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The Backcountry News



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The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

WINTER 2018

LET'S RENDEZVOUS IN PASO ROBLES!

By Stacy Kuhns, Lynn Joiner and Carol Jo Hargreaves

Join fellow BCHC members at the 30th annual Rendezvous at the Event Center in beautiful Paso Robles. Halfway between L.A. and San Francisco and easily accessible from anywhere in the state, "El Paso de Robles," or "Pass of the Oaks," is located between scenic rolling hills and beautiful beaches in what has become one of California's premier wine regions.

Get a road map to success from Matt Sheridan, this year's guest clinician. Matt, a fifth-generation horseman with 30 years' experience, emphasizes being consistent with one's horse to educate the animal. Matt spends part of the year as a Special Education Program Coordinator where he learned patience through teaching different learning abilities and styles and believes his classroom experience sets him apart from other horsemanship instructors. The three F's of Matt's method are foundation, fundamentals and follow through. Matt focuses on the first two "F's" and the horseman achieves the third through practice.

In addition to horsemanship training, you can select saw instruction, saw safety classes and even a class on winches. These demonstrations and classes will give you a taste of what you'll get when you take a full-fledged saw class. BCHC has recently been ramping up this program and this is a great opportunity to learn techniques to use in upcoming volunteer service projects. Take your choice of many Leave No Trace classes with new instructors this year. Come out and cheer on the new instructors.

Longtime Antelope Valley member Kaye Bruns will present Dutch Oven cooking demonstrations and you're invited to come prepared for the Dutch Oven Cooking

competition. Other skills contests include packing, manteel decorating, trail challenge and the Western Art Show. Plus, there will be numerous children's events throughout the weekend.

Friday evening's entertainer is Monte Mills, a guy guaranteed to get us all stomping our feet. Monte is an icon on the Central Coast, so this will be a treat for all of us. As in past years, a highlight of Saturday's events will be the Wine, Beer and Cheese tasting.



Numerous vendors will sell equipment, garments, jewelry and other necessities. Oh, yeah, there are great dinners in store, too! Beautiful pieces have been entered in the Western Art Show. The after-dinner auction is always a lot of fun and offers unique items for us to fight over! What a great way to support BCHC! Remember, this is our annual fundraiser and largest gathering of BCHC members.

See RENDEZVOUS, page 4

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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Reader Submission: The Backcountry News welcomes reader contributions, event and calendar dates, and Unit news. These will be printed on a space-available basis. Submissions should be sent in a Microsoft Word format to include author and photo credits. Longer articles are subject to edit for space at the discretion of the Editor. Photos may not be returned.

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

Deadline	Publication Date		
May 1, 2018	May 2018	Spring	
July 15, 2018	July 2018	Summer	
Oct. 15, 2018	Oct. 2018	Fall	
Jan. 15, 2019	Jan. 2019	Winter	

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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	

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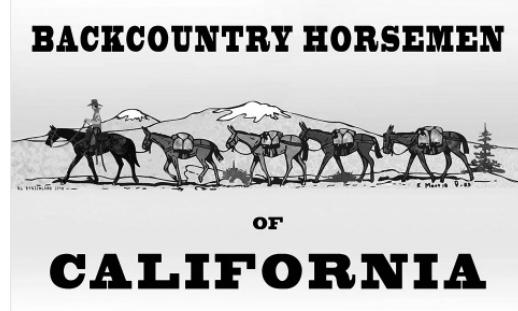
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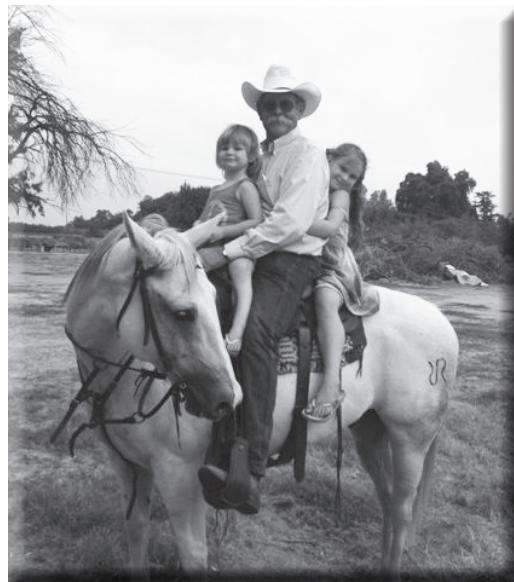
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For more BCHC information, see our website: bchcalifornia.org



President's Page



Greetings and Happy New Year,

I hope everyone had a blessed and happy Christmas and New Year. I know that I have been blessed with a close family and many friends throughout the state. Thank you for trusting me to represent all of you as your BCHC president.

2018 is starting out busy for me: lots of work at home developing a new almond orchard and time spent trying to keep up with issues facing

us in BCHC. Public Lands is one that is getting a lot of attention. The issue I feel will affect us the most would be HR 1349. This is a bill that is trying to amend the 1964 Wilderness Act to allow bicycles in the wilderness. The bill has been approved by the Natural Resources Committee by a party line vote. I have a hard time seeing this kind of bill as a partisan issue. This bill now goes to the House floor for a vote whenever the House leaders want to bring it up. It will probably get packaged with some other natural resource type bill. This makes it hard to keep track of. What we need from you, BCHC members, is to let your congressman know that this bill would not be good for hikers or pack stock on rocky, steep, high mountain trails. The state leaders and BCHA have been writing to our representatives on the Natural Resource Committee and they know how we feel. But now you need to let your representative know the way you feel. Call me or the Public Lands Liaison in your unit for more information.

There are many other issues concerning public lands, like the national monuments that have been in the news for most of the year. The sale of public lands could come up again in Congress. All these issues need to be monitored and we can only hope our elected representatives will do the right thing, not only for their districts but also for the whole country. It takes all of us writing and talking to our representatives to let them know what we think so they can be informed about whatever is coming up for a vote.

Now on to more interesting stuff. Rendezvous 2018 is coming up, April 13-15, 2018, in Paso Robles, California. It's almost in the middle of the state so there should be no excuses not to attend. All the information is on the BCHC website and I believe it will be in this newspaper also. Rendezvous is a chance to make new friends and catch up on old friends while honing your backcountry skills. There will be vendors to sell everything you might want and contests to participate in, or just have fun watching. The Friday night dinner will turn into a concert and dance for those who can stay up that late. Saturday's dinner is where we give awards for all the hard work from everyone and the fun starts with the live auction. This, my friends, is where BCHC can make a little money so that we can keep all our programs functioning. The Rendezvous is what makes the money that BCHC uses for grants, saw training, public advocacy work and our support of BCHA for the lobby work in Washington, D.C., that they are improving on as time goes by. So, please come out and support the cause and have some fun too.

Happy trails,
Lloyd

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BCHC NEWS

RENDEZVOUS, continued from Front Page

Join us at Rendezvous for a wonderful time! Renew old friendships and make new ones. See you in Paso Robles!

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT



Backcountry Horsemen of California 2018 Rendezvous

**PASO ROBLES EVENTS CENTER
2198 Riverside Ave.
Paso Robles, CA 93446**

APRIL 13, 14, 15, 2018

**Gates Open at 8 a.m.
Classes start at 9 a.m.
Registration Booth Open
7 a.m. to 5 p.m.**

PLAN TO ATTEND!

UPDATE: STEWART'S HORSE CAMP

Stewart's Horse Camp - a Complicated Story

By Bob Cooper

Last October, the concessionaire for Stewart's Horse Camp (SHC), Amanda Stewart, voiced concern that the camp would not be open in 2018. Her 10-year contract to run SHC was ending and she had not been offered the standard one-year extension.

For those of you who have never camped at SHC, it is large enough to handle 100 horses and has been doing so for 50 years. It is located south of Point Reyes Station on Highway 1 and has direct access to the outstanding trail system of Point Reyes National Seashore and Golden Gate National Recreation Area. Many horse people have been camping there for decades and many come from southern California, Oregon and Washington. SHC is a great place to get away from summer's heat and I personally really enjoy the hot showers.

Amanda's concern struck a nerve in the horse community and many people wrote letters and sent emails up and down the Park Service's and federal government's chain of command. The Park Service heard horse people's collective voice and responded with a statement that a contract extension would be forthcoming.

In due time, the extension was given to Amanda and she accepted it. SHC will be open in 2018. Horse people waited impatiently for the park service to finish the process that created the contract extension. Then everyone waited for Amanda to return from her fall vacation up north where she was quite unreachable.

The more people I talked to, the more complicated SHC's story became. There were no heroes or villains. Amanda's family had been running SHC for three generations and she wanted it to remain open. The Park Service has its bureaucracy and process which means it moves more slowly than horse people would like. It also has some very dedicated people who get things done.

SHC itself is complicated. Its bridge and bath house were constructed with Marin County permits before the campground was moved into Point Reyes National Seashore. The county retains control over what happens to those structures. The Park Service has a lot of rules about how SHC is run. Horse people owe Amanda gratitude for working under these two agencies.

The biggest lesson in this horse camp episode is that social media, letter writing and emailing is an important, powerful and necessary tool to give agencies our input.

The Park Service has been reminded that horse people love SHC and expect to continue to use it. The Park Service had to respond to these letters, which, ironically, slowed down the process to offer the contract extension. I think that delay was ok. Agencies need to know horse peoples' opinions.



PUBLIC LANDS/EDUCATION

PUBLIC LANDS REPORT

By Troy Patton and Thor Bodtke, Co-Vice Presidents, Public Lands

NATIONAL MONUMENTS

The Antiquities Act of 1906 gives the President authority to create national monuments. Since its implementation, presidents have used the Antiquities Act more than 100 times to create national monuments. The original purpose of the act was to protect objects of antiquity. Edgar Hewitt broadened the scope to include "other objects of historic or scientific interest." Hewitt's draft allowed the area to be set according to the "smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected."

While most of the presidential designations have been uncontroversial, there have been several challenges to designations under the Antiquities Act. Every challenge to date has been unsuccessful. There have, however, been cases where the national monument has been reduced in size. When that happens, the land removed reverts back to what it was before; BLM, Forest, etc.

The main reason BCHA and BCHA have not become involved in this issue is because this is a presidential issue, not a legislative one.

HR 1349 – WHEELS IN THE WILDERNESS

As most of you are aware, this is a major effort for BCHA and BCHC. We have been on the forefront of this battle since the bill was introduced in March 2017. This bill could come up at any time and be attached to any other bill and be voted on before we know it. We have asked all members living in District 4 of California to flood McClintock's office with letters and email opposing this bill. We have asked that all members of BCHC write their Representatives and ask them to vote no on the bill. We ask that Congressmen look at each bill they are asked to vote on and if this bill is attached to another bill, that they refuse to vote until it is separated. We want them to vote on this matter separately.

BCHC and BCHA will be placing editorials in newspapers to make the public aware of the proposed bill. Please do what you can to spread the word with your friends and neighbors by asking them to oppose this bill. Also, it is not too early to contact our Senators and ask them to oppose HR 1349 if it should make it to the Senate.

The deadline for submissions for the
SPRING 2018 EDITION
of the Backcountry News is:

MAY 1, 2018

Submissions to: BCHC Editor
news@bchcalifornia.org



YOUTH NEWS

By Karen Lopes, VP Youth Education

Hello, fellow backcountry horsemen and women! As we are continually striving to accomplish the goals and objectives of BCHC, we are constantly bombarded with obstacles that tend to discourage our fortitude. Bikes in the wilderness, new laws governing the transportation of livestock and, as always in California, concerns over liability and insurance issues. I am here to tell you that "where there is a will, there is a way." We are all so passionate about the wilderness; each of us in his or her own way. We are also passionate about exploring the wilderness while riding our favorite horse or mule. As long as we carry that passion with us, we will find a way to overcome any obstacle that appears to block our trail.

When it comes to working with youth, sometimes the obstacles can seem overwhelming. Don't be discouraged; there are a variety of ways you can help pass your love of the backcountry to future generations of packers and trail riders. It is actually somewhat of a responsibility each and every one of us must share; one or two individuals will not be able to reach the total number of youth members we have in BCHC. I'd like to offer a list of activities that engage our youth in BCHC. Start with whichever activity you feel most comfortable.

- Add a kid's puzzle or coloring picture to your newsletter each month. (Puzzle if your newsletter is electronic.)
- Announce youth birthdays in your newsletter.
- Have a Stick Horse Trail Course at your next event. (Get an "Announcer" to commentate.)
- Hold a Youth Trail Class at your next event. Give out saddle charms or grooming equipment as prizes.
- Conduct a Youth Dutch Oven event. Partner a *seasoned* (*ha-ha!*) Dutch oven cook with each youth.
- Hold a "Youth Horse Skills Day" at a local arena; youth bring their own stock. (Ask a qualified member or local horse trainer to give some horsemanship pointers to youth riders.)
- Hold a "Youth Pack Clinic". Target 10- to 17-year-olds. Cover hands-on saddling, balancing loads, packing, throwing the many, tying hitches, etc.
- Youth Horse Camp (1 day only). Include packing demonstrations and practice, LNT education, and an afternoon trail ride. (Base your event near a commercial pack station to utilize "dude" horses for youth riders.) Parents must sign waivers for kids to ride pack station stock.

See YOUTH NEWS, page 16

EDUCATION

Becoming a Wilderness Rider/Leave No Trace Master Educator

By Nyna Cheek, Redshank Riders Unit

As a member of Backcountry Horsemen of California, Redshank Riders Unit, I had heard about the Master Leave No Trace Educator Course and the Wilderness Rider program from fellow members Stacy Kuhns and Thomas Firth. I was intrigued. They encouraged me to apply. The fact that the course was taking place at Big Meadow Sequoia National Forest in the Sierra made it even more enticing. I have taught high school biology for the last 28 years and have been riding for the past 18 years. I saw this as a chance to combine my two loves and continue to make a difference even after I retire.

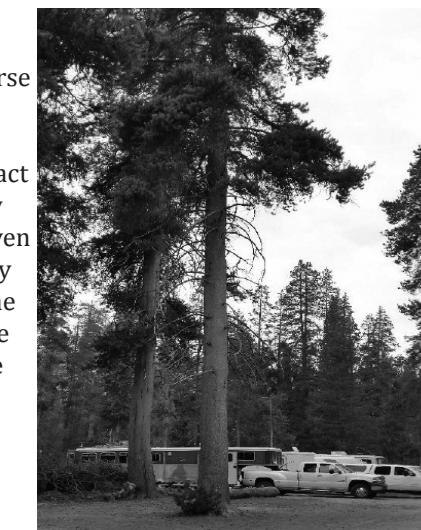
I consider myself a lifelong learner. So, when the opportunity arose to interview for a spot in the first combination Wilderness Rider/Leave No Trace Master Educator Course at the 2017 BCHC Rendezvous in Bishop, I jumped at it. Waiting to hear if I had been accepted was nerve wracking. It reminded me of when I was waiting to hear if I had been accepted into college. The day my acceptance letter arrived, I was beyond excited. Being the planner that I am, I marked the days on my calendars and started making lists.

It seemed like it took forever for September 5 to come. This was the first time in my life I wanted the summer to go by fast. I'm usually excited for a new school year to start but all I could think of was going to the Sierra. My principal and assistant principal were impressed and very supportive when I shared with them my impending adventure. I had no problem explaining what a Wilderness Rider's duties are and what the Master LNT Educator Course entailed since I had visited the BCHC website many times that summer.

I was able to catch a ride with my unit members Stacy Kuhns and Thomas Firth. We arrived at Big Meadow campground mid-morning, September 5. The scenery was breathtaking. It was the perfect place to spend seven days learning LNT/GU principles.

We had a group dinner that night with those who had arrived early, which was a smart move. It gave us a chance to get to know each other a little before the course began. We also got a preview of the awesome food that our cook, Lynn Joiner, planned and prepared for us that week.

Our instructors, Thomas Firth (BCHC representative), Kenneth Graves (USFS representative), Stacy Kuhns (BCHC representative), and Donna Meier (BCHC representative), had well-planned lessons and activities for the entire week. Each day we would meet for breakfast. Then our instructors would take turns giving us information and useful tools for our tool box to help prepare us for when we would be sharing the Leave No Trace principles.



Each potential Wilderness Rider was assigned a Leave No Trace Principle during the summer. We had to plan our lesson, then present it to the group. We were encouraged to utilize the surrounding area in our presentations. The presentations were creative, interesting and very entertaining. We all got some good ideas that will help us prepare our future Leave No Trace classes.

We had some down time each day after lunch, then we were back at it with more presentations by both students and instructors.

There were also a couple of rides. We were fortunate to have the infamous mule, Zane Gray, with us too.



One of the days we were treated to Ken and Tom doing a packing clinic and history lesson. It was fun to get some hands-on experience tying down the boxes.



Part of being a public school teacher is participating in professional development (PD). I have had to sit through some of the most boring and useless presentations. More often than not, PD is a waste of time! I must say that the LNT/GU course never made me feel like I was wasting my time or wish I was somewhere else. It was engaging, informative and fun. The instructors did

a great job. The students did a great job. I made some new friends too! I look forward to presenting at Leave No Trace classes/workshops so I can use what I learned in this course. I am very proud to be a Wilderness Rider/Leave No Trace Master Educator.



EDUCATION

Train the Trainer Leave No Trace/Gentle Use

By Mike Williams

I had the opportunity to participate in the Train the Trainer Clinic on Leave No Trace (LNT) and Gentle Use ethics, June 3 and 4, 2017, at the Fobes Ranch near Idyllwild, California. The clinic was hosted by the Backcountry Horsemen of California in partnership with Leave No Trace. Stacy Kuhns and Tom Firth (BCHC Co-Education Chairmen, Wilderness Riders) took the lead on this very informative and educational clinic that focused on ethical back and front country use.

After introductions, several short videos were shared with the class regarding gentle use of the backcountry and why we all need to do our best, not only to operate using LNT and Gentle Use techniques, but also the importance of ethical use and why we need to share this message with all backcountry users.

Next (at the direction of the presenters), each Clinic student taught a class on an assigned predetermined subject. These were the most fun. Each student had researched the assigned subject matter and brought that knowledge and their opinions back to the class. Each student/instructor brought their own style of teaching to the forefront. Some were very prepared; some not so much. One student focused on building a campfire. Another on being prepared for a hike or backpacking. Another on building a campsite. My subject was "Stock Restraint in the Backcountry." I brought a number of props to share with the class and I mixed the equestrians and non-equestrians in the class so that everyone would have an equal learning opportunity.

What stayed with me afterward was a few of the students sharing how little they knew about their assigned subjects before they researched them - a good subject in itself. Many of them never thought about these particular things before they did their research. One student shared the definition of "ethical use." His point was simple: Can you act ethically all the time whether in a crowd or by yourself? That was a very powerful statement.

The instructors were engaged. They answered questions and shared many of their experiences with the class. Both were approachable and easy to speak with.

It is my thought that instructors need to be neutral in their instruction. We all have opinions but when you're a teacher, you must be careful not to influence your students with your beliefs - probably the hardest thing for all of us.

Overall, I felt that this class was very informative. I will strongly suggest to those in my unit that they take this class. I also look forward to assisting with this class in the future.



Wilderness Riders/ Master Course 2017

By Stacy Kuhns, Co-VP of Education

I asked myself if I was grabbed and hog tied into helping with the Masters Course. Well, not exactly. A little sweet talking and bourbon, of course. It has been a rush this year stepping up as Co-Chair for Education with Thomas Firth. Our first task was the Wilderness Rider and Master Combination course. These have been done separately in the past but now they are combined.

We got all the documents together needed for the courses. Ken Graves, Donna Meier, Lynn Joiner and Thomas Firth were the other instructors. We all loaded up the ponies and headed to the high country for a week of learning. Our goal was to make sure it was an enjoyable time for everyone. If you don't have fun, you need to change it up. I will tell ya now, I did have some butterflies and hoped I would meet the expectations of the instructors and students. We set off to the high country with our stock.

We "truck pooled" up with three of us from the Anza area. Thomas was the driver of my rig, with his two mules in the back. I was the navigator and Nyna oversaw snacks and keeping Thomas and me in order. There were just a few "That WAS our turn" comments, so we made it in record time. Thomas was a bit saddened he had to drive the GMC, as he is a Dodge guy. At one point we thought we had a big problem because an alarm was going off. Apparently, if you leave that blinker thingy on too long it yells at ya. We laughed later but right then we were a bit concerned that this gal's (my truck) maiden voyage might end badly. She did an excellent job, only yelling at us twice!

We arrived at camp. Oh, what a beautiful place. We unloaded the mules and settled them in. We all turned in early to get ready for our big class adventure. Our first day was introductions and getting to know a bit about each other, course overviews, camp guidelines and camp duties, etc. Lynn set the bar to make sure we won't starve to death. We could all be gaining knowledge and a few pounds! But bring it on! YUM!

It is interesting to see how people in groups interact when they do not know each other. The first day was quiet compared to the following days. But, as expected, once we got to learn a bit about each other we became a chatty group. Starting the second day, camp was filled with laughter and tall stories around the fire. That's so important. Each student had an advance assignment to bring to class this week. We gave each one of them a "Leave No Trace Principle" to teach. For the first few days, the students did their presentations and we discussed the principle in depth. Everyone did a fantastic job with their subject. Are you wondering why we asked the students to present? You learn so much more by doing research. (There was a method to our madness.)

See WILDERNESS RIDERS, page 8



EDUCATION

WILDERNESS RIDERS, continued from page 7

Each day we rose early to gather up and discuss the day ahead. So far, so good. The leaders weren't booed off the stage, but we weren't done yet. It was fantastic to have the opportunity to learn about each other. This course enabled us to make stronger bonds with folks we knew and start new friendships with others. We were the typical campers regarding going to bed early. Well, so sorry Elaine, you were the night owl and that made for a few laughs as well. As she roamed through camp, calling out "HELLLOOOO, ya'll can't be turning in already?"

We went through all the course material and were able to add in a couple of rides and some short hikes. What a gorgeous area. Thanks, Thomas, for the loan of your famous mule "Zane Grey" as my ride. Zane fell in love with Ken Grave's yellow mare. He needed to be close to her. So, Ken and I had good conversations, too.

We went over so much material each day but tried our best to make sure it was engaging and FUN. I believe we nailed it. Nyna and I started hearing some "one liners" and we put them on paper. We presented this on our last day as highlights. Lots of laughter again.

What I did learn, when you are with someone for seven days, is that you begin to mirror their behavior. I started standing and using gestures like Thomas. I know, it worried me, too. Kidding aside, it was fun to work alongside him. We had the students critique our delivery and course. Now we were super nervous. "The envelopes, please." Thomas and I were the nervous instructors on this. We done good, yeah. Now that we have one class under our belts, we are ready for many in the future. BCHC has 11 new Wilderness Riders/ Masters! You need to love what you do and do what you love! I feel that is why this Wilderness Rider/Master course was a success. I was honored to work alongside the other instructors. Me being the newbie to co-instructing the masters.

**Wilderness Rider/Master Course Students shown on page 7
(L to R): Front row - Stacy Kuhns, Donna Meier
Second row - Sylvia Chavez, Lisa Spounias, Nyna Cheek, Elaine Bailey, Gail Van Velzer
Third row - Thomas Firth, Lynn Joiner, David Roy Chevallier, Ray Spence, Mark Seitz, John Wagoner, Paul Van Velzer, Ed Puett, Ken Graves**

Do You Know the Leave No Trace Seven Principles?

- **Plan Ahead and Prepare**
- **Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces**
- **Dispose of Waste Properly**
- **Leave What You Find**
- **Minimize Campfire Impacts**
- **Respect Wildlife**
- **Be Considerate of Other Visitors**

SAWYER BUZZ:

Teaching Old Dogs New Tricks

By Dan Horn and Chip Herzig

We have seen a big change in the acceptance of our new Saw Program and Sawyer Certifying Process. We even got Alan Hill in a class and certified him to a "B" Sawyer Level. In addition, as our chests get all puffed-out, we have even been asked to train some USFS sawyers.

The Saw Program is not intended to question your ability to use a chainsaw or a crosscut saw but to help refine your ability to be as Safe a Sawyer as possible! While doing all the research in putting this program together, I will be the first to admit that in all those years of my chain-sawing that I was just plain lucky. There were many things that were not being done safely on my part.

To date our sawyer teachers have certified a total of 59 students in Regions 4 and 5. There are still a few voids in our Instructor map, but we are working on those units to come on board and assist.

Volunteer Agreement

One thing we need to start doing better is to include all Saw Work within the **Scope of Work** described in the **Volunteer Agreement**. The **Volunteer Agreement must be** established with your Forest. Don't forget to include all **Feeder Trails** and **Service Roads** that you traverse to get to the work area. For you to be totally legal with your saw card, **all areas** that you might encounter tree removal need to be in the Volunteer Agreement.

Rendezvous 2018

At Rendezvous this year we will have a designated **Sawyer Area** set up. There will be demonstrations, both chainsaw and crosscut. Dave Moser will have his Saw Corral there to answer all crosscut sharpening questions. We will have logs for you to try your hand at a crosscut saw (**sorry, you must be a BCHC member. Insurance won't allow the public to use chainsaws**).

First, on Saturday morning there will be a one-hour class on the BCHC Saw Program. This overview class will show you the ins and outs of the program and how to get involved to obtain your saw card. We will have the Demo Area manned most of the day, so drop in and see the demos.

On Sunday morning, there will be a two-hour demo with an Alaskan Saw Mill to show how to cut lumber in the back country to use for bridges and/or structure use.

New this year, Chip and I will be doing a two-hour class Saturday morning covering Winches and Rigging. The class will cover all types of winches, cable, rope, compound pulleys and chain. This PowerPoint class will help you make the decision about what type of winch you need and how big of a winch would be appropriate for your work. Saturday afternoon In the Saw Area, there will be a two-hour demo on all these winch types with hands-on winching and rolling of logs.

Safety at Rendezvous

Saturday morning, Chip and I will team up to conduct a Safety Class. This class will show all the documents required by the Forest Service, safety tips and the items you need to have with you to cover all aspects of a Safe Trail Work Program. Number 1 Safety Tip (**Plan Ahead and Prepare**).

DID YOU KNOW?

New Laws for Hauling Horses

CDL's, CMV's, ELD's and other confusing acronyms

CMV = commercial motor vehicle

CDL = commercial drivers license

ELD = electronic logging device

So how does this affect me?

You need an ELD if your trailer is a CMV!

What does an ELD do?
Automatically records the number of hours a driver spends behind the wheel

Is my horse truck/trailer a CMV?

YES, if your vehicle has a Gross Vehicle Weight Rating (GVWR) of more than 10,000 lbs

YES, if you haul someone else's horse in your trailer and accept money to offset the costs

YES, if you haul a horse to show with the intent to win prize money

YES, if you are a professional trainer and use your truck and trailer for business purposes

YES, if you write off your truck and trailer as a business expense

Do I need a CDL to haul my horses?

YES, if a combination of your vehicles is a GVWR of over 26,000 lbs, and the GVWR of your trailer being towed is over 10,000 lbs

YES, if you haul any single vehicle with a GVWR over 26,000 lbs

NO, if your truck weighs 11,000 lbs & your horse trailer has a GVWR of less than 15,000 lbs, you do NOT need a CDL

So are there situations when I don't need an ELD?

Even if you have a CMV...

- YES, if you are not driving more than 11 hours
- YES, if you, the driver, take 10 consecutive hours off between shifts
- YES, if you start and return your drive to the same location within 12 hours-time
- YES, if you drive within a 100 air-mile radius (as the crow flies) from the normal starting work location

THE BOTTOM LINE

In general, these rules do not apply to the occasional short-haul transportation of horses, provided it is not for compensation or commercial purposes.

Basically, if you are hauling for recreational purposes or not showing for prize money, you are exempt from the ELD mandate.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

[CLICK HERE](#) for the American Horse Council Brochure on ELDs

[CLICK HERE](#) for the full rule: PART 390—FEDERAL MOTOR CARRIER SAFETY REGULATIONS: GENERAL

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RUTGERS

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

Objectives and Purpose

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 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.

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.



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



HR 1349 PASSES OUT OF COMMITTEE

"The International Mountain Bicycling Association has publicly stated its opposition to HR 1349."

[From the Back Country Horsemen of America website]

Now that HR 1349 has passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources, the bill could be put before a "floor vote" in the House of Representatives at any time. When, or in what form, the bill might be voted upon is unknown. Give the speed and relative stealth by which this bill recently moved through committee, however, **BCHA members must be prepared to reach out to their representatives at a moment's notice.** BCHA is monitoring the situation and will alert members once we learn the potential date of a floor vote.

Yet there is nothing stopping members from reaching out to their representative at this time to demonstrate their views on HR 1349. Ask to speak with your representative's Legislative Assistant (LA) for natural resources- or public lands-related issues. Develop a relationship with the LA by speaking with them or leaving a message each week. Make sure they know you represent a broader BCHA state or unit and tell them about the great things you do as a volunteer to keep trails open for everyone.

The timing of a floor vote would have to be approved by the House leadership. HR 1349 could be voted on as a stand-alone bill or, more likely, it could be packaged with other public land bills or must-pass legislation. Given that amending the Wilderness Act is known by all involved to be highly controversial—the Act has never been amended throughout the Act's 53-year history—a floor vote on HR 1349 will most likely be bundled with other, less controversial or even potentially beneficial, public lands legislation. Doing so would provide some "cover" for legislators who don't want to be viewed as voting to undermine the Wilderness Act.

Don't let them fool you. A vote to undermine the Wilderness Act is still a vote to undermine the Wilderness Act, even if your representative claims they intend to vote in favor of another bill in the package.

We also are on the lookout for introduction of a Senate "companion bill" to HR 1349. Given that legislation must be passed by both the House and Senate before it goes to the President's desk for signature, a companion bill could be introduced at any time by anti-Wilderness Senator(s) or, alternatively, should the House pass HR 1349 the bill would automatically be sent to the Senate for consideration.

Consequently, it would be wise to **reach out to your senators to let them know your feelings about HR 1349.** BCHA continues to work in partnership

with a number of regional and national organizations to prevent HR 1349 from being enacted into law. These partners include The Wilderness Society, American Horse Council, Pacific Crest Trail Association, Appalachian Trail Conservancy, American Hiking Society and the National Wilderness Stewardship Alliance.

The International Mountain Bicycling Association has publicly stated its opposition to HR 1349. In addition, hundreds of organizations have signed onto letters stating their opposition to HR 1349. HR 1349 was introduced on behalf of two small, Johnny-come-lately organizations that neither understand nor respect the origins and the intent of the 1964 Wilderness Act. They believe the Act should be "modernized" to let mountain bikes have legal access to the last remaining 2.7% of lands in the continental U.S. that are designated as Wilderness. By insisting that "mechanized forms of travel" be allowed in Wilderness (the original purpose of HR 1349), they naively claim that Congress will not try to further pry open the door and insert other damaging provisions into the Act.



Liability Insurance Now Available

The Back Country Horsemen of America (BCHA) has added to its value to members by offering excess equestrian liability insurance through Equisure. The limits provided under this policy per household are shared by all members of the same residence. \$1M aggregate; \$1M aggregate occurrence limit.

Here are some facts gleaned from the Frequently Asked Questions page on the Equisure website (www.equisure-inc.com):

This insurance is excess and not intended to be your primary equestrian liability coverage. This insurance is not business insurance. This policy provides coverage for equine-related incidents away from your residence for which you are personally liable or negligent. This policy also provides coverage for bodily injury and/or property damage to a third party for an equine-related incident caused by a horse you own for which you are held legally liable.

This policy does not provide animal mortality coverage for horses you own. This is not a medical insurance policy. You must have your own health or accident insurance.

This policy does not allow for the addition of additional insureds.

The liability policy is available to current BCHA individual and family members in good standing and covers excess personal liability up to \$1 million dollars! The cost for the policy through BCHA is \$20 for individual BCHA members and \$40 for family BCHA members.

Coverage starts when your membership is approved and the premium is paid, the month and day you purchase your membership and ends December 31 at 12:01 a.m. of the same year, regardless of what month it began. BCHA will be provided with certificates of Insurance (a brief summary of coverages, conditions and exclusions).

Once you have purchased a policy, you will receive two emails. One of these emails confirms purchase. The other email, titled "**Back Country Horsemen of America - Your downloadable items are ready,**" will contain a link to download a .pdf that contains your policy information. Be sure to download this certificate and save it. If you need to make a claim, call Equisure to do so at (800) 752-2472. You may obtain a copy of the Master Policy by emailing your request to info@equisure-inc.com. If you have other questions or need more information, contact Diane Lesher at Equisure by calling (303) 614-6961.

**APRIL 13 - 15
PASO ROBLES
EVENTS
CENTER**

The BCHC Rendezvous follows a tradition of gathering together of outdoor enthusiasts. Our event features equine training clinicians, scores of vendors, horse and mule packing seminars, Gentle Use/ Leave No Trace classes, Western Art Show, Awards and Accolades, Dutch Oven Cook-off, Trail Challenge, Beer and Wine tasting, Cowboy Church, Youth Classes, Raffles and Auction. There is always lots to learn, lots of fun, and plenty of horses and mules at the Backcountry Horsemen Rendezvous! Come join the fun, April 13-15, at the Paso Robles Event Center!

Backcountry Horsemen of California **RENDEZVOUS**



Rendezvous 2018

RENDEZVOUS 2018

The 2018 Rendezvous Registration Packet is available online at the BCHC website: bchcalifornia.org. It is also available in print form from each unit president. Printed here are summaries of activities, merchandise, contests and rules. There is no fee to enter the Paso Robles Event Center to attend the Rendezvous but there are fees for dinner tickets, camping, merchandise, to participate in contests, to participate in the trail challenge and games, to take part in the Wine, Cheese & Beer Tasting, and to exhibit artwork in the Western Art Show.

Raffle tickets are sold in advance as well as during the Rendezvous.

ALL CONTEST ENTRIES MUST BE RECEIVED BY APRIL 1. All pre-sale merchandise must be ordered before March 23 to receive the discount.

Dinner Tickets are necessary for Friday and Saturday nights. There will be a no-host bar at 5 p.m. and dinner will be served at 6 p.m. Adult and child (12 and under) dinner tickets are available. Vegetarian meals will be available. Order your tickets in advance. Do not count on any tickets being available at the Rendezvous. *See the Registration Packet or BCHC website for more details and pricing.*

Friday's Dance with music by Monte Mills will run from 8 p.m. to midnight. There are dance-only tickets available in advance. *See packet for pricing.*

Wine, Cheese & Beer Tasting – Saturday. Admission is purchase of a commemorative glass for \$20. *Purchase may be made in advance through the Registration Packet.*



Camping is available at Lot C. Los Padres Unit member Cheryl McGray is the Camp Hostess. Fee for full hook-ups is \$40/day. Dry camping (no hook-ups) is \$30/day. No stock is permitted in camp. Reservations for camping will only be made upon receipt of a completed and fully paid registration.



Stalls for Thursday through Sunday cost \$60. *Reserve yours with the form in the Registration Packet.*

Merchandise including T-shirts, sweatshirts, tank tops and baseball caps may be ordered in advance. Pre-sale prices (\$5 off each item) are valid if your order is received by March 23. Pre-sale items may be picked up at the Registration Booth. Full prices go into effect March 24, There are additional charges for sizes 2X and 3X.



Raffle Tickets are sold with advance registration as well as during Rendezvous until the drawings are held. Tickets are \$5 each. Prizes include a \$500 gift certificate to Bass Pro Shops OR a gift certificate for Miller Cattle Ranch.

The second raffle prize was donated by Kim Burton. It is a three-day, two-night trip for two on an historic Parkfield ranch. You will trail ride daily, have great food and enjoy a big bon fire at night. Come enjoy this beautifully scenic ranch, hear the history of the ranch and town. Come hungry and forget that diet.



Volunteers are always needed. If you would like to help during the Rendezvous, you may volunteer by providing your cell phone number on the Registration Form.

Live animals are used for the **Packing 101 Class**. There is no charge to attend but class size is limited. Check the program schedule at the Rendezvous for class times and locations. Iron mules will also be available and experienced packers will be on hand to help you with your hitches.

Contests: Ten different fun and challenging contests will be held throughout the Rendezvous. Competition is available for all age groups and all levels of ability. *Please note, the following information is a summary only. Specific rules for each contest may be found in the Registration Packet. Be sure to read the entire packet and complete all necessary forms.*

Dutch Oven Cooking - \$20/day fee to enter (Friday and Saturday). Open to non-professionals only. Prizes and certificates will be issued to the winners. Contestants provide their own ingredients and cooking gear including everything they will need (Dutch oven, briquettes, cans for briquettes, fire starters, utensils, prep table, and cooking tables or equivalent set-up). Cooking on the ground is prohibited. Competitors may cook a breakfast, dinner or dessert. All cooking will be done on-site beginning at 1 p.m. Judging starts at 4 p.m. Samples of your cooking will be given to spectators who will vote (using tickets) for their favorite breakfast, dinner and dessert.



Packing (classes for both adults and youth under 18). \$30 entry fee per packer/contestant. Events include Box Hitch, Diamond Hitch and Odd Load. Animals, pack saddles, pack boxes, lash ropes, manties and loads will be provided. Box and Diamond Hitch are individual speed classes. Odd Load requires a team of two people. *For more details and judging information, see the Registration Packet or the BCHC website.*



Pack Scramble – Saturday and Sunday at noon in Arena 1 - \$30 fee for each two-person team. The deadline for entry fee money is April 1. All ages will compete together. One packer and two animals with one person holding one or both animals any time the packer is at the camp station. Packers must provide their own stock and equipment. The load will be provided by the Rendezvous Committee. The holder is not to help the packer pack or catch the animals. The two animals will be let loose in the arena with no halters and no pack equipment on. Time and correctness of the load will be judged. Judge's decision is final. *See the Registration Packet for additional details.* Please enter in advance so the Rendezvous Committee can bring adequate loads for everyone to pack. There will be no late entries.

Trail Challenge – Los Padres Unit will host this event in the main arena. Entries are limited to 30 per day, each day (Friday, Saturday and Sunday). This competition begins at 9 a.m. daily. Prizes will be awarded to 1st through 3rd places in each category. Entry fees vary based on age and class entered and will be \$15 higher on the day of the show. You are encouraged to pre-enter by April 1. Registration on the day of the show is subject



RENDEZVOUS 2018

to availability. Each entrant will pick up his/her entry packet upon arrival at the Event Center and must bring specific items of equipment. Children must wear approved equestrian helmets. *See the BCHC website or the Registration Packet for specific details.*

Fun Arena Games - Six gymkhana-style events will be held. Three individual events include Run, Ride and Lead, Musical Tires and Boot Race. Two-person teams will compete in Go Fish and Sock Sorting. Four-person teams will participate in Cowpoke Polo. Entry fees vary based on age and class entered and will be \$15 higher on the day of the show. You are encouraged to pre-enter by April 1 as entry on day of show is subject to availability. *See the Registration Packet or BCHC website for more details.*

Table Decorations Contest - All units that decorate a table will automatically be entered. Tables will be assigned by the Table Decorations Committee by 10 a.m., Friday. Units may begin decorating @ 10 a.m. and must finish Friday by 5 p.m. Tables will be picnic tables. Judging will take place after 5 p.m. and awards will be presented at Friday evening's award presentation. The BCHC unit name must be clearly visible. Entries over 3 feet tall will be disqualified. Judge's decisions are final. Decorations will be sold at the dinner. If you do not want your decoration sold, please remove it from the table after judging or put up a "Do Not Sell" sign. Winner of the Best Overall category is responsible for coordinating and judging next year's Rendezvous table decoration contest.

Mantee Decorating Contest - Show off how stylish you and your pack animal can be going down the trail. Any type of medium may be used (paint, chalk, water colors, duct tape, anything you can think of to stand out from the crowd). You will be judged Saturday at 4 p.m. You may be a group or individual, have one or two animals. If you don't have an animal, then you may hang your mantee on the fence at judging time. \$25 entry fee per mantee or \$45 for groups or more than one animal.



Western Art Show - The Western Art Show includes paintings, photos, leatherwork, sewing and knitting, carving, arts-n-crafts and miscellaneous. If your item does not fit into any of these categories, submit it anyway and we will find a place for it. \$25 entry fee per item. Prizes will be awarded. The art works will be displayed in The Barn Building for people to admire. Judging will occur Saturday afternoon, with winners announced during the Wine and Cheese Event, Saturday evening 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. We are not responsible for the sale of your item, but the display will be done in a fashion that will put you in contact with interested parties. All art must be picked up no later than 9 a.m. Sunday morning. *See the BCHC website or Registration Packet for detailed contest rules and the entry form.*

**SEE YOU IN PASO ROBLES FOR 2018
BCHC RENDEZVOUS!**

HOTEL SELECTIONS IN PASO ROBLES

Best Western Black Oak *HOST HOTEL*
1135 24th St.
Paso Robles, CA 93446
805-238-4740
\$107.09 - \$125.09
Across street from Fairgrounds

Adelaide Inn
1215 Ysabel Ave
Paso Robles, CA 93446
805-238-2770
Across street from Fairgrounds

Holiday Inn Express
2455 Riverside Ave.
Paso Robles, CA 93446
805-238-6500

Motel 6
1134 Black Oak
Paso Robles, CA 93446
805-239-9090

The Oaks Hotel
2000 Riverside Ave.
Paso Robles, CA 93446
800-766-6658

Budget Inn
2701 Spring St.
Paso Robles, CA 93446
866-539-9282

Best Way
2745 Spring St.
Paso Robles, CA 93446
805-239-3030

If you have questions or need help:

**Call Shirley Rasmussen 805-610-0934
or Susie Patton 760 764-2850**

Make checks payable to BCHC

**Send completed registrations and payment to:
BCHC Rendezvous 2018
P.O. Box 157
Olancha, CA 93549**

Rendezvous 2018 Sponsors

{special}
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 businesses who generously sponsors
 BCHC's 2018 Rendezvous!

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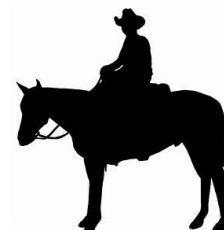
Spring riding season is approaching. Here are some excellent tips from BCHC to help you stay safe and have fun. This flyer is available at <http://www.bchcalifornia.org/library.htm>

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE FOR A

Safe And Enjoyable Trail Ride

SAFETY IS PRIORITY



STAGING AREA

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

WHILE ON A TRAIL

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

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

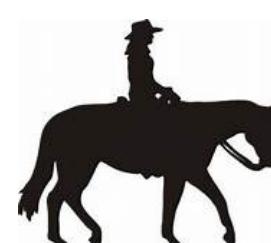
TIPS FOR BREAKS OR LUNCH STOPS

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

REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR BECOMING LOST!

From the BCHC Lost Rider Plan

- ◆ Know how to use the topographical map and compass to locate yourself, and to navigate.
- ◆ Carry a GPS and know how to use it.
- ◆ Orient yourself to landmarks when you start your trip, and continue to orient yourself throughout the trip. Turn often to look at your back trail so a return on that trail will look familiar, particularly at trail junctions.
- ◆ Learn some tracking basics so you can follow your own shoe prints or horse's hoof prints on your own back trail.
- ◆ Stay on the trail.



UNIT NEWS

TOP OF THE STATE: Fort Jones Christmas Parade

Article by Penny Wells-Thomas
Photos by Michael Stapleton and Pam Wells

2017 was the 49th Annual Fort Jones Christmas Parade. Top of the State Unit was asked to carry the colors and was very proud to do so. We had nine riders with Kelly, Robert and Laurie carrying the flags. I followed, leading my pack horse, with decorated Christmas trees as the theme was "Ol' Christmas Tree, Ol' Christmas Tree." It was beautiful weather and we had no accidents or mishaps. The announcer spoke of our previous parade organizer, Dale Payne, who left us this year. All in all, it was a great parade and to top it off we won our category and received \$50. Thank you, everyone, for participating and thank you to Michael and Pam for taking pictures.



Flag Bearers are Laurie Robustellini, Robert Robustellini, and Kelly York



Riders are Erica Fruht and Janice Rushton

HIGH COUNTRY: Helps Install New Trail System

By Sandy Jansen

During the summer of 2017, the Bald Hills near Susanville had lots of activity with a new trail system. The Bald Hills are a few miles out of Susanville, boldly jutting up from the Honey Lake Valley like buttes. The Bald Hills are Bureau of Land Management lands and adjacent is Bass Hill which is Fish and Wildlife property. Both areas are open to the public. The Bald Hills trail system is for non-motorized travel which includes hiking, horseback riding, running and trail bikes.

The new trail system was created by BLM with Stan Bales as the main impetus of the system. Stan spent many, many hours designing, marking, walking the trail and doing trail building and cleanup. He had hand crews, a little trail-making bulldozer machine, youth and young adult crews and volunteer help. The High Country Unit of Lassen, Modoc and Plumas counties spent many hours helping with this project.

The Hills are very rocky with sage brush, bitter brush, wildflowers, a couple springs and very few trees. The views of Honey Lake and the surrounding mountain ranges are gorgeous, especially from the summit. The trail was rideable before but is much nicer now with fewer rocks. The trail is single track and winds its way up to the summit, around and back down with several loops. There will be about 20 miles when it is done and at least 10 miles are completed. High Country Unit helped with the trails. We hauled diesel to the trail machine several times, hauled generators, tools, rock drills, water, and more diesel. We hauled food and supplies to a crew that camped out on the mountain. Then, after the trail building season was over, we hauled the supplies down the mountain.

High Country member Walt Reynolds did much of the packing in. Several others also helped pack in supplies. Pete Jansen hauled supplies, such as this wheelbarrow, out. We look forward to the next phase of the trail system this summer.



YOUTH NEWS, continued from page 5

Remember, parents must be present at all times during any youth activities (according to BCHC's insurance company.)

If you would like detailed information on how to incorporate any of these ideas into reality for your unit, please contact me and I will share the particulars to help you increase youth involvement. This is all I have for now but if you have any ideas or youth activities you would like to share, please send me an overview and I will include your activities in the next newsletter. My email: kdlcowgirl66@gmail.com

UNIT NEWS



KERN SIERRA UNIT: Reaches further into the public eye

By Tammy Bozarth

Kern Sierra Unit's education booth at "Original Cowboy Market Place" Rancho Rio in Bakersfield was once again a huge success thanks to the help of volunteers Lynn Joiner, Steve Cozzetto, Robert Anderson, Sylvia Chavez, Patty Montoya, Pat Mumford, Rene Williams and Tammy Bozarth.

The three-day event included great food, unique Christmas shopping opportunities, ranch rodeo, junior rodeo and cowboy church. It gave our unit the opportunity to answer public questions about "Who we are and What we do," promote the cause "Keep public lands open to stock use," accept membership applications and, on the fundraiser side, to sell Lucky Calendars, unit cookbooks and more than \$1,400 worth of Gun Raffle tickets. (This event accounted for half of our total ticket sales.) This is the third year Kern Sierra Unit has participated in the Rancho Rio event and I feel we reached further into the public eye.

The deadline for submissions for the
SPRING 2018 EDITION
of the Backcountry News is:

MAY 1, 2018

Submissions to: BCHC Editor
news@bchcalifornia.org

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA UNIT: 2017 BCHC Education Foundation Grant Accomplishment Report

By Mark Himmel

The San Joaquin Sierra Unit submitted a grant proposal to help cover members' costs for providing volunteer service to the Sierra National Forest. Work parties were organized to work on both wilderness and non-wilderness trails in the John Muir and Ansel Adams Wildernesses near Edison Lake as well as a second work party to continue to improve the adopted "Chamberlain Camp" near Courtright Reservoir.

The mountains of central California received near record amounts of precipitation in the winter of 2016-17. Access to the Edison Lake area was delayed for over a month as crews struggled to plow through nearly 18 feet of snow on the top of the 9,200 foot Kaiser Pass. Normally open by mid-May, the pass was not able to be safely cleared until mid-June. This made planning of the work party very difficult, as we were not sure when we would be able to get to Edison Lake, or even what trails would be melted out when we could get there. Faced with the challenges of planning trips this season we decided to do one trail opening trip as soon as we were able and turn the second trip into a work party at Chamberlain Camp.

When Kaiser Pass finally did open, we went into a fast scramble to recruit volunteers, organize the food and make plans for a week-long stay based at the High Sierra Pack Station. We ended up with a total of 14 members that spent all or part of the week clearing trails in both the Ansel Adams and John Muir Wildernesses. Even selecting trails proved challenging due to high water levels in the creeks that made crossings unsafe or drifts of snow which covered washed out sections of trails and downed trees. Overall, the trip was successful and we cut a total of 28 trees and brushed out a 200-foot section of badly overgrown trail at a creek crossing.

In lieu of a second wilderness-based trip we chose to spend our second work party at Chamberlain Camp near Courtright Reservoir. This is an historic cow camp that is on the edge of the John Muir Wilderness. The San Joaquin Sierra Unit has adopted this area and over a number of years and work parties, has made numerous improvements such as building an accessible outhouse, installing bear proof food lockers, building hitching rails and tables. Old fencing has been removed from the perimeter of the meadow and packed out. The camp is less than 2 miles from the trailhead, over easy terrain, and this makes the camp an ideal location for the unit to take novice riders, youth groups and members interested in learning to pack without the difficulties of packing on a longer wilderness-based trip.

After

Before



UNIT NEWS

SAN DIEGO UNIT: A Positive and Constructive Influence

By Martin Jorgensen, San Diego Unit President

The San Diego Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California had another great year in 2017 and we're looking forward to even better ones to come. Our programs and events continue to grow and we're involving more of our membership. Our leadership in and partnership with the local equestrian and trails community reflects our unit's intention to be a positive and constructive influence in all things that we are part of.

As far as service goes, our unit put on our usual two service weekends maintaining trails in Cuyamaca and Anza-Borrego State Parks this year and assisted the Redshank Unit with several packing projects in San Jacinto State Park, the San Bernardino National Forest and Joshua Tree National Monument. (The San Jacinto/Fuller Ridge project alone went for five months, every other Monday, and involved hundreds of volunteer hours.) In addition, unit members made several trips to clear trails in other wilderness areas. Our service projects help us to establish and maintain positive working relationships with local land managers that in the long run can only benefit the trails and equestrian community. The managers we deal with are realizing more and more every day what a valuable tool our volunteers and pack stock can be, and the number of contacts has increased to the point where in the summer and fall our packers are sometimes going out a couple of times a week.

As far as education goes, three members of our unit attended Wilderness Rider Training this year, bringing our unit total to seven. They're motivated and looking forward to putting their knowledge to use in programs and presentations to equestrians, land managers and the general public. Unit members put on three clinics this year (trailering and stock camping, leading stock through gates and hobbling), presented at the BCHC Rendezvous in Bishop, taught a stock orientation class to local Forest Service staff, staffed a booth (and presented) at the San Diego County Fair, demonstrated mules and packing equipment at Battle Days at San Pasqual Battlefield State Park, and used riding and pack stock to "haul in the mail" for the Stagecoach Days historical reenactment at Old Town State Park in San Diego. The unit is currently in the planning stages of our first Packing and Stock Camping School that will be coming up in the spring and summer of 2018.

As far as public lands and trails advocacy goes, the San Diego Unit continues to take the lead locally in negotiations with land managers and agencies to protect our access to our lands and trails. We partner with other local trail user groups to try to find solutions that benefit all. We recognize the process that land managers must go through now days when decisions about trails and public access are made, and we work within that process to ensure the needs of the riding community are met. We are providing equestrian input for the renovation and construction of campgrounds, trailheads and staging areas, and our public lands staff attend all pertinent local trails and public access meetings.

The San Diego Unit is in a unique position - we are located adjacent to many of the urban, developed cities of Southern California, yet we have numerous large park, forests and wilderness areas close by. We have beaches, alpine forests, and deserts - all within two or three hours. This provides us with year-round riding, which is why many of us in the unit choose to reside here. The large number of federal, state and local land managers in our area, however, means that our unit public lands staff needs to be consistently vigilant to make sure the rights of equestrians and trail users are protected. It's a tough job but our public lands people are up to it and doing a great job year after year.

It's not *all* about work - our unit has monthly rides and campouts to make sure that, through it all, we find a way to get together with friends and have fun.

Our unit recently acquired a tool trailer from the San Gorgonio Unit and we are in the process of renovating it, using funds donated by local equestrian organizations in support of our trail maintenance and educational programs. The trailer will be used to transport unit tools, equipment, and educational supplies to events and programs, as well as to provide us with a secure location to store our unit stuff.

As stated earlier, the San Diego Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California is looking forward to another great year. We welcome any BCHC members who would like to come down and be part of what we do, even if it's just getting out and riding with us. We look forward to seeing you out on the trail.



Heading out to the trail - San Jacinto packing project



Lower Willows Trail Crew - Vern Whittaker Service Weekend

UNIT NEWS



REDWOOD UNIT: Donates Rides for FFA

By David Pritchard and Carole Polasek

The Redwood Unit donated two rides for this June's Half Ass Flat Catered Ride in Capetown, California (along the Lost Coast), to the Eureka High School FFA dinner and auction held in January. The highest bidder for the rides paid \$500 to help support the Eureka FFA Booster Club in their many endeavors. This is the third year the Redwood Unit has donated rides to the Eureka High FFA Booster Club.

The Half Ass Flat Ride has been Redwood Unit's main fundraising event for 25 years and this year will mark our 26th year. The monies raised at the Half Ass Flat Ride support our officers' and directors' attendance at BCHC State Board Meetings, the annual work party to the Marble Mountains Stanshaw and Ten Bear trail heads, our annual Christmas dinner and other events throughout the year.

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San Diego Unit members clearing the Lower Willows Trail - Anza Borrego Desert State Park



Ray Spence presenting at the Del Mar Fair



Terry Jorgensen presenting at San Pasqual Battle Day

Recognition of Special Individuals

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

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

BENEFACITOR (\$100)

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High Sierra	Ruth Gerson Nancy Hamill Jacob Hamstra
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Redshank Riders	
Redwood	

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Eastern Sierra	Sarah C. Sheehan
High Sierra	Karl and Trish Pendegraft
Mid Valley	Terri Arington
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WANT TO START A NEW UNIT?

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



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WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

WE'RE GLAD YOU JOINED US!

These new members have joined BCHC between November 2017 and January 2018

THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

We look forward to meeting you!!

Antelope Valley	David Evans Wendy Hodgin Cheryl Kirkpatrick David McCune Laura Byers Kevin Gutierrez Michael Baudanza Dannie Balser KerriAnn Carroll Cindy Geer Kristina Jarvis Chuck Mornard Stephanie Orozco Kim A. Prout Michelle Spaman Dave Walker Georgiann Hartman Leslie Prevost
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Kern Sierra	
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Mid Valley	
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North Bay	Amanda Albrecht Phillip Puckett
Pacific Crest	Joe Willmon Ann Wurster Patricia Cravy Mercedes Nakano
Redshank Riders	Susan Scace Elizabeth Leak Jackie Converse Sherry Spina Carolyn Wood
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**Questions?****Membership Matters**

BCHC Membership Coordinators are
Chip and Linda Herzig.

They will be happy to address your
questions or concerns.

Chip and Linda may be reached Monday
through Friday.

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Associate Membership for: _____ \$15.00/Unit

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

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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.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at

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| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual | \$ 90.00 |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual | \$125.00 |
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My Check Number: _____

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Verification of BCHC membership is available via (1) BCHC unit president's reports (2) BCHC membership chair reports (3) a self-addressed stamped envelope submitted with this form or (4) a valid email address

UNIT NEWS

KERN SIERRA UNIT: Spreads the LNT word

By Tammy Bozarth

The Kern Sierra Unit and its Wilderness Riders have been busy spreading the word of Leave No Trace to local youth. We worked with the Kern County Museum Children's Education Program. Once a month throughout the school year, 500 to 900 third to fifth graders were bussed to the museum. As part of the Kern County School District's American History curriculum, students were taken outside the classroom to learn about history in a fun and interactive environment. After arrival at the museum, the students had two hours to participate at work stations placed throughout the museum grounds. They could learn to milk a cow, make butter, make rope, construct adobe bricks and/or learn how to tie hitches on a pack mule at the packing station.

Kern Sierra Unit was also given the opportunity to set up a Leave No Trace camp as part of their Summer Camp program. The camp demonstrates the seven principles of LNT with common trash spread within the camp. As the instructor explains the LNT principles, he picks up an item of trash and asks the children to guess how long it would take for it to decompose back into the earth. At the end of the demonstration the camp is clean, showing a true LNT camp. Ages of the participants range from six to 12.

I would encourage every BCHC unit to contact its local school district and even the Parks Department to see if they have similar programs in place that you may contribute to.

In one two-hour session alone, Steve Cossetto and Tammy Bozarth, assisted by Mallory Cossetto gave 90 children hands-on instruction on how to tie the box hitch.



Sylvia Chavez, Renee Williams, Kathy Ervin and Jeannie Walford helped with the Decomposition display table.



Wilderness Rider Tammy Bozarth, assisted by Sylvia Chavez and Taylor Dodson gave instruction on the LNT Camp.



All children who participate in our activities receive a free BCHC Kern Sierra Unit Leave No Trace bracelet. In 2017, we gave out more than 500 bracelets.

