065-1952
Margaret Hill
(760) 896-4123
president@bchcsd.com

San Gorgonio Pass

P.O. Box 535
Beaumont, CA 92223
Paul "Chip" Herzig
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chryvchip@msn.com

Sierra Freepackers

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

Sutter Buttes

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

Top of the State

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



BCHC Membership Application on Page 25. Also available with detailed membership information at BCHC website: www.bchcalifornia.org

WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

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

Sequoia

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

Shasta Trinity

10855 Beaver Rd
Oak Run, CA 96069-9602
John Ellery
(530) 365-0497
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