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The Backcountry News



Volume 30, Issue 4

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

FALL 2018

Members of BCHC Hardworking Executive Committee & Coordinators
(Not all members pictured)



OCTOBER 2018 BCHC STATE BOARD MEETING

By Susie Patton

The State Board of Directors for BCHC had a very productive and informative meeting at Santa Nella October 13. There were some changes and policies that all members need to be aware of.

Lynn Joiner presented the Treasurer's Report and we were very glad to see that Shirley Rasmussen and her Rendezvous Committee made over a \$19,000 profit at the Paso Robles Rendezvous. Great Job!

Ernie Coe reported that it is time again for Units to complete their insurance paperwork. Be sure to include all activities you might have. The forms will be sent to the person in the Unit that the Directors' indicted should be notified. Make sure your Unit completes the forms and get them to Ernie in a timely manner. Also, Ernie requested that if you have insurance questions you ask him directly, please do not contact the insurance

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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

Deadline	Publication Date		
July 23, 2018	August 2018	Summer	
Oct. 15, 2018	Oct. 2018	Fall	
Feb. 16, 2019	Feb. 2019	Winter	
April 15, 2019	May 2019	Spring	

Advertising Rates per Issue: Rates effective January 2012. All ads must be paid in advance.

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	
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Bus. Card (h/v)	\$25.00	\$23.75	\$22.50	\$21.25	

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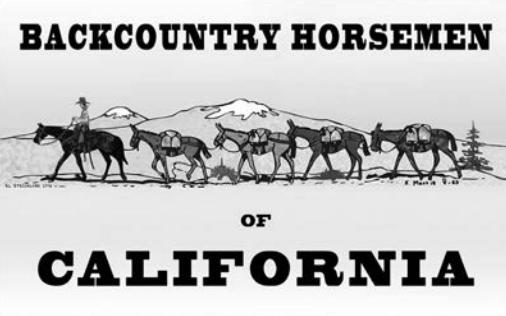
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For more BCHC information, see our website: bchcalifornia.org



PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I send you greetings from the central valley. Fall is finally falling around here--cool nights and mornings but warm afternoons. It couldn't get much better. Well, it could, if I were in the mountains, but that's not to be. Trying to make a living farming and staying up with what is going on in BCHC keeps me pretty close to home.

We have had two state meetings since our last newsletter. The summer Executive Board meeting, which was supposed to be a campout at Clark Fork, in the Stanislaus National Forest, had to be changed to a one-day meeting in my backyard in Hilmar because of the Donnell Fire. At this meeting, we had a full agenda, starting at 9 a.m. and going till almost 4 p.m. Membership was talked about at length or the loss of membership. We all must brainstorm on this issue and see if we can turn this downward trend around. Some good info was presented by Dennis Serpa, our national representative, about a program in BCH, Washington state that we could use as a guide. Contact your unit's state representative for more detail and direction on how to find this information on BCHA's website, or me, if all else fails. Also, we need to come up with a business plan. This can be used to solicit funds from corporations that want to donate money to organizations for environmental and public use purposes. We need a well thought out plan, one that would show donors what we do now and what we could do in the future with additional funds. Chip Herzog and Dan Horn started on this project, but they need everyone's ideas to make this a professional and convincing document. If we can get this written and make it work, nobody will have to sell a calendar again.

At our October meeting, we had the pleasure of meeting face to face with our summer intern, Miss Kristianne Morrison. I had heard good things about her during the summer but did not realize how lucky we had gotten till I heard her talk about the experience that she had. The enthusiasm and energy that she showed were fantastic. She admits that she likes to talk and would like to tell everybody in BCHC about this opportunity. So if you need a speaker at a function, get ahold of her and I guarantee you will not be disappointed. She will be at Rendezvous in Norco next spring. With that said, we all agreed we would like to do this again, so the BOD approved an intern policy for this next year. Once again, it will be the individual units paying for this like we did this past year. BCHA and other agencies have given us positive feedback about this program. I hope everyone gets behind the state and keeps it going. Rendezvous in Norco is coming together nicely, according to



the organizers. If you are going to bring an animal to enter any of the contests or just want to go for a ride in a town that likes horses, please read the fine print. The city of Norco requires that all horses and mules have a health certificate and be vaccinated. BCHC will not police this, but the city will and I hear they will send you home if you do not comply. Now, let's move on to 2020. That sounds so far off but isn't. The north state units will be putting their heads together this winter to see what they can come up with. I suggested that we change the format of the Rendezvous to one that would be more like the old ways. Go out in a cow pasture and circle the wagons and have an old-fashioned Rendezvous. Bring your horses and mules, go for rides and practice packing. Hold classes and training just like we do now, but it would be more us active members than the general public. Just a thought. Please bring your ideas to a meeting and let me know what you would like to do. Another idea would be to have our big Rendezvous every other year and then have more of a regional gathering in between. Lots of ideas get tossed around, but we also have to remember that this is the state's biggest fundraiser for all of our grants and operating expenses (like insurance), so money is always an issue.

At our October meeting, we had an election of officers. Half the Executive Board is elected each year. This year it was 1st VP-- Ernie Coe (insurance), Secretary-- Susie Patton, Membership -- Chip Herzog, Public Lands -- Troy Patton and Thor Bodtker, BCHA National Director -- Dennis Serpa. I wish them all well and to enjoy the rewards of being a leader in the best service organization around. Now that means I will be replaced next year, so if anyone is dying to take over the top dog's position, please let me know so I can tell you how much fun it is.

Our condolences go out to Ted Fisher's family. Ted was a member of the San Joaquin Sierra unit out of the Clovis area. He lost his life in a tragic motorcycle wreck in August. He will be missed for his enthusiasm for life and all that he did for BCHC and his unit.

Happy Trails,

Lloyd

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RENDEZVOUS

MARCH 29 ~ 31, 2019

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!

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN



Preserving Trails for Future Generations

PUBLIC LANDS



PUBLIC LANDS MEETING NOTES

By Troy Patton

Bob Magee spoke about the Stewardship Program where the forest service is to use volunteers to complete the backlog of maintenance work in the forest. Members talked about activities in their areas where the forests are using volunteers. Some do not seem to be addressing this backlog issue. Most felt that the backlog of maintenance does not seem to be the main focus.

Troy let the members know that the Bikes in the Wilderness (HR 1349) is still on the Senate floor. There is a new bill SB2877 Human Powered Travel in the Wilderness that was introduced by Senator Lee of Utah. This bill is one we need to oppose. He wants to get out a letter to Senators to oppose. It has no sponsors at this time. Bob will send information out to all Units.

Restore our Parks and Public Lands Act (HR 6510) is a new bill to complete the backlog of maintenance on public lands. It is a highly supported bipartisan act. We urge you to contact your Congressperson stating that you support this bill.

Bob Herrick from the High Sierra Unit made a presentation about the work they have done to set up a horse camp in Sequoia/Kings Canyon. It is called Wolverton and is available for use. There is a limit of six people and ten head of stock in each party. There are large parking spaces for rigs. This was a long project and Bob urged Units to make use of it so they will consider expansion.

What had been the Three Forest Act has been split apart and each forest is moving forward at a different pace. This was due to the tree mortality in some forests being a major concern. The Inyo Forest is finished with their Draft Plan and has moved into the Objection period. This is where entities which commented on the Draft Plan and do not feel their comments were properly addressed. The Forest Supervisor will address each of these objections and the Final Draft will be released. The Sequoia Forest expects to release their Draft Plan near the first of the year. The Sierra Forest is still working on the Draft Plan and it is unknown when it will be out.

Red Rock Canyon State Park in preparing to do an Environmental Impact Report and Steve Cozzetto reported on what he knew about the area. Steve rode the area and said although there is a nice camp area, the surrounding land has been used by off-road vehicles and is not a pleasant place to ride. Troy will attend the meetings later this month.

Troy discussed how to handle requests for BCHC to sign on to letters from other organizations or for BCHC to endorse or lend their logo to a cause. Several Units have been contacted for support. Please notify a State Board member. Only the State Board can authorize the use of the BCHC logo and name.

The Southern Forest Survey was discussed. Most of the 19 National Forests have a BCHC Unit who works in the Forest. They do trail maintenance, packing, corral building, LNT training, fish plants and other jobs working with Forest Service personnel. Most Units reported it was easy to work with the Forests and most felt the Forests are understaffed. All Units reported there were no major restrictions on stock use (just group size limits). Most Units felt that the Forest responded to their needs.

Chip reported that the PCT has experienced a record number of visitors this year. Thanks to social media, many campsites are overrun. They are trying to police the first 100 miles or so of the trail and educate hikers on Leave No Trace and make sure they are really prepared for what is ahead. We would very much like to work with them on this endeavor.

Please contact us with any Public Lands concerns.

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BCHC

GUIDELINES FOR BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN DIRECTORS

By Bob Magee

RESPONSIBILITIES

As an elected Director for your Unit of BCHC, you have certain duties and responsibilities to your Unit and BCHC. Immediately upon your election (even if you are continuing from a previous year), you must notify the BCHC Secretary of your Name, mailing address, email address and phone number.

You are required to attend two State meetings per year. These are usually held in October and February. Before these meetings, you (and your Unit President) will receive agendas, backup material, minutes and hotel & location information. Upon receipt, of this information, it is your responsibility to review the material and decide what items you will likely be voting on at the meeting. Working with your Unit President (or Executive Board) you should make sure that these items are placed on your Unit's next meeting agenda for discussion and direction on how you should vote. If you are not having a unit meeting prior to the State meeting, discuss how to best contact your members for their input on how they feel you should vote. **It is imperative that you vote as directed by your Unit membership, not on your personal feelings.**

If you are unable to attend the State meetings, you must let your Unit President know that you will not be attending. The president must then notify the BCHC Secretary at least one day before the meeting as to the person that will carry your proxy. **If you do not follow this procedure, your Unit could lose their voting rights at the meeting.** If your Unit has multiple Directors, you are only entitled to the number of votes as you have Directors present. Also, remember that any Unit missing two State meetings in a row may lose its sanction from BCHC.

For the correct person, to receive the meeting informa-



tion it is important that the BCHC Secretary and the BCHC Membership Chair are notified of any changes in Directors or their email addresses.

If you or someone in your Unit is contacted by another organization to endorse, sponsor, or sign on to a document, comment or cause; please be aware that the Executive Board must have been notified. Unit members should not authorize the use of the BCHC logo or name for any purpose unless there is approval by the Executive Board. If a Unit wants to lend their Unit name or logo, they can do so by a vote of their members as long as it is understood that the individual Unit is lending their name - not the BCHC.

MEETING CONDUCT

When arriving at the meeting, make sure that you sign in and receive your voting card. **Only authorized Directors or persons with an authorized proxy will receive a voting card.** During State meetings, Roberts Rules apply. This means that you may only speak when recognized by the Chair. After a motion is made and seconded there will be a discussion of that item before the vote is taken. {If there is no second, the motion dies.) When recognized by the Chair you may express your opinion. The chair will try to recognize each Director who wants to speak before allowing a Director to speak a second time. If someone "Calls for

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the Question" we will take a vote to see if the majority wants to end the discussion. If the majority wants to stop the discussion, the Chair will then call for the vote; if they vote to continue discussing the vote will be delayed until all have spoken. If you do not feel proper procedure is being followed; you may call "Point of Order" and when recognized by the Chair explain your objection. The Chair will rule on your objection.

We will only take action on items that are on the agenda. If you have something you feel should be on the agenda, you should submit the item in writing to the Executive Board at least 45 days before the meeting. Only the Executive Board can add items to the agenda.

You are welcome to attend the Executive Board meeting held prior to the State meeting. Be reminded that you are a guest at the Executive Board meeting and although the Executive Board holds their meeting in public it is not a public input meeting. You must be recognized by the Chair to speak. Again only items on the agenda will be discussed by the Executive Board.

EMAIL VOTING

The BCHC bylaws allow for email voting on items that may come up between meetings. Each Director will be notified of the maker and exact motion, the person who seconded and the time frame in which voting will be counted. It is therefore crucial that you keep the BCHC Secretary and BCHC Membership Chair informed of your correct email address. Only votes received from the Directors' recognized email will be counted.

Votes received from other Officers or unknown email addresses will not count. Again it is important to consult your membership as to how you should vote. **(May require bylaw changes)**



In memory of Korky Robertson



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there is a trail of beautiful memories



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FROM A NON-BUCKING HORSE TO BCHC

By Larry Shuman, President, Shasta Trinity Unit

I was born on January 29, 1947, in Arbuckle, California. We moved to Woodland, California when I was two years old and I was raised on a farm where my father was the ranch manager. I graduated in 1965 from Woodland High School and went to Sacramento City College for one year.

Worked on farms, as a Processing Fruit and Vegetable Inspector for the Department of Agriculture, spent 1 ½ years in Morro Bay working as a diesel mechanic at Stacey's Marine Service.

I loved to backpack and went into the Trinity Alps the first time in 1964 between my Junior and Senior years. In 1968 decided to hitchhike the Western U.S. and trout fish. My dad thought it was a great idea. I loved to trout fish at that time, so I went to Oregon, Idaho, Colorado, Wyoming, Utah, Montana, Washington in three months. Came home three weeks early as I found out I got a promotion to a Processing Fruit and Vegetable Inspector Supervisor and had to attend training.

Met my wife in 1975 when I was managing a nightclub in Sacramento. She was a roadie for a band that played there frequently. We got married in March of 1977. Best decision I ever made.

We decided to leave everything and move to Oroville California in September of 1977. We both went to work for Butte County Nov. 1, 1977. Switched to Caltrans five years later and with



Larry Shuman Packing Shingles for a cabin rehabilitation in Lassen park. He talked me into becoming the First VP in 2006.

promotions ended up with Dept. of Water Resources where I retired in June 2007.

I had never ridden a horse in my life, but when we moved to Red Bluff in 1995, John Gowney of Gowney Bros. Rodeo gave us a bucking horse that "would not buck." I decided that if we were going to have a horse, I needed riding lessons and the horse needed training. In 1997 My wife ran into Dan Suter of the Shasta Trinity Unit. Rose said I should join since I liked the outdoors, so we did.

Took my first packing trip in 1998 into Morris Meadows, the same place I went on my first backpack trip in 1964. We hauled supplies into a work crew. I met Sam Burrows and

he taught me a lot over the next few years. Besides Sam, Alan Hill, John Ellery, the FS packers and others have been great at giving me advice and training.

I became a Shasta Trinity Board member in 2000. I was the unit President from 2003 to 2005. Chip Herzig, the State President, came up and talked to us in 2005 about the fact that we had a good relationship with the Agencies and wondered why we were backing off supporting the State on some issues. I won't get into the details, but

I became President of BCHC in 2009. Some things I feel I did a good job at other things probably not. I think the best thing I did as President was to help resolve our cash flow problem. At that time BCHC was losing money at a rate where we would be broke in three years. With the help of the Executive Committee and the Board, we came up with a way to pay the insurance, our most significant bill, and put us back in the black.

MEMBER PROFILE, cont.



Tools we packed in for the CCC Back Country Crew.

In 2011 we moved the Rendezvous to Red Bluff. The Rendezvous was lucky to break-even or make money at that time. Back then we charged an entrance fee. I decided to take a chance and not charge any fee. There was two reasons for that the first is like the movie Field of Dreams, if you build it they will come. So if it is free, they will come. I felt education should be free, one of our main goals is to educate our members and the public. I also tweaked our format, following the guidelines of BCHO (Oregon) in Klamath Falls. As a result; I believe we made \$18,000 profit that year.

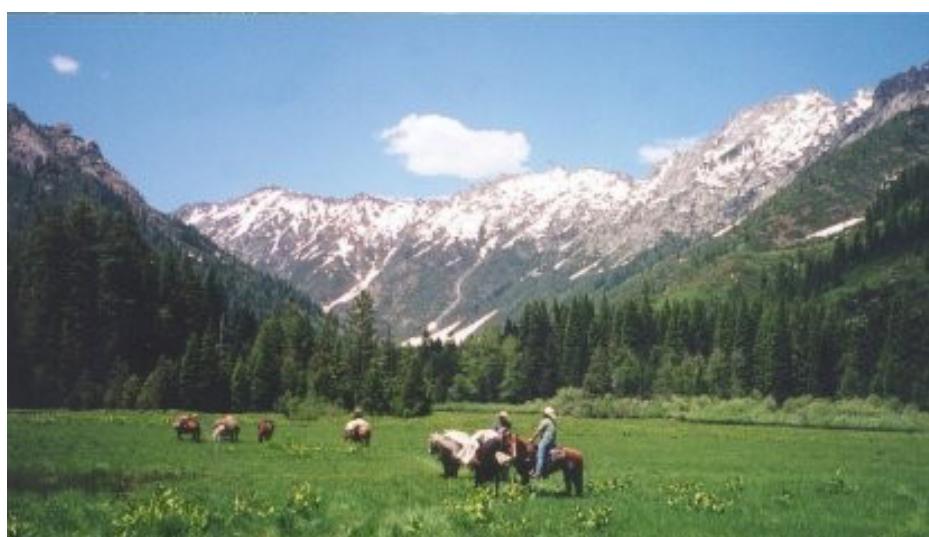
I am back as President of the Shasta Trinity Unit serving my third year in that capacity. I love participating in the ST Unit. They are a busy and dedicated group. Each year I have



Children enjoying the "Day in the Woods" program.

been a member we have supported a California Conservation Corp backcountry crew. We have planted fish in the Trinity Alps Lakes. We have done trail work on the PCT in Shasta County, Worked on the Yolla Bolly Wilderness, Thousand Lakes Wilderness, Caribou Wilderness, Lassen Park, Whiskeytown Recreation Area, the BLM area out of Red Bluff. This past year we added support for the Bigfoot Hiking Club and this looks like it may also be an annual project.

Our education endeavors are varied. We put on one or two pack clinics a year. We take part in public events at the NorCal Sport Show, two events at Camden House at Whiskeytown, the Return of the Salmon Festival, Old West Days in Weaverville and best one of all is the "Day in the Woods" put on by the Sierra Cascade Logging Conference. Over two days, we have up to 800 children of all ages participate in the "Day in the Woods" event. We are always looking for more educational opportunities especially those involving children.



First Pack Trip into Morris Meadows with Sam Burrows.



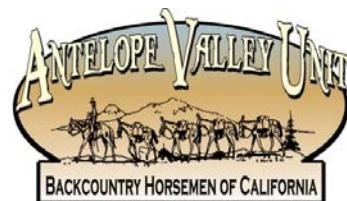
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BCHC State Meeting, continued from front page

company.

Chip reported that membership is dropping and we need to try to get members back. Ask your Unit how you can help. Dennis Serpa did a great presentation on some ideas to increase membership.

We had a surprise visit from our BCHC Mascots, Diamond and Hitch. They are available to visit your next event. Stacy Khuns noted that the Education Award nominations are due in January. It is time for Leadership Training: Stacy and Redshank Riders will sponsor for the Southern area; Lynn Joiner and Kern Sierra will sponsor for the Mid-State area; and Larry Shuman and Shasta Trinity will sponsor for the Northern area. It is important that every Unit send their officers and Directors for training, as we have had a lot of changes this year. Education Grant applications are due March 1.

We had the second Reading for changing the advance meeting notice to 30 days. The motion passed and the bylaws change to a 30 day meeting notice was approved.

We had a first Reading for adding a Youth Membership to the bylaws. The new bylaw will be for Youth from 12 to 24 (non-voting member) at a rate of \$15. We will have a second reading in February. Also in February we will have a first Reading to remove the current Young Adult membership.

The Directors passed a new Intern Policy which gives the guidelines by which BCHC will sponsor an intern each summer to be trained at one of the Centers of Excellence either in Inyo Forest or Shasta Trinity Forest. The Centers of Excellence are best equipped to teach the intern all of the goals that we wish this program to achieve. Each year we will ask the Units to contribute what they can to this fund. We will also seek grants, and public contributions, so please consider donations to the BCHC Education Fund for this worthy cause.

We had the opportunity to hear from Kristianne Morrison who was selected as our intern this past summer. She talked about how much she learned and how passionate she is about BCHC and continuing her education so that she can pursue a career working outdoors. She is willing to speak to your Unit or groups about the Intern Program. She will also be speaking at Rendezvous.

The Youth Policy was expanded to include a section on overnight camping with youth who are not accompanied by a parent. It was also amended to comply with California Law stating: "It is mandatory that members working with youth will

be fingerprinted and have a background check/clearance." Sponsoring units will determine how this will be paid for.

These new policies will soon be on the website.

Election of even year State Officers was held: (As you can see all will continue in their positions)

1st VP (Insurance) – Ernie Coe
 Secretary – Susie Patton
 Membership – Chip and Linda Herzig
 Public Lands Co-VP's – Troy Patton and Thor Bodtker
 BCHA National Director – Dennis Serpa


EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING


UNIT NEWS

BCHC State Meeting, continued from page 11

STATE BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING



BCHC INTERN

BCHC 2018 SUMMER INTERN

By Karen Lopes

BCHC, with support from various units across the state and a grant from Backcountry Horsemen of America, sponsored an Intern for the summer of 2018 to work with the Pack Stock Region 5 Center of Excellence. The intern worked directly with Forest Service Packers Michael Morse and Lee Roeser (also the Regional Master Packer). Dennis Serpa, working with Lee and Michael, developed the application and interview process, expectations of the Intern, and benefits of the program to BCHC & BCHA. This was the first time many of the units in California joined forces to collectively contribute to sponsor an intern for the Center of Excellence. This intern was specifically trained in pack stock use, along with many other skills that were learned from Lee and Michael. The main mission statement that Lee and Michael were guided by was as follows: **"To develop young adults to carry on the skills, attitude and fundamentals of packing, partnerships and LNT for the future of BCHC."**

Backcountry Horsemen of California see this internship alliance as an opportunity to not only develop a passion in a young person to continue the goals of BCHC; but also to strengthen our partnerships with our public land agencies. Our intern from this inaugural event was Kristianne Morrison, and she has gotten rave reviews from all of the people that have worked with her. In addition to Michael and Lee, Kristianne was certified on the Crosscut Saw by BCHC members Michael Lewis and Jack Peckham at the Region 5 Wilderness Academy soon after the beginning of the internship. Bill Carter (Eastern Sierra Unit of BCHC) took Kristianne on a trail clearing project to the Pacific Crest Trail soon after she was certified to get her some immediate trail clearing experience. Throughout her time working for the Center of Excellence, Kristianne learned a variety of skills; ranging from how to properly pack and balance loads, proper use of trail tools, how to tie a variety of knots for various purposes, as well as the principles of Leave No Trace, and why they are important to the future of our wilderness areas.

Backcountry Horsemen of California hope, with continued support from BCHA and our local units, to continue this internship program for years to come. Thank you again to all of our supporters; BCHA, BCHC, local units and of course, Lee Roeser and Michael Morse.



Kristianne Morrison



Michael Morse, Kristianne Morrison, Lee Roeser and Tyler Roos.



Kristianne Morrison, with tree she cut down with Bill Carter on the trail to Shadow Lake.

BCHC INTERN



Kristianne Morrison leading a string of dunny



Jack and Michael of BCHC with Kristianne Morrison at the wilderness academy



Kristianne Morrison packing a load of supplies, with the jungle can as a top load, to the CCC trail crew out of Long Lake

BCHC INTERNSHIP INYO NATIONAL FOREST

By Kristianne Morrison

I want to begin this article by giving a huge thank you to Backcountry Horseman of California, Backcountry Horseman of America and all the members who made this opportunity possible. A thank you to Agnes of the Eastern Sierra Conservation Core for making it all come together. Also, to Lee Roeser and Michael Morse from the Inyo National Forest for being the most outstanding mentors I have had. This internship was an amazing experience and I wouldn't trade it for the world. I learned so many valuable things that won't be forgotten. Not only did I learn about pack stock, I also learned more about myself as well, they pushed me to become better every day. The first week I spent on the job I attended a Wilderness Academy that showed me the ways to use and handle a crosscut saw and axe. My instructors also were members of Backcountry Horseman, Michael Lewis and Jack Peckham. They certified my crosscut training so I could use it on the trails. Bill Carter from BCHC took me out on the trails on my second week to clear down trees on the PCT. We also used rock bars and mcleods to rebuild some washed out trails making it stable enough for the stock to cross.

While working with the Center Of Excellence, I helped resupply many trail crews throughout the summer including the California Conservation Corps, American Conservation Experience, and the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps. We packed out supplies to the trail crews every week. A typical day was picking up the food order, checking every single item, refilling propane tanks, and building the loads for the resupply heading out the following day. We packed in everything from eggs to a 50 gallon jungle can used for warming water. Also packed in their camp for 20 people, with tools and camp gear when it began. When building the loads, I learned how to pack items efficiently according to size and weight. The most important detail is to make sure the load is rattle proof. When we packed out, we also had trash and other items to bring out with us after the resupply. It was great learning how to get the loads even without a scale, my human scale (my arms) were pretty accurate by the end of the season.

I've learned so much about trail work and different tools and methods to repair a variety of trails. A important skill I learned was how to evaluate the trail to make sure it was safe and secure for riders and pack stock. I had the experience of crosscutting down trees, rock work, and building checks and

BCHC INTERN

water bars. I never knew how much work went into the trails we love so much until this summer, a lot of hard work goes into it. I was very happy to be a part of it, and I will carry on helping to maintain trails for all to enjoy. Michael has educated me so much on how the Forest Service protects and keeps our Wilderness thriving. I was also able to see firsthand how the pack stock helps during a fire.

Michael and Lee run such a clean as well as organized operation from the hay, to the tack that goes on the animals. Lee Roeser has handmade every single pack saddle that goes on each mule. He taught me a lot about placing and repairs of the tack if something happened on a trail. I learned a lot about different hitches and knots, to tie down not only loads on the animals but to tie down hay and anything to a flatbed truck. The knots always came in handy. They taught me a lot about mules, things I never knew. They explained everything from medical care to shoeing, to the way you carry yourself around the animals, and hauling stock. Their operation is very consistent, which I believe is critical for not only the workers but the stock as well. Lee and Michael did an outstanding job making sure that I learned every aspect of the internship program. Oh, and I can't forget about those mules, they were incredible. I fell in love with every single one of those mules.

This experience has definitely reinforced my drive to keep the wilderness thriving and these traditional methods alive. I rode about 1,000 miles throughout the Ansel Adams Wilderness and John Muir Wilderness on the PCT and the JMT trails during the season. This internship program has already opened up multiple doors for me to start my career in this field. The Pack Stock Center of Excellence is a phenomenal operation that should continue to have interns in the future from BCHC.



Center for Outdoor Ethics | LNT.org

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UNIT NEWS

MOTHER LODE UNIT Historic Pony Express Trail

By Lucy Badenhoop

Part I – Trail Background

2018 is a major milestone for the national trail system. It marks the 50th anniversaries of the National Wild & Scenic Rivers Act and the National Trails System Act. The Pony Express (XP) Trail is a historic trail protected by the National Park Service.

It stretches through eight states for 1966 miles from St. Joseph, MO to Sacramento, CA. Each June, the XP riders re-enact the original ride in 10 days/nights, just like it was done in 1860-61. They ride East in even years and West in odd years.

An especially difficult trail maintenance challenge is the 47 miles of alpine trail over the Sierra Nevada mountain range, following the Hwy 50 corridor through the steep granite canyon carved by the South Fork of the American River. The Echo Summit tops out at 7382 feet.

Each year, the 6-8 week window for trail maintenance from snowmelt to the June re-ride date is a race against nature to remove down trees, cut back annual vegetation growth and repair bridges, culverts, washouts or mud slides.

This annual effort has been hampered by the lack of a work party staging area in the canyon. The volunteers parked on the shoulder of Hwy 50 or in parking lots to tack up for trail work often having to ride across the highway traffic to reach the work sites. Some of them drive four hours round trip, so the actual work that can be accomplished in a single day is limited.

The BCHC Mother Lode Unit partnered with other nonprofit organizations and the U.S. Forest Service to improve public access and trail maintenance on the Pony Express National Historic Trail. Multiple projects were planned in 2017, then initiated in 2018.

Part II – Restore Equestrian Trailhead

The first priority project by the partnership was to restore and enlarge the XP Corral Trailhead near the midpoint of the canyon to allow overnight staging of work



Jerry Heitzler



Doug Veerkamp on grader



Crew: Frank Henderson, Doug Veerkamp, Mark Miser, Daryl Shankles and Steve Smith



Mark Miser on dozer & Steve Smith on water hose

See MLU, Pony Express, page 17

UNIT NEWS

MLU, Pony Express, continued from page 16

parties and provide a trail access venue for the general public.

The U.S. Forest Service (spearheaded by Eldorado National Forest Recreation Officer, Josh Sjostrom) supported the effort by providing environmental approvals in nine months followed by landscape design plans and letters of support for grant applications.

Three longtime equestrian trail supporters (Darryl Shankles of Burro Trucking, Doug Veerkamp General Engineering, and Gary Cooper of G&O Towing) made in-kind donations of their heavy equipment and skilled operators to prepare the site and install gravel. Daryl Shankles of the BCHC-MLU unit lead the multiple on-site work parties. Other volunteers included Steve Smith, Joshua Major, Mark Miser, Frank Henderson, Vicki Jowise, Jerry Heitzler, and Boy Scouts of America Troop 186 from Elk Grove, CA.

BSA Troop 186 helped with the finish work by installing riprap (cobble stones) to prevent erosion in critical areas around the site, especially three spots that impact the seasonal creek. Troop 186 also agreed to adopt 12 miles of the Pony Express Trail for spring pruning and fall culvert cleaning. Additionally, an Eagle Scout candidate is proposing a mapping project that will be used by the USFS to create a Recreational Opportunity Guide (ROG) to hand out to trail users.

Part III – Ford Replaces Bridge

The second priority XP project was to reopen a 4-mile section of the trail near Kyburz, CA that was closed due to the destruction of a bridge during the winter of 2016-17. This started with environmental approvals by the USFS to reroute the trail about 150 yards upstream from the bridge crossing to a spot suitable for a ford.

The next step was to find volunteers with the knowledge and skills for building the rerouted trail and new ford. Four folks who routinely build new trails and water crossings for the Tahoe Rim Trail and Pacific Crest Trail, stepped forward: Don & Cheryl Bailey, Clay Grubb and John McKenna. Other helpers included David & Hannah Heitzler, George Lazar and Kathy Becker. It took them 25 man-days, but the job was done in time for the June 2018 XP re-ride.

Part IV – Financing the Projects

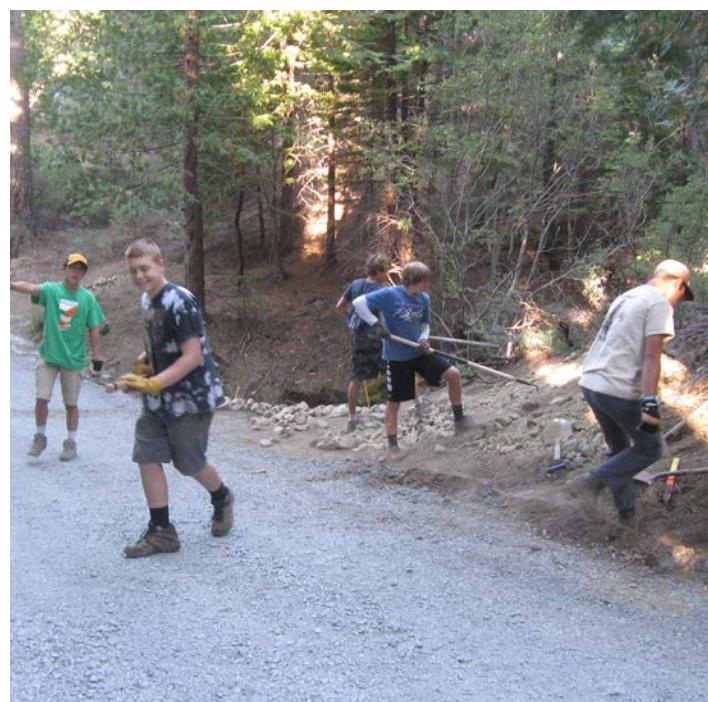
The financing for these two major efforts (mostly to purchase materials) was supported by cash donations from both partners (XP-CA and BCHC-MLU) and two grants obtained from the National Wilderness Stewardship Foundation. While both projects are usable in their current condition, they still require more work to produce a finished trail feature...there's more to do next year.



Don Bailey



Clay Grubb & John McKenna



BSA Troop #186 riprap for the creek

UNIT NEWS

SAN DIEGO UNIT 2018 Annual Report

By Martin Jorgensen, President, San Diego Unit

In 2018 the San Diego Unit had another prosperous and productive year. We started the year in November 2017 with our 25th annual Vern Whittaker Service Weekend, assisting California State Parks by maintaining trails in the Coyote Canyon area and doing projects to improve Vern Whittaker Horse Camp. We celebrated the New Year with a desert campout at Ray and Elaine's in Shelter Valley and the unit participated in the Southern Units Leadership and Officer Training in Anza in January. Unit members attended the planning meetings all year for the 2019 BCHC Rendezvous in Norco, and in February the unit once again camped in the desert on President's Day Weekend and rode in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park out of Shelter Valley. In March unit members participated in the Horse Expo in Pomona, camped again in the desert, and hosted a BCHC chainsaw class on Palomar Mountain that was attended not only by local members but with students from BCH-Nevada. Also, in March the unit began its first-ever Packing School in which four students began a four-month educational and hands-on training regimen that covered all facets of packing and stock camping including packing equipment, stock restraint, camping equipment, stock and human nutrition, first aid, wilderness travel and ethics, and Leave No Trace Principles. Experienced packers from the Red Shank Riders and Santa Ana River Units assisted with the school. The school was a huge success and we are anticipating continuing the program in 2019.

In April our pack school continued, and unit members traveled to the Kofa Preserve in Arizona for a campout. In May the unit sponsored our annual Los Vaqueros Service Weekend in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park and worked in-camp and on trails in the park. (Turnout was so great this year that we were able to field four separate crews to work on trails.) Many members of the unit attended Bishop Mule Days (some showing their mules) and the unit rode in the parade Saturday, coming in second for Best Mounted Mule Group behind a splendidly mounted and matched National Parks entry. In June we finished up our unit Pack School with the students and instructors taking a weekend pack trip to Granite Springs Trail Camp in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, and the graduates were presented with commemorative buckles to honor their achievement.

In July unit members assisted the Santa Ana River Unit with their Big Meadow Service Project in the Sierras and had a unit ride in the Mount Laguna area of the Cleveland National Forest. In August the unit took part in the All Club Beach Ride in the Tijuana River Valley, and in October we rode on the Pacific Crest Trail to Eagle Rock. We are currently in the final stages of setting up our 26th annual Vern Whittaker Service Weekend later this month in Anza- Bor-

rego Desert State Park, the 40 corrals at the camp are reserved, and we're looking forward to another great service event. And the San Diego Unit will once again be camping at Black Rock Campground in Joshua Tree National Park for Thanksgiving week and spending New Years 2019 camped somewhere in our beautiful (in season) California desert.

Unit members assisted the Red Shank Riders Unit with several packing projects throughout Southern California this year and some of the projects continue still. The Idyllwild/Deer Springs project supporting the State Parks trail crew working on the Pacific Crest Trail in the San Jacinto Wilderness took a commitment of several packers from multiple BCHC units every other week all summer long, and it was only one of several projects ongoing at the time. The Southern California BCHC units have developed a seasoned cadre of packers that are more in demand with the local land managers every year, and much of the credit for that should go to Mike Lewis of the Red Shank Riders, who coordinates and leads the projects down here year after year.

Our Wilderness Riders and Education Committee have worked with other BCHC units to present programs at different venues over the year. They will be presenting educational programs involving packing and Leave No Trace principles at the Horse Heritage Festival in San Marcos later this month. And our education staff has developed a strong social media presence for our unit, with our Facebook site currently being followed by over six hundred individuals.

The Public Lands Committee of the San Diego Unit continues to represent the equestrian and trails communities locally in negotiations with the numerous federal, state, and local land managers in our area. They have attended numerous meetings and provided verbal and written input on both local issues and those forwarded to them from out of the area, and they have provided timely and accurate information to our members, so they have been able to provide their input when needed. Local issues addressed have included the revision of the county's Public Lands Dedication Ordinance and Multiple Species Conservation Plan, the proposed San Diego Mountain Bike Association Orozco Ridge Trail System, the El Monte Sand Mining Project, the reopening of the Lower Willows Trail to stock, the Forest Service renovation of the Boulder Oaks Campground on the Pacific Crest Trail, The construction of new equestrian camping facilities at Indian Flats on the PCT, and the future establishment of new equestrian camping areas in the Mount Laguna and Cuyamaca areas.

The service we do (both packing and in our Service Weekends) helps to establish a working relationship with land managers and their staff, that can only benefit BCHC and the entire equestrian and

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UNIT NEWS

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trails community. It is only through interacting and working together with them that we can expect our voices heard and our concerns respected or addressed. While we always need to stand up for what is important to our community, we need to understand we are only one voice among the chorus the managers hear on every issue. If we can find ways to be of benefit to them through service, it will hopefully help us to have a seat at the table when decisions are made that affect us and all other equestrians and trail users.

The San Diego Unit looks forward to another full and prosperous year. Come down and ride with us.



The deadline for submissions for the Winter 2019 EDITION of the Backcountry News is:

February 16, 2019

Submissions to: BCHC Editor
BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com



PACIFIC CREST UNIT

2018 Annual Report

By Jennifer Sponsler, President, Pacific Crest Unit

Much of our 2018, has been spent with startup chores, which includes printing business cards for the unit, obtaining a P.O. Box, setting up our Facebook page, creating a website, and volunteering to host the Arena Trail Obstacle Challenge at Rendezvous, 2019.

In December 2017 Pacific Crest Unit volunteered to Host the Arena Trail Obstacle Challenge at the 2019 Rendezvous in Norco. Two of our members a be busy building these obstacles, and the rest of us are creating forms, flyers, and everything else that needs addressing. We are looking forward to participating in the Rendezvous.

Our Treasurer, Nancy Vaughn, has been doing an outstanding job on the BCHC Newsletter all year Thank you, Nancy!

In January, I attended the Officers' Meeting in Anza, and met a wonderful group of people. Many offered to help with anything, which was very appreciated.

In March several of our members helped with the BCHC SARU booth at the Pomona Horse Expo. We were happy to help and appreciated Mike's nice thank you note.

Later in the year several of our members attended and helped at the 2018 Rendezvous in Paso Robles. We were also able to send up a care package of needed items.

In August two of our members went with representatives from SARU to Silverwood Lake to meet with the Supervising Ranger. We discussed volunteering our services to help refurbish the horse camp at the Lake. SARU will be drafting a proposal and submitting it soon.

In November and, December will be spending time fine-tuning the Arena Trail Obstacle Challenge and gathering to enjoy a festive Christmas Party.

We have been planning events for 2019 and hope to have lots to report next year.

BCHC Thanks 2018 Rendezvous Donors

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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.

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	Jacob Hamstra
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Top Of The State	Rebecca Richman

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Redshank Riders	Timothy and Michaela Durbin
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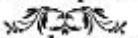
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Eastern Sierra	Sarah C. Sheehan
High Sierra	Karl and Trish Pendegraft
Mid Valley	Terri Arington
Redshank Riders	Christine Kaplan
Shasta Trinity	Ron Robertson - <i>In Remembrance of Korky Robertson</i>
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THANK YOU NEW MEMBERS

We look forward to meeting you!!

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Mid Valley

Mother Lode

North Bay
Pacific Crest
Redwood

San Diego

Santa Ana River

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BCHC Membership Coordinators are
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They will be happy to address your
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Chip and Linda may be reached Monday
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Associate Memberships Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

Associate Membership for: _____ \$15.00/Unit

Unit Name (from above list) _____ \$15.00/Unit

Associate Membership for: _____ \$15.00/Unit

Unit Name (from above list) _____

Add additional choices here _____

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

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A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit.

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

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

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

bchcalifornia.org
or call (775) 463-3634

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<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney Membership	\$500.00

On that form, I also requested:

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Date Mailed: _____

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

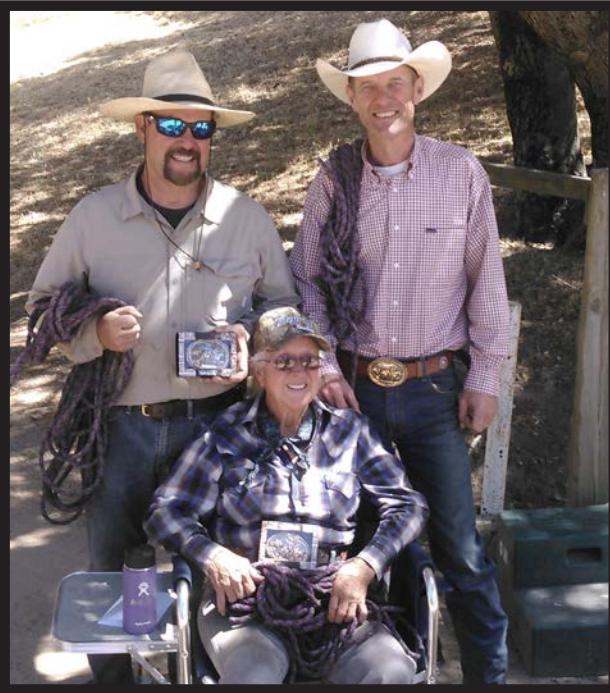
UNIT NEWS

San Diego Unit Packing School

By Martin Jorgensen- President

In March of this year the San Diego Unit of BCHC began their first-ever Packing School. This school had been in planning for a while and was created to help fill a growing need for packers to support projects with federal, state and local land managers in our area. (The San Diego Unit did approximately \$117,000 of calculated service in 2017.) Our Packing School lasted four

months, was primarily hands-on rather than classroom, and covered all aspects of stock packing and camping including pack equipment, stock restraint, personal and stock camping equipment, stock and human nutrition, first aid, wilderness travel and ethics, and Leave No Trace principles. Experienced packers from the San Diego, Red Shank Riders, and Santa Ana River Units assisted with the school and the instructors included Ray Spence, Michael Lewis, Martin and Terry Jorgensen, Elaine Bailey, Mike Williams, Stacy Kuhns and Amanda Albrect. The final test was an overnight trip to Granite Springs Trail Camp in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, where the graduates were presented with commemorative belt buckles. All students were BCHC members and all were required to use their own stock and equipment for the school. The class was a rousing success and we already have students lining up for the next session. We are looking at the possibility of putting on two schools a year- spring and fall, with the fall class



Three graduates: Ray Chevalier, Pat Rowe and Billi-Jo Swanson.



Pat Rowe learning hitches from Ray Spence.

probably located in our local high desert area. The Southern California units of BCHC, despite our proximity to large urban areas, have access to many different riding environments (from coastal to montane to desert) within two or three hours of driving time. This provides us with true all-season riding and camping, but our location also means that we deal with numerous land managers including national parks and forests, state parks, counties, municipalities, and state and federal wildlife agencies. Most of these managers have come to the realization over the last few years that Backcountry Horsemen can be a huge asset to their programs, providing packing support to trail, resource, and scientific crews in addition to clearing trails. The creation and support of working relationships with these managers that our service provides benefits not only Backcountry Horsemen but the entire trails community and hopefully keeps us part of the process when decisions are made that affect us. The Southern California BCHC units, through all the projects we've been part of the last few years, have been able to develop a seasoned cadre of experienced packers and stock (In 2017 numerous hours were put into The Deer Springs project.) The graduates of our packing schools will hopefully be joining these projects and working with our experienced stock packers to polish their skills and become an even greater asset to BCHC.



Roy Chevalier practicing the gate.



Billi-Jo Swanson maneuvering the mound.