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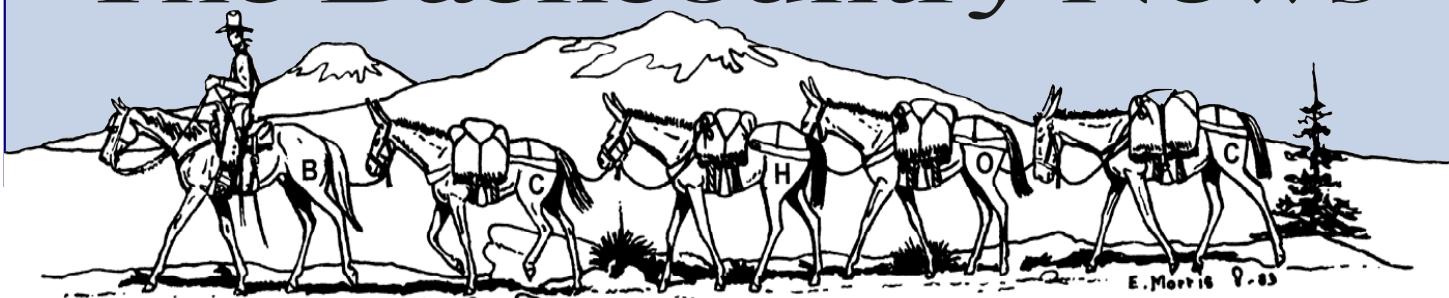
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BCHC

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN OF
CALIFORNIA
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The Backcountry News



Volume 16, Issue 2

The Official Quarterly Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

Spring/Summer 2009

STAUBER EARNS TRAILBLAZER AWARD

Presented to the member who in the eyes of the judges (BCHC Past Presidents) blazed new trails in some facet of the operations of the organization. Any member may nominate, by letter, anyone he/she feels has demonstrated qualities of a "trail blazer".



GARRY STAUBER, Ohlone Riders Unit with BCHC President Larry Shuman. Photo by Kathy Zumbrunn.

Below are excerpts from an article written by a staff member of the Santa Clara County Office of Education which explain a great deal about why Garry is a very deserving recipient of the 2009 Ben York Trailblazer Award.

"Garry Stauber had a dream to create an incredible program providing disabled and at-risk students with enriched lessons about his passions: horseback riding, love for the wilderness and camping. *Building lives*

filled with dreams and the power to make dreams come true is the DreamPower Horsemanship mission statement. DreamPower is a NARHA-affiliated therapeutic horsemanship program that resides at a stable nestled in the hills of Gilroy, California. DreamPower was recently recognized by the local newspaper for achievements related to its inaugural Equine Journey Wilderness Program.

The DreamPower curriculum included classroom activities discussing and encouraging creative thinking about values and character development, therapeutic horseback riding lessons, quality time with a psychotherapist, going into the backcountry and experiencing nature, learning about "Leave No Trace" camping and care for the natural world, and finally learning the "cowboy way" from real cowboys.

A final four-day horsepacking and camping trip in Henry Coe State Park took the students right out of their comfort zone and helped them build personal strength and character. It impacted them so much that they were even aware of the changes.

For his work in taking the values and goals of the Backcountry Horsemen of California and opening doors into agencies and lives that have been previously untouched by the BCHC, those who nominated Garry Stauber for this award believe he is a most deserving recipient.

The Backcountry News

A Quarterly Publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

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

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

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

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

Deadline	Publication Date
September 4, 2009	October 2009 - Fall
December 12, 2009	January 2009 - Winter
April 16, 2010	May 2010 - Spring/Summer

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

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

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

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Rendezvous 2010

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Event Planner: John Black • (209) 537-1516 • johnbfatman@aol.com

Web Coordinator

Lisa Deas • (831) 402-7492 • muledaze@yahoo.com

Membership Matters

Contact Membership Coordinator, Karen Harper.

She will address any of your questions or concerns.

Karen can be reached Monday through Friday,

Toll free: 1-866-748-2033

By mail: P.O. Box 1610, Oakdale, CA 95361-1610

Or by email: membership@bchcalifornia.org/

President's Page



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Proud to be part of such a great organization

I want to talk about a couple of things that have made me proud to be a part of such a great organization as BCHC. The first is this year's Rendezvous 2009. What a great way to kick off the year. It seems like

almost everyone had a great time and really enjoyed him or herself. The Marine Corps made us all proud to be Americans and made us realize what we do is still an integral part of the American way of life. The stands were packed for their demo. The Friday Night Social gave us all a chance to sit together and just renew old friendships, make new friendships and see the awesome talent that is scattered throughout the Units. I heard some great poetry, stories, and music. One other thing was the Parade, which gave us a chance to show pride in our country, state, and our Units.

And speaking of pride in our Units, we should all be proud of what we accomplished in 2008 work and training. We turned in \$1.8 million. That increased our work by more than 50% from the previous year. All this accomplished in volunteer work and education, in a time of recession, when money and finances are tight. That is stepping up to the plate and hitting a home run when it is needed. We should all be proud of this accomplishment. When we put out this much effort it makes it harder and harder for the Agencies to ignore us as a work force and an integral part of planning for building and maintenance of the trails on our public grounds. I hope and pray this year goes as well or better than 2008. As the Stimulus money becomes available it may be a great chance to even provide more service in 2009.

The Rendezvous Committee and Education Committee met the 25th of April to discuss the 2010 Rendezvous. We appreciate all of the suggestions, complaints (yes, I do appreciate complaints), and other ideas sent to us. I am in the process of organizing everything sent my way so we can provide an even better experience for the participants that come to Rendezvous 2010.

Have a great riding season and stay safe. I hope to see you at the 2010 Rendezvous.

NOTICE: As a cost-saving measure, we will only publish 3 editions of The Backcountry News in 2009.

**The deadline for submissions for the Fall 2009 edition of The Backcountry News is:
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 4, 2009**
**Send submissions to
news@bchcalifornia.org/ OR
cjohargreaves@clearwire.net
or mail to
1229 Maple Hill Ct.
Manteca, CA 95336**



OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE of the BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

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

Draft State Board Meeting Minutes



DRAFT
BACKCOUNTRY
HORSEMEN OF
CALIFORNIA
STATE BOARD OF
DIRECTORS MEETING
Friday, March 20, 2009
Stanislaus County
Fairgrounds
Turlock, California

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order a 1:12pm by President Larry Shuman.

Roll Call: Attendance was taken as Unit Directors signed in.

Units not represented:
High Country, Lake-Mendo

Minutes and/or Corrections:

Minutes of October 11, 2008 State Board Meeting were sent out in the packets. Budget Issues (3.e.ii) were corrected as follows:

-revisit insurance in January 2009, not in original motion

-2 abstentions not in this motion.

Motion to approve Minutes as corrected by Michael King, 2nd by Jerry Stone. Motion passed.

Secretary's Report/

Correspondence: Kaye Bruns reported sending tax information to units showing proof of our non-profit status.

REPORTS

Treasurer's Report: Lynn Joiner had her report included in the packets. No questions.
Motion to approve the Treasurer's

Report made by Toby Horst, 2nd by Terry Haider. Motion passed.

BCHA Action Report: Michael Murphy and Ann Lange not present, no report given

Insurance: Garry Stauber has the new Insurance Policies. They need to be signed by the President of each unit, or the highest ranking officer present. Horse Club Agreement and Release Waivers were handed out. They will also be posted on our website.

Membership: Karen Harper not present. Larry Shuman mentioned the Demographic Report through December 31, 2008, and noted we lost 106 members statewide.

Education Committee Report:
Jim Bell reported on the following:

1. Four new education flyers: snakes bites, safe drinking water, yellow jackets and horses, first aid for horses. He asked that units review and send comments to the Education Board.
2. Leadership Meeting will be held Saturday from 7:30-9:00
3. Core Classes: odd number for 2009. Evaluations will be done on most of the classes and demonstrations. This information will be used to report data to other agencies.
4. Wilderness Riders: Round-up to be held at 5:00pm on Friday, March 20th, Interviews will be on Saturday and Sunday. WR class will be May 9-15th at Henry Coe State Park. Jo Johnson, Donna Meyers, Ken Graves and Ruthie Heuer will be the instructors for the class.
5. Leadership Training Manual: Dan Horn is going to update the material.
6. Check our BCHC website

regularly for new flyers and general information.

7. 501C3: Chip Herzig gave an update. He recommended that units check out the IRS website and get to know all the do's and don'ts of donations.

Public Lands: Dan Clifford reported:

1. Pre-Rendezvous seminar given by Kevin Garden, a lawyer from Arlington, Virginia. Handouts will be posted on the BCHC website.
2. Stimulus package: there is money available for trail work. \$2.8 million added to the package because of what the CCC's have done.

Public Service: Carrie Johnen reported our units turned in \$1,887,536.32 of volunteer service

- There were two (2) units over the 1/4 million dollar range.
- There are new work pages to report your hours
- Five (5) units did not report hours
- She will be giving a class on Saturday on how to report hours.

Internet/Web Actions: Lisa Deas reported on our website www.bchcalifornia.org -

-Started site in December 2008, have 3000 hits

-WR page is under development, photo album of events

-Client Access tab: Presidents were notified of password for membership updates. If you need to change password, contact Lisa

-bchcalifornia.net will redirect until October 2009. Redirect will not work if security is not set correctly on a personal computer.

-Michael King commented that some units' web pages have not changed the state's old web

address to the new BCHC web address.

Newsletter: CJ Hargreaves reported the following information:

- 3 publications for 2009
- Mules and More magazine had a complete article on Rendezvous
- Extra newspapers to give out during Rendezvous. Equine Experience in Paso Robles was cancelled this year.
- April 17th, deadline for Spring/Summer edition.
- Newsletter is too large to mail electronically
- BCHC booth and newspapers will go to these events:

May: Mule Days- Chip and Linda Herzig

June: Horse Expo- Dan Marcus

September: LA County Fair- Chip and Linda Herzig

January: Equine Affaire- Chip and Linda Herzig

BCHC Travel Site: CJ

Hargreaves reviewed the travel site

- Started 2 years ago by donations from members
- Unit newsletters need to include travel site information
- Travel site needs to be posted on unit websites, encourage its use
- \$205.92 earned from the site
- 60% of commission comes back to BCHC- free money for us

OLD BUSINESS

1. Levels of membership: need to change on membership form
 - donation need to be separated from dues.

-update newsletter membership page

-need a space on membership form for email address

-lifetime memberships: what is the possibility?

Continued at top of Page 5

Draft Minutes

BCHA

**DRAFT STATE BOARD MEETING
MINUTES, continued from Page 4**

-dues are part of the bylaws

-ideas: \$5,000 life membership for adults, \$1,000 for those under 18

-Larry Shuman to bring back proposal for October meeting

2. October meeting place: on the table for now- waiting to hear from Garry and Karen about possible space at their work.

3. BCHC-equal representation to BCHA: Larry Shuman suggested it would be better to go back to BCHA, build support with other units. Do we want to raise the issue again? Idea will be placed on the agenda for October meeting.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Rendezvous Committee member needed

-dates for 2010 Rendezvous

-Education Committee plans the education part of Rendezvous

-Rendezvous Committee plans all other events. Need job descriptions for each area.

2. Education Fund Bylaws: need to review and update with current changes of officers.

3. BCHA: Jerry Stone wanted information clarifying Committee Chairs and Officers needing to be directors. California runs the major committees. Alan Hill and Ann Lange would have been dismissed.

4. Ben York Perpetual Trophy- Lynn Joiner would like to know where it is.

5. BCHC-CD project: Dan Horn would like photos of units in action. Send your photos to him so he can make this CD. Three people in 6 months sent him photos.

6. Larry Shuman has his photo program showing at the state booth.

7. Los Padres Unit has their new website up and running.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/OTHER
BUSINESS:**

- Who has the BCHC banner? Dan Marus will check it out, maybe with materials from booth at Horse Expo.

- Who has old photos from state booth? Lisa Deas has the photos that were used in the state booth.

- Correct spelling of BCHC: Backcountry (one word) Horsemen of California.

- Ohlone Riders: unit presented updated version of their bylaws

-Robert's Rules of Order needs to be suspended to allow discussion on changes.

Motion made by Dave Rigoli, 2nd by Steve Rennebu Motion approved

-Rachel Leiterman explained the changes, basically cleaned up the outdated information. Dues, Officers and responsibilities, Board of Directors are now clearly defined.

Motion to return Robert's Rules of Order by Jerry Stone, 2nd by Steve Rennebu. The motion was approved.

5. BCHC patches: use the logo, Dennis Jensen might create the patch

- 501C3: BCHC cannot advocate a political position

-IRS website: check it out. There are lots of pages on what you can and cannot do!

-Chip Herzig will write up information for members on how the 501C3 works.

- Budget: lost \$17,000 last year. There was a brief meeting before the Executive Meeting to discuss ways to cut expenses.

-Lynn Joiner will be sending out the bill for insurance costs. \$460.00 per unit according to the Demographics Report of December 2008. Bill will go to the Treasurer of each unit.

Each year there will be a vote on the insurance issue.

-President will present a proposed budget at the October meeting.

-Los Padres shared their ideas on membership drives.

- Saturday's Rendezvous activities:

-Opening ceremonies: parade with Marines, Band, units, riders, flags meet at the livestock arena at noon.

- Rendezvous 2010

-Contest for next year's theme, enter at the state booth

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 3:01pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Bruns
BCHC Secretary

**BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN
OF AMERICA**



**BCHA NATIONAL
MEETING**

The BCHA National Board Meeting was held April 21-25 at Ford Worden State Park near Port Townsend, Washington. Special meetings were held Tuesday, April 21 and the official meeting went from April 22 to April 25. Tuesday morning, April 21, was the Public Lands meeting and that afternoon Trail Classification Training was presented by the US Forest Service. This training is extremely important and all states and affiliates were encouraged to have representative attend. BCHC representatives are responsible to come back to us, the BCHC membership, and pass on this information. The Trail Classification Rule could be a valuable tool if we use it properly.

Joel Holthrop, Deputy Chief Forest Service, attended the Board Meeting to speak. There was also a special presentation from the American Hiking Society.

At the BCHC State Board Meeting in October we will have reports from our National Directors and others who attended the BCHA National Meeting. Please plan to attend.

**Mark Your Calendar:
BCHA Fall State Board
Meeting
October 9-11, 2009
Location to be announced**

Public Lands

ON-LINE TRAINING COURSES HELP UNDERSTAND THE WILDERNESS ACT OF 1964

From Dan Clifford, VP
Public Lands

Backcountry Horsemen
of California Public Lands
Persons:

Below is a link to the Arthur Carhart National Wilderness Training Center online training courses that are primarily maintained to acquaint agency personnel with the Wilderness Act of 1964, but that also will provide you with a tool to understand the Act and the Agencies' thinking. Ultimately, the courses will help you when reviewing forest plans, etc.

There are four FREE, self-paced courses varying in length from two hours to eight hours.

I recommend that you visit the site, and if you have time, enroll in at least the two basic two-hour courses.

[http://
carhart.wilderness.net/
index.cfm?fuse=elearning](http://carhart.wilderness.net/index.cfm?fuse=elearning)

The Carhart Center's online courses are offered in partnership with the Eppley Institute for Parks and Public Lands at Indiana University.

Free enrollment for the following four courses is currently open. Visit <http://carhart.eppley.org> To begin the coursework immediately. You will be asked to provide your registration information when you begin any of the course assessments.

Wilderness Act - FREE

This 2-hour, self-paced course is designed for students desiring an understanding of the 1964 Wilderness Act. It is a pre-requisite for students completing the Minimum Requirements Decisions course.

Course objective(s):
After completing the 1964 Wilderness

Act module, course participants will be able to recognize how the Act applies to wilderness stewardship issues.

**Minimum Requirements Decisions
- FREE**

This 2-hour, self-paced course is specifically designed for anyone proposing or reviewing management actions within wilderness. It requires prior completion of the Wilderness Act.

Course objective(s): After completing the Minimum Requirements Decisions module, course participants will be able to successfully apply the Minimum Requirements Decision process to wilderness stewardship issues. Note: This module is designed to assist you in the stewardship of Congressionally Designated Wilderness. Depending

on how your agency policy addresses other categories of wilderness, such as Wilderness Study Areas, Proposed Wilderness or Recommended Wilderness, the materials may or may not apply.

Wilderness Stewardship Planning Framework - FREE

This 6-hour, self-paced course is targeted to federal employees who are leading or are part of a team that is currently (or will soon be) writing a wilderness management or stewardship plan. It may also be

be able to demonstrate the skills necessary to develop and implement a plan that guides wilderness stewardship decisions.

Wilderness Visitor Use Management - FREE

This 8-hour, self-paced training course is designed for federal employees who are responsible for management of visitor use or are interested in implementing visitor use monitoring in wilderness. The course consists of 10 modules taught by four highly-qualified instructors. Fully-narrated multimedia instruction uses sight and sound to present thought-provoking concepts, relevant and practical advice, and engaging examples.

Each module concludes by helping course participants use what they've learned to develop work products by



helpful for those seeking to learn more about the components of wilderness planning used to address specific issues. The course consists of eight modules taught by two highly-qualified instructors. Fully-narrated multimedia instruction uses sight and sound to present thought-provoking concepts, relevant and practical advice, and engaging examples.

Each module concludes by helping course participants use what they've learned to develop work products. These suggested practical exercises will considerably lengthen the time it takes to complete this course, but are designed to get course participants started on the nuts and bolts of a wilderness management plan.

Course objective(s): After completing this course, course participants will be able to: articulate what visitor use management is and why it's important; identify relevant law and policy; identify visitor use issues and impacts; select and implement indirect or direct management strategies for addressing visitor use issues including implementing a visitor education program, and develop monitoring programs to track progress.

Public Lands

BCHC'S GERSON APPOINTED TO STATE EQUINE ADVISORY TASK FORCE SECRETARY KAWAMURA ANNOUNCES FORMATION OF THE EQUINE ADVISORY TASK FORCE

Release#CDFA09-004

Submitted by Ruth Gerson

SACRAMENTO, January 16, 2009 – California Department of Food and Agriculture Secretary A.G. Kawamura is announcing the formation of the Equine Advisory Task Force. The task force will act as liaison between the industry and the department in matters relating to equine health and economic data.

"California's equine industry touches every part of this state – from companion and competition horses to working equines and rodeos," said CDFA Secretary A.G. Kawamura. "This task force will assist the department in addressing important issues impacting the equine industry."

The Equine Advisory Task Force is a 12-member committee established by the secretary following a recommendation from the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. The task force is intended to increase the collaboration between the industry and department on equine issues. Members receive no compensation.

"We look forward to hearing from the task force as it works with the department in addressing some of the key issues facing the equine industry," said Al Montna, President of the California State Board of Food and Agriculture. "The social and economic value of this industry is an important component of California agriculture."

Members of the Equine Advisory Task Force:

Sandy Arledge, Sandy Arledge Quarter Horses, Inc.

Dr. Jerry Black, Pioneer Equine Hospital, Inc.

Mike Boitano, California Agricultural Commissioners and Sealers Association

Don Burt, Equestrian Consultants, Inc.

Dr. Greg Ferraro, University of California, Davis, Center for Equine Health

Bob Fox, Industry Consultant

Vince Genco, Pacific Airlift, Inc.

Ruth Gerson, Recreation and Equestrian Coalition

Ross Jenkins, California Cattlemen's Association

Christopher Korby, California Authority of Racing Fairs

Frank Vessels, Vessels Stallion Farm, LLC

Johnny Zamrzla, Showdown Rodeo, Inc.

CDFA's Animal Health and Food Safety Services Division provides services to protect public health and protect the health of California's livestock and poultry. The department's equine programs regulate the interstate movement of horses into California; establish controls for domestic and foreign disease concerns; and deter the misuse of drugs in show and sale horses.

AGRICULTURE SECRETARY VILSACK SEEKS DIALOGUE WITH PRODUCERS AND STAKEHOLDERS ON NATIONAL ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION SYSTEM

NEWS RELEASE submitted by Kathleen Hayden

WASHINGTON, April 15, 2009—Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack today held a roundtable discussion with a variety of stakeholders representing the full spectrum of views on the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The event kicks off a listening tour to gather feedback and input that will assist the Secretary in making decisions about the future direction of animal identification and traceability in the United States.

"Much work has been done over the past five years to engage producers in developing an animal identification system that they could support," said Vilsack. "However, many of the issues and concerns that were initially raised by producers, such as the cost, impact on small farmers, privacy and confidentiality and liability, continue to cause debate. In the spirit of President Obama's call for transparency in government, now is the time to have frank and open conversations about NAIS. We need to work collaboratively to resolve concerns and move forward with animal traceability."

USDA is seeking to engage stakeholders in an effort to hear not only their concerns but potential or feasible solutions to those concerns. The listening tour will seek input from communities throughout the country. As details for the tour are finalized, the information will be announced publicly and posted to the APHIS Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov. In the coming weeks, USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) will also be publishing a notice in the Federal Register to request input. Producers and stakeholders will be notified when to visit www.regulations.gov to provide their suggestions and comments, or they can access the site through the APHIS NAIS Web site.

"I recognize many groups have provided input into the system previously," said Vilsack, "but we know more today what kind of system will work, than when NAIS was first envisioned. And, I encourage stakeholders—both small and large—to embrace this opportunity to tell us what kind of system they feel would work and to talk about solutions. Over the coming months it will be my goal to personally dialogue with as many as I can—to hear firsthand how we can work together to develop a system that everyone can support."

In 2004, APHIS began implementing NAIS, an animal traceability system that would enable producers and animal health officials to respond quickly and effectively to animal disease events in the United States.

Public Lands

US FOREST SERVICE 'GESTAPO' RILES CROWDAT ISABELLA

By Steve Merlo, *The Californian*
contributing outdoors columnist,
March 26, 2009

Submitted by Toby Horst, SJSU, via
Mary O'dell - This is one more
chapter in the long running
discussion of the access (parking)
limits being proposed by US Forest
Service Region 5.

They came to lead the lambs to slaughter, but when the smoke cleared, the United States Forest Service found itself facing an angry pack of civilian wolves hellbent on tossing the governmental agency back into the woods. The 200-plus throng of concerned citizens first filled the Lake Isabella Senior Citizen hall last Monday evening, then overflowed into the foyers, each person wanting to make their point regarding government intrusion into their Kern River Valley livelihoods and recreational opportunities.

In a move that riled the normally laid-back local populace, the USFS has been proposing to shut off most vehicular access around Isabella Lake and the surrounding national forest mountains and substitute unpopular, mandated government plans to overtake these hunting, fishing, recreation and tourist attractions. The meeting, the supposed fifth in a series that went largely ignored until last Monday evening due to lack of proper USFS advertising, united the community to gather and repulse the direct threat against them.

There's no doubt that Tina Terrel, USFS supervisor for the

Sequoia National Forest, has a tough job. Mandated to adopt one of five proposed Congressionally-approved plans that could possibly thwart local commerce, recreational opportunities and the jobs dependent on them, Ms. Terrel's position dictates she publicly allow discussion regarding them before implementation. That's a great policy, but, when the meetings become a grandstand show for USFS civilian-crushing, Gestapo-like power, rather than public input and information gathering, then she's overstepped her bounds.

Now she will argue that she did her job, but those in attendance will attest that her and her cronies' attitudes left nothing but a bad taste in the mouths of those attending. It seemed that her mind was already made up and that the maps and plans she brought with her were nothing more than a smokescreen designed to showcase the impending changes. It also seemed that she was merely going through the motions to appease the crowd.

One of the nice things about truth is that it usually surfaces without too much ado. This is exactly what happened when Ms. Terrel's maps and proposed changes were proven to be an outright and deliberate inaccuracy by several of the audience who happened to have their own legitimate map overlays directly contradicting the ones she and her staff displayed. Contact Chris@StewardsOfTheSequoia.org for proof.

This was not the supervisor's intention, to provide falsehood, but she was under the direction

of her "Region 5" chain of command superiors to use the flawed maps they provided her for her ammunition. That alone should raise the beacon of suspicion about her employers and let the condor out of the bag. (By the way, a part of the forest service's overall plan for Isabella and the surrounding area includes even more condor protection in an area that has not seen the prehistoric bird in decades.)

If Ms. Terrel finds for the government, instead of the people after the showing Monday might, it will be a gross miscarriage of justice for not only the Kern Valley populace but the people of the United States as well. And, in case anyone is really interested, the proposed plans will cost the taxpayers \$93 million to implement.

Anyway, big government is at it again and is trying to stifle more of our rights. The public has been asked to submit comments regarding the Route Designation Plan regarding vehicular road closures around the lake and surrounding areas until March 31. Contact: Chris Sanders, Assistant Recreation Officer; Sequoia National Forest; 1839 So. Newcomb Street, Porterville, CA 93257 to comment on the proposed changes.

Remember, public apathy regarding this cause will merely allow the USFS to close off access to the fishing, hunting and camping in the area on a permanent basis, and replace the old plan with a stricter, heavier-policed, high-fine, non-public-use right of ways.

One last thing, with turkey season set to open Saturday,

one might also complain to the USFS about the lack of access to your forests. Most gates to public hunting areas are locked at this time and need to be reopened to address this hunter's issue. Don't be surprised when they write back and insist that the roads are open for most of the year. The truth is that they claim they don't have the manpower to open and close the gates, so they just keep 'em shut. Now that really irks me.



BlueRibbon Coalition Land Use
Update

GIANT OMNIBUS BILL GOES DOWN BY 1 VOTE!!

Submitted by Tom Firth, San Gorgonio Pass Unit

March 11, 2009

Dear BRC Action Alert Subscriber,
Greg Mumm, BRC's Executive Director, just called me from Washington D.C. He told me that the infamous Omnibus Public Lands bill, commonly known as "S. 22," failed by 1 vote in the House.

The Omnibus Public Lands Management Act of 2009 had been fast-tracked through the U.S. Senate and had been expected to pass the House earlier today. Tell me one vote doesn't count! The bill is over 1,200 pages long with over 160 different bills, designates 2.2 million acres of Wilderness, identifies three new national parks, 10 national heritage areas, and designates over 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers.

We'll have details later. Thanks to all who made calls and emailed on this bill.

Brian Hawthorne
Public Lands Policy Director
BlueRibbon Coalition
208-237-1008 ext 10

Education



Above: *Bruce and Jeannette DeMott were honored by Ken Graves, USFS, for their years of service to BCHC Wilderness Riders at the annual Wilderness Rider Round-Up held Friday, March 20, 2009.*
Below: *Lynn Joiner received the coveted Wilderness Rider of the Year Award.*



Low-Impact Horse Camping “Leave No Trace”

*Submitted by James King, Mid Valley Unit Editor, from the Long Riders Gear website:
www.LongRidersGear.com*

As we come into ride season, many of us will be setting out on some wonderful horse camping adventures! We found a very useful source of information on the principles for backcountry horse use and would like to share it with you. The excerpts below are just the tip of the iceberg in terms of what's available at travelingwithhorses.com. Enjoy!

Leave No Trace principles are universal for all regions of the United States. Specific information within each principle may vary from place to place, depending on the local environment and activity pursued. It is important to remember that LNT principles are guidelines, not rules. Consider your surroundings, local regulations, weather concerns, and your skill level when choosing the best way to Leave No Trace. Special considerations specific to a particular region or activity are included in more detailed LNT information.

Leave No Trace, outdoor skills and ethics was developed by The National Outdoor Leadership School and they are teaching practical conservation techniques designed to minimize recreational impact in the backcountry (and the front country) by horse users and other outdoor enthusiasts. The NOLS adapted these techniques from the ones set out for

mountaineers. Protect our access to the back country by practicing Leave-No-Trace Techniques!

Principles of Leave No Trace:

- Plan ahead and prepare before you go
- Minimize horse impact
- In popular areas, concentrate use
- In remote areas, spread use
- Avoid places where impact is just beginning
- Use campfires responsibly
- Pack it in, pack it out
- Properly dispose of what you cannot pack out
- Be considerate of others
- Leave what you find

Plan ahead and prepare before you go

Unnecessary impact in backcountry areas can be avoided by carefully preparing for your trip. For example, if you do not have adequate equipment for grazing restraints, you may be forced to put horses on short picket, perhaps even utilizing live trees as the picket anchor. The potential for overgrazing and girdling live trees is extremely high. Impacts resulting from being unprepared may seem minor, but they are not uncommon and over time result in long-lasting damage.

Minimize horse impact

Horses and mules have great

Continued on Page 10

Education

LEAVE NO TRACE, *continued from Page 9*

potential for leaving long-lasting impact in the backcountry. Horseshoes intensify those pressures and increase shearing force on soils and vegetation. As grazing animals, they compete with wildlife for available feed and can over utilize a meadow if not properly attended. As large animals reacting to fear, boredom, hunger and discomfort they can do damage very quickly. A frightened horse can girdle a tree within seconds if it is improperly tied.

In Popular Areas, Concentrate Use

Concentrating use on durable surfaces is a simple and effective method of reducing the impact of your backcountry visit. Main travel corridors and popular destinations typically have well-established trails and campsites. Make decisions and choose practices that will cause the least amount of damage and leave only short-term impacts.

In Remote Areas, Spread Use

Remote or pristine areas are quite fragile, and it is easy to create long-lasting damage. A horse party heading off cross-country in mountains or timber will often run into many obstacles. The potential for creating new and unnecessary trails is great. If you do travel cross country, take extreme care to minimize impact by you and your horses.

Avoid Places Where Impact Is Just Beginning

Most campsites can withstand a certain level of use. However, a

threshold is eventually reached where the regenerative power of the vegetation cannot keep pace with the amount of trampling. In many forested regions this may occur after only 10 days of use per season. Once this threshold is reached, the site will deteriorate more rapidly with continued use. This results in the development of an established campsite. The threshold for a particular site is affected by many variables including climate, soil type, elevation and aspect. All of these factors determine what species of plants will grow on the site, how durable the site is and to what degree it will be degraded by erosion.

Use Campfires Responsibly

The use of campfires in the backcountry was once a necessity for cooking and heat, but the development of versatile and efficient camp stoves has facilitated a shift away from the traditional fire. With increased use of the backcountry, the natural appearance of many areas has been compromised by overuse of fires and an increasing demand for firewood. Stoves are now almost essential equipment for minimum impact camping. They are fast and flexible and eliminate firewood availability as a concern in campsite selection. If you typically depend on fires for cooking, consider using a stove instead, and build a social fire just one or two nights of your trip.

Pack It In, Pack It Out

Pick up and pack out all of your litter. On the way out, when the panniers are light, try to pick up

litter left by others. Reduce litter at the source. When preparing for your trip, repackage food into reusable containers or remove excess unnecessary packaging. This makes less to pack in and less to haul back out. Trash is the non-food waste brought into the backcountry, usually from packaged products. The best bet is to carry out all trash. Some paper items can be burned in a campfire, but much of the paper packaging used today is lined with non-burnable foil or plastic. These paper products should be packed out with the cans, plastic, foil and glass.

Garbage is the food waste left over from cooking. Careful meal planning can easily reduce this waste and minimize the amount of leftovers. In the event you do have leftovers, they should be eaten later or put into a plastic bag or other container and packed out. Burning food waste requires a very hot fire (see special considerations for bear country) and burying this type of waste is inappropriate because animals will dig it up if it is buried. Animals, from squirrels to bears, habituated to humans as a source of food can become a nuisance or even a threat to humans. Consider the words "Leave No Trace" a challenge to take out everything possible that you brought into the backcountry.

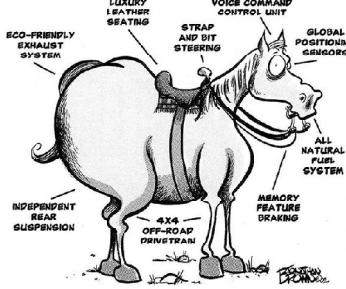
Properly Dispose of What You Cannot Pack Out

As visitors to the backcountry, we create certain types of waste that usually cannot be packed out. These include human waste and wastewater from cooking and washing. Wastes from fishing and

hunting are also concerns.

Leave What You Find

Allow others a sense of discovery by leaving rocks, plants, archeological artifacts and other objects of interest as you find them. Avoid damaging live trees and plants.



As our nation's Big Three auto manufacturers face bankruptcy, we must go back to the old time basics. Americans will soon need to embrace the original SUV. Submitted by Larry Shuman, BCHC President.

San Gorgonio Pass Unit Treasure Hunt

**May 9, 9:00 a.m.
Spend a fun time in
picturesque Garner
Valley hunting for
clues that lead you to
the pirates' hidden
treasure box.**

**\$25 includes ride,
dinner and a prize.
Contact Linda Herzig
or Jill Stokes for more
information.**

Education

In California...

"Backcountry" is ONE WORD!

That's the way our organization's name was spelled in our Articles of incorporation. Below C.J. Hargreaves uses Bill Chaides' Los Padres sweatshirt to illustrate the point. (Oops! Spelled wrong!)



Photo by Michael King.

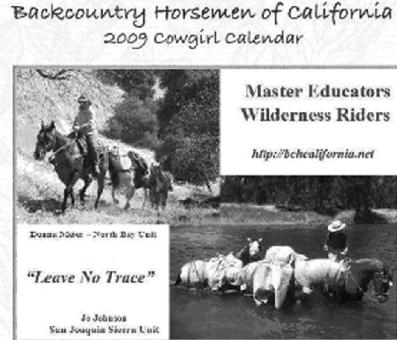
NEWS FLASH!

We are into the 2nd quarter of 2009; therefore we have reduced the price of the 2009 BCHC Cowboy/Cowgirl Calendars from \$20.00 to \$16.50! If you have not had the pleasure of seeing our very own BCHC Cowboys/Cowgirls, take advantage of this great offer.

Go to Lulu (<http://www.lulu.com>) to purchase this amazing calendar for only \$16.50 plus shipping. Type BCHC calendar in the search box.

\$3.00 for each calendar purchased, will go to the State as a fundraiser.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT OF BCHC!!



TO HAVE A HORSE IN YOUR LIFE

Submitted by Dick Blizzard, Antelope Valley Unit

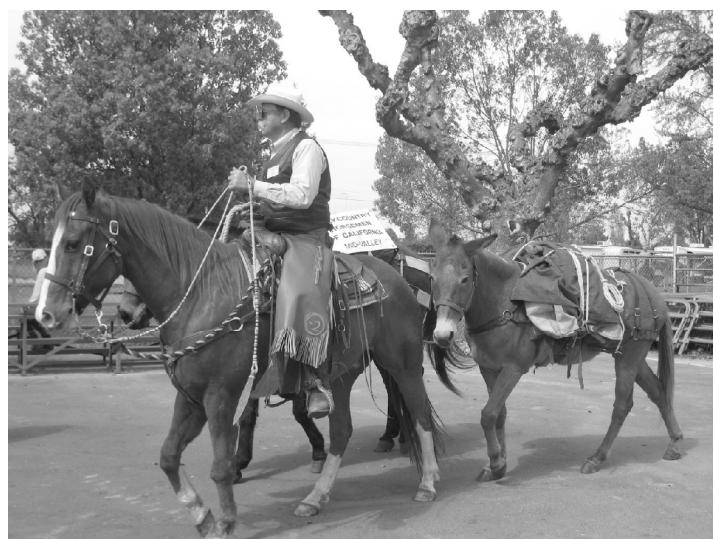
To have a horse in your life is a gift. In the matter of a few short years, a horse can teach a young girl courage, if she chooses to grab mane and hang on for dear life. Even the smallest of ponies is mightier than the tallest of girls. To conquer the fear of falling off, having one's toes crushed, or being publicly humiliated at a horse show is an admirable feat for any child (or adult!). For that, we can be grateful.

Horses teach us responsibility. Unlike a bicycle or a computer, a horse needs regular care and most of it requires that you get dirty and smelly and up off the couch. Choosing to leave your cozy kitchen to break the crust of ice off the water buckets is to choose responsibility. When our horses dip their noses and drink heartily; we know we've made the right choice.

Learning to care for a horse is both an art and a science. Some are easy keepers, requiring little more than regular turn-out, a flake of hay, and a trough of clean water. Others will test you - you'll struggle to keep them from being too fat or too thin. You'll have their feet shod regularly only to find shoes gone missing. Some are so accident-prone you'll swear they're intentionally finding new ways to injure themselves.

If you weren't raised with horses, you can't know that they have unique personalities. You'd expect this from dogs, but horses? Indeed, there are clever horses, grumpy horses, and even horses with a sense of humor. Those prone to humor will test you by finding new ways to escape from the barn when you least expect it.

Horses can be timid or brave, lazy or athletic, obstinate or willing. You will hit it off with some horses and others will elude you altogether. There are as many "types" of horses as there are people- which makes the whole partnership thing all the more interesting.



Lloyd Erlandson, Mid Valley Unit in Rendezvous Parade

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Education

TO HAVE A HORSE IN YOUR LIFE,

continued from page 11

If you've never ridden a horse, you probably assume it's a simple thing you can learn in a weekend. You can, in fact, learn the basics on a Sunday, but to truly ride well takes a lifetime. Working with a living being is far more complex than turning a key in the ignition and putting the car or tractor in "drive."

In addition to listening to your instructor, your horse will have a few things to say to you as well. On a good day, he'll be happy to go along with the program and tolerate your mistakes; on a bad day, you'll swear he's trying to kill you. Perhaps he's naughty or perhaps he's fed up with how slowly you're learning his language. Regardless, the horse will have an opinion. He may choose to challenge you (which can ultimately make you a better rider) or he may carefully carry you over fences - if it suits him. It all depends on the partnership - and partnership is what it's all about.

If you face your fears, swallow your pride, and are willing to work at it, you'll learn lessons in courage, commitment, and compassion in addition to basic survival skills. You'll discover just how hard you're willing to work toward a goal, how little you know, and how much you have to learn.

And, while some people think the horse "does all the work", you'll be challenged physically as well as mentally. Your horse may humble you completely. Or, you may find that sitting on his back is the closest you'll get to heaven.

You can choose to intimidate your horse, but do you really want to? The results may come more quickly, but will your work ever be as graceful as that gained through trust? The best partners choose to listen, as well as to tell. When it works, we experience a sweet sense of accomplishment brought about by smarts, hard work, and mutual understanding between horse and rider. These are the days when you know with absolute certainty that your horse is enjoying his work.

If we make it to adulthood with horses still in our lives, most of us have to squeeze riding into our over saturated schedules; balancing our need for things equine with those of our households and employers. There is never enough time to ride, or to ride as well as we'd like. Hours in the barn are stolen pleasures.

If it is in your blood to love horses, you share your life with them. Our horses know our secrets; we braid our tears into their manes and whisper our hopes into their ears. A barn is a sanctuary in an unsettled world, a sheltered place where life's true priorities are clear: a warm place to sleep, someone who loves us, and the luxury of regular meals. Some of us need these reminders.

When you step back, it's not just about horses - it's about love, life, and learning. On any given day, a friend is celebrating the birth of a foal, a blue ribbon, or recovery from an illness. That same day, there is also loss: a broken limb, a case of colic, a decision to sustain a life or end it gently. As horse people, we share the accelerated life cycle of horses: the hurried rush of life, love, loss, and death that caring for these animals brings us. When our partners pass, it is more than a moment of sorrow.

We mark our loss with words of gratitude for the ways our lives have been blessed. Our memories are of joy, awe, and wonder. Absolute union. We honor our horses for their brave hearts, courage, and willingness to give.

To those outside our circle, it must seem strange. To see us in our muddy boots, who would guess such poetry lives in our hearts? We celebrate our companions with praise worthy of heroes. Indeed, horses have the hearts of warriors and often carry us into and out of fields of battle.

Listen to stories of that once-in-a-lifetime horse; of journeys made and challenges met. The best of horses rise to the challenges we set before them, asking little in return.

Those who know them understand how fully a horse can hold a human heart. Together, we share the pain of sudden loss and the lingering taste of long-term illness. We shoulder the burden of deciding when or whether to end the life of a true companion.

In the end, we're not certain if God entrusts us to our horses—or our horses to us. Does it matter? We're grateful God loaned us the horse in the first place.

~Author Unknown



Dennis and his amazing spotted mule in Rendezvous 2009 Parade

Thanks to all who helped make Rendezvous

2009 a GREAT SUCCESS!

This includes all vendors and sponsors as well as those who participated or helped in any way!!

See you at Rendezvous 2010 in Merced!

Education

BCHC EDUCATION FUND DONATIONS

A Step-by-Step Guide

By Chip Herzig

Let's say you go out to a local hardware store and obtain a donation to BCHC Education Fund. After you receive the donation you need to give the generous donor a receipt. BCHC Treasurer, Lynn Joiner, has printed up a two-part NCR/carbon form to acknowledge receipt of dollars or goods. The original is white which is what you leave with the donor and you send the yellow copy to Lynn with the dollars. Lynn's address is on the form. You can fill the form out with the donor's name, address and phone but let the donor enter the dollar amount and sign the form. If the donation is materials then please have the donor put the Donation Amount on the form, don't fill this in yourself as the value established may have tax and/or liability implications.

BCHC Education Fund Inc. 16347 Stephenie St Bakersfield, CA 93314		Date _____
		
Name _____	Donation Amount \$ _____	
Address _____ _____ _____		
Phone _____	Signature _____	
<small>Please return yellow copy to Lynn Joiner at the address listed above.</small>		

NEW BCHC EDUCATION FUND, INC.

Alan Cain, Co-Chair, BCHC Education Committee

As with many volunteer organizations, the members of Backcountry Horsemen of California who actively participate in the operation of the organization, attend meetings, trainings, and then load up stock and head for the back country to do volunteer work on the trails, spend an enormous amount of time and money in their service.

Finally, an opportunity is on the horizon for BCHC members and supporters to enjoy a long overdue

avenue through which tax-deductible donations may be made to support BCHC educational programs and also write off the cost of travel to BCHC activities with educational components.

Under the leadership of past BCHC President, Chip Herzig, the BCHC Education Fund, Inc (EFI) has taken form. Due to have the corporate bylaws approved this August, the "EFI" is a 501(c) 3 not-for-profit charitable corporation duly filed with the IRS and the State of California. All monies donated to the fund by individuals, businesses, and corporations are tax deductible, and will be available to membership of BCHC through their units for the implementation of qualified projects and activities. At the same time, BCHC members

who travel to and participate in programs and activities that meet criteria set forth in the EFI bylaws will enjoy the opportunity to write off the reasonable expenses incurred. In all cases, EACH AND EVERY MEMBER OF BCHC WILL NEED TO CONSULT WITH THEIR PERSONAL TAX ADVISOR REGARDING DETAILS OF THEIR TAX DEDUCTIONS.

So, how does this all work? The answer can be long and detailed but in an attempt to give an overview we will take a glimpse at the BCHC Education Fund, Inc bylaws and highlight areas that directly affect membership and operation. First of all is the "Objectives and Purposes" of the corporation. The primary objectives and purposes of the corporation will be to educate people on how to utilize the principles of *Gentle Use* and *Leave No Trace* for preserving and improving the backcountry and wilderness areas of California; to promote educational programs that benefit stock users; and to promote cooperative interaction with other user groups regarding safety, care, and protection of our backcountry resources. To this end, the corporation, or EFI, will provide financial support for qualified programs that meet these specific objectives and purposes.

Okay, what qualifies for this financial support and how do we access it? The EFI bylaws look at qualifying projects from two angles. First is the "on ground" projects which could include pack clinics, Gentle Use camps, presentations, work projects, etc. Some of these are intrinsically educational in nature. For those that aren't, like work projects, simply make sure that an educational component is added during the project and it will meet

the criteria. The second angle has to do with BCHC membership keeping abreast of the knowledge needed to educate others on *Gentle Use* and *Leave No Trace*. Here the EFI bylaws read: "It is specifically noted that ongoing education of BCHC membership must be accomplished in order to successfully have educational knowledge and material to offer the public. To this end, all participation by BCHC members in BCHC Rendezvous, Leadership Training, and the BCHC Fall State Board meeting shall qualify as educational projects. Individuals will report these activities on a BCHC Education Fund, Inc "Short Form" for matters of record keeping and tax reporting."

What is the process for accessing the funds? The funds for "on the ground" projects will be accessible through a grant application process. Applicants must be units of BCHC in good standing and will be required to complete a grant application form and submit this form to the Grants Committee. The committee will be in place upon the acceptance of the bylaws this August. Until such time as the grant applications can be downloaded from the BCHC web page, applicants will need to contact the BCHC Education Fund, Inc office in writing at PO Box 40007, Bakersfield, CA 93384-0007 to request a form. Grant applications must be submitted no later than 45 days prior to the project commencement date and must be signed by the unit President. Incomplete or unsigned applications will be returned for completion and may delay funding.

Submitted grant applications will be reviewed by the Grants Committee for adherence to the "objectives and purposes" of the Education Fund, as previously stated in this

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Education

EDUCATION FUND,

continued from Page 13

article. Applications deemed inconsistent with the objectives and purposes will be returned to the applicant for re-working and re-submission. The Grants Committee, at its discretion, may make suggestions to the applicant to assist them in submitting a qualified project application.

In the event an applicant disagrees with the determination of the Grants Committee as to the qualification of a project application or another disagreement arises during the application, granting or reporting process, such disagreements will be handled by the BHCH Education Fund, Inc., Board of Directors, with any assistance they deem necessary and valuable. The Board's determination will be final.

Are there any reporting requirements once the money is disbursed? Yes. The BHCH Education Fund, Inc feels strongly that it is responsible to assure, to the best of it's ability, the wise and compliant use of the funds under it's administration. Therefore, all projects funded will be required to submit either a Completion Report for finished projects, or a Monitoring Report for projects that are ongoing and span more than one year. These reports will address the questions asked in the application regarding other participants, persons reached with the education information and generally explain the success of the project. The reports will also include a closing budget report, which will account for actual project costs. In the event a project goes over budget and the unit expends more money than was budgeted in the application, the unit may apply for additional funds. This will be done as a separate application and will be funded at

the discretion of the EFI Board. Grant funds that remain unspent after the project is completed are to be returned to the fund with the closing report. All granting and accounting of funds is subject to IRS scrutiny and adherence to budgets and actual expenses will be mandated. Closing reports will be required before the next project application may be submitted. Monitoring reports for lengthy projects will be required every 6 months.

Can contributors earmark donations for specific units?

Yes. The BHCH Education Fund, Inc will track and award monies as either "restricted" or "unrestricted" funds. Any monies donated to the EFI, which are not specifically designated for the use of a particular unit(s), will be accounted as "unrestricted" funds and will be available for all units to access through qualified grant applications.

Any monies donated to the EFI with the donor's specification that those funds be designated solely for the use of a particular unit(s) of BHCH will be accounted as "restricted" funds by the Treasurer. The units will have the same application process for accessing these funds as they will for the unrestricted funds. Restricted funds not utilized by the designated unit within 3 years of the donation may be rolled into the unrestricted fund, at the discretion of the Board, and be available for all units to access. In the event that a BHCH unit ceases to exist, any restricted funds held in that unit's name will be rolled into the unrestricted fund.

A unit submitting a qualifying grant application shall first utilize, if available, restricted funds held in its name. In the event those funds are insufficient for the project the remainder needed will come from the unrestricted fund, if available.

Note: persons or entities donating funds to the BHCH Education Fund, Inc, desiring to have those funds designated to a particular unit(s) shall have no say in the use or disbursement of those funds other than that they are to be for a particular unit(s) to access.

Will all necessary forms be provided? Yes. BHCH Education Fund, Inc will provide all necessary grant application, project monitoring, project completion, and expense reporting "short" forms to be used for all applications and reporting. BHCH EFI monies, whether restricted or unrestricted, will be accessed and disbursed solely through the use of the BHCH forms. As of this writing, only the grant application form is complete. All other forms will be in place by the time the EFI bylaws are approved in August. As mentioned earlier in this article, until such time as all forms can be accessed via the BHCH website on the Internet, they will be available by contacting the EFI office.

Banking of Educational Fund monies: The following is very important. The IRS looks "VERY DISFAVORABLY" upon co-mingling 501(c) 3 monies with non-exempt monies. In other words, DO NOT put any awarded Educational Fund money into your unit's regular checking account. Each unit, upon receiving granted money from the EFI, must open another checking account that will only be used for these funds. Yes, you will have two checking accounts. One account with separate accounting for the EFI money will not suffice.

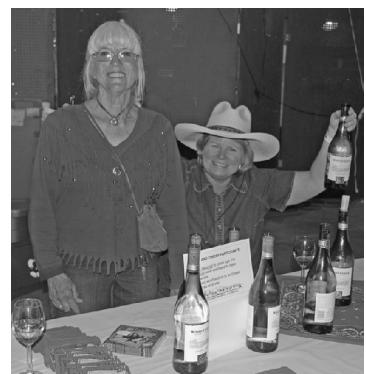
Conclusion: The BHCH Education Fund, Inc's granting and reporting program is modeled, to some degree, after a program that has been in place and working effectively for a National Forest Resource Advisory Committee

here in California. The accounting and reporting requirements for that entity are stringent, and it is believed that stringent procedures should be applied, likewise, to the BHCH EFI. There will undoubtedly be questions arising, as this program is ready to be rolled out and put to use. Such questions should be directed to Alan Cain, Co-Chair, BHCH Education Committee, who will do his very best to help sort things out.

Backcountry Horsemen of California, through the Education Fund, is on the brink of new possibilities for funding income and project accomplishments. The bottom line will be increased opportunities for sharing Gentle Use and Leave No Trace principles with the public, while receiving tax benefits for our efforts.

WINE & CHEESE VENDOR RECEPTION HUGE SUCCESS!!

Our thanks to Woodbridge and Butterfly Creek wineries for delicious wines and to Redwood Hill Farm and Hilmar Cheese for delectable cheeses to sample during our event!



Dora Rocha and Debbie Inskip, Mid Valley Unit, pour tastes of wine.
Photo by Kathy Zumbrunn.

Marines at Rendezvous 2009

MARINES AT RENDEZVOUS

By Lisa Deas, BCHC Education Co-Chair

Photos by Kathy Zumbrunn

The 2009 Rendezvous in Turlock was honored to have, for the first time ever, three of our country's finest men, from the United States Marine Corps, Mountain Warfare Center out of Pickle Valley, CA.

Tony Parkhurst (retired USMC – packing leader), Sgt. Chad Giles and Sgt. John Freesha (a Turlock native) arrived at Rendezvous with their big, huge mules and pack equipment.



I located the men after they had unpacked and situated their stock, with the Lake-Mendo Unit. Dennis Jensen's son, Capt. Sven Jensen (a BCHC member) had attended this specialized training center and had told me about their amazing program. Jensen extended a warm welcome (and quite possibly a cold beer) to the men. I found the men to be extremely polite, warm and, yes, funny! An instant friendship was made then and there.

Everyone did their utmost to make sure the Marines had everything they needed. A huge thank you goes out to the **North Bay Unit** for sponsoring the men, the **Rendezvous Committee**, **Mid Valley Unit**, and **JB Presents** for arranging lunch from one of the food vendors. **THANK YOU very much!!**

The Friday night awards dinner was full of good food and fun. Our event seemed to be well attended and got Rendezvous 2009 off to a great start. The Marines joined us at the table with the Lake-Mendo and North Bay Units. We got acquainted very quickly as these men were very adept at their social skills!!

Saturday found the bleachers completely full for the Marine packing demo. Crowds surrounded the area and the Marines, sporting their fatigues, set to begin. Tony Parkhurst led the way by addressing the

crowd with information about his unit and their mission. Cold Weather Packing was the topic, however Tony informed us that the only difference between warm and cold weather packing was to simply put



on more coats! Tony talked to us about how his unit also instructed many other countries in the art of packing. We were told that in Afghanistan the mules (sometimes burros) are procured from indigenous packers. Examples of various situations involving pack animals were discussed, with sensitive specifics excluded. Chad and John demonstrated their techniques of packing stock and it was drilled into our heads that the half hitch is the simple way to go! There was an extensive question and answer session following the demo and the crowd was very actively engaged in questions for the Marines. I asked Tony Parkhurst if we could raise the funds again for next year, would the Marines consider attending our event? The answer was a resounding **YES** and the crowd went wild!

A huge sense of patriotism was evident, especially when our first-time-ever parade was held at noon. Right on the heels of the Marines' demo, the Gustine High School Band, in full marching uniform, led the way, along with a Destiny's Crutch, a therapeutic riding group, the Mountain Men Reenactors (this was a demo that was new to our event also, and very well received, **thank you Mountain Men**), Lenore Ryan and her packing goat, a grand showing of Unit Presidents and other representatives and much more. If you missed the parade, it was quite impressive. At the Opening Ceremony, Jane Hammond sang the National Anthem and Larry Shuman conducted an Invocation. I don't know about anyone else but I hope this Parade and Opening Ceremony will become a trademark for our event and a BCHC tradition for Rendezvous to come!

The Saturday night dinner and fun band found the Marines dancing with young and old alike. Their interest in Backcountry Horsemen continued as they talked to anyone and everyone about our organization and their particular mission. I could not have envisioned a better cast of characters to attend our event. Should the Marines return, we will

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Parade & Opening Ceremony



PARADE AND OPENING CEREMONY

A Parade of Units and BCHC friends was held Saturday, March 21, at noon, lead by the Gustine High School Marching Band and a Modesto Sea Scout color guard. Mike Ellis emcee'd the Opening Ceremony where Jane Hammon sang the National Anthem.

PHOTOS from top to bottom, left to right:

Gustine H.S. Marching Band (George E. Smith, Director), Redwood Unit, Sea Scouts (Doug Champion, supervisor), Emcee Mike Ellis (Mid Valley Unit), Jane Hammon (7th grade student from SJSU), San Diego Unit's Judi and Dan Clifford and their dogs, Destiny's Crutch therapeutic riding group from Oakdale.



Rendezvous 2009-BCHC Awards



Carl Perry, Mid Valley Unit
President, accepts Unit
Education Award



Chuck Knight, Top of the State
Unit, earns Individual Education
Award



Bill Carter takes Volunteer
Service Award home to Eastern
Sierra Unit

2008 EDUCATION AWARDS

Photos by Kathy Zumbrunn

Presented to the unit that promotes education using teamwork, a unit that participates in a variety of events, a unit that has members who have participated in State-sponsored programs such as the Gentle Use, Wilderness Rider, Masters, etc., a unit that has members who contribute articles for unit, state and/or the education newsletters. Nomination Forms will be available at the State Meeting in October.

UNIT: Mid Valley Unit

Presented to someone who has demonstrated unique, creative and innovative education programs, someone who has used different methods or made a variety of presentations, someone who has reached a variety of age groups. Nomination Forms will be available at the State Meeting in October.

INDIVIDUAL: Chuck Knight, Top of the State Unit

2008 VOLUNTEER SERVICE AWARD

UNIT: EASTERN SIERRA

Presented to the unit(s) completing the most outstanding service record based on Volunteer Service Hours Report. There is a cumulative award and a "per capita" award based on number of members in the unit.



Mountain Men Art Davis and Terry Haider (San Gorgonio Pass Unit) in Parade with Marine Recruiter/Sgt. Ramirez and Los Padres' Bill Chaides/
Photos by Lisa Deas.



Marines at Rendezvous 2009

MARINES, *continued from Page 15*

include some Gentle Use dialog in their presentation and strive to attain Gentle Use Points for those who attend their demo!

The feedback I got from these fine Marines was wonderful. Chad told me that even if they weren't invited back next year, he was going to attend the Rendezvous. All of them loved BCHC and were amazed at the various work projects and public lands issues we are so impassioned about. All of the men told me they felt extremely welcomed by our group and thought we were one of the nicest organizations they had met. Here is what Tony Parkhurst emailed me:

Lisa, on behalf of John, Chad and me - thank you for making us at home for the duration of our stay and on behalf of the Marine Corps. Thank you for the time we had to present what we do in support of our service man and woman in harm's way. If there is anything that we can help you with please e-mail me and I will pass it up the chain.

Thanks
Tony

These men came to Rendezvous on their own dime, they took personal days off, unpaid, spent their own gas money and more. Just like all of our speakers, they invested in our common goals. As most of you already know, all of our speakers attend without stipend, however, since the military is a group near and dear to my heart and family history, this is the first time anyone has sponsored a speaker. The North Bay Unit paid for their admission, camping, stalls and food. Additionally, BCHC members brought hay for their stock.

It is my humble opinion that, in the future, if we wish to secure some new and diverse speakers, we should attempt to gain sponsorship from various arenas. This is one way we can be "better by design", bring new and exciting speakers, and involve the public by their investment and more.

One of the unique demos was the Mountain Men Reenactors, who provided demos the entire time of this event. If you missed their demo, you really missed out. Terry Haider, his wife and mother along with Art Johnson provided essential history lessons and tomahawk tossing. Terry has volunteered to spearhead the History of Packing for BCHC. I welcome anyone who has information on BCHC members who have been instrumental in packing in their area, to contact me and/or Terry to begin documenting and archiving our history. In order to pass along our heritage, it is crucial that we begin this step to share with generations to come!



I personally want to thank each and every person on the Education Committee, Rendezvous Committee, the Mid Valley Unit, JB Presents, each and every Gentle Use speaker and clinic trainer, as well as everyone who participated in making this year's Rendezvous a success. I know I have forgotten many but please forgive me; you are all generous in your time, money and energy. I am having so much fun getting to know everyone! What a class act BCHC is! Thanks from the bottom of my heart. What I lack in equine knowledge, I hope to make up for with my devotion to BCHC and my organizational skills.

In today's economy and hard times, it was a breath of fresh air to forget our differences for a weekend and celebrate our similarities. I, for one, left exhausted, tired in a good kind of way, much like a packing trip. We hit some bumps and overcame the obstacles and the end result was a job well done!!

If you have any pictures from the Rendezvous, please email them to me as I'm adding a Photo Album to our state website. I know that Larry Shuman would like photos for his ongoing slide show presentation and Dan Horn would like photos for his Wilderness Rider slide show (a Wilderness Rider page will be added to our website, too - stay tuned)☺.

I am available by email, phone or snail mail, so please don't hesitate to contact me with your feedback, questions, and suggestions. We are all here to make BCHC the most effective organization it can be. This is YOUR organization! It takes a village...

Yours truly,
Lisa Deas
Co-VP of Education and Webmaster
muledaze@yahoo.com

Rendezvous 2009-BCHC Awards



MAX AND IRENE COCHRAN JOURNALISM AWARD, 2008

Photo by Kathy Zumbrunn

Presented to the unit and its newsletter editor based on the quality of their newsletter: 70% Content, 20% Appearance, 10% Consistency.

1st Place	Yvette Mendes	The Redwood Unit Hayloft
2nd Place	Mary O'dell	San Joaquin Sierra Hoof Prints
3rd Place	Rhonda Strickland	Redshank Riders Newsletter
4th Place	James King	Mid Valley Monthly
5th Place	Corky Layne	Mother Lode Unit Matters
6th Place	Becky Delaney	Ohlone Riders Trail Talk
7th Place	Crystal Champion	Sequoia News
8th Place	Corky Layne	Sutter Buttes Unit Newsletter
9th Place	Linda Tunnell	Los Padres Times

There were nine entries this year – the most since 2006. Three brand new entrants. One Editor publishes TWO Unit newsletters! This year's panel of judges was made up of three experienced BCHC Newsletter Editors and Kay Garcia, Commercial Specialist from The Manteca Bulletin, publisher of BCHC's Backcountry News. Kay has 22 years experience in the newspaper industry.



2008 TOP HANDS

Photo by Kathy Zumbrunn

Unit President's selection of the individual who provided the greatest service to the President and his/her Unit.

Antelope Valley	Ray Drasher
Eastern Sierra	Bill Carter
High Country	Richard Butler
High Sierra	
Kern River Valley	Ken Finch
Kern Sierra	Vicki Moore
Lake-Mendo	
Los Padres	Dave Rigoli
Mid Valley	Carol Jo Hargreaves and Michael King
Mother Lode	Claudia Ball
North Bay	JoDean Nicolette
Ohlone Riders	Kathy Woods
Redshank Riders	Audrey Turpin
Redwood	Erica Canevari
San Diego	Terry Jorgenson
San Gorgonio Pass	Ladd Stokes
San Joaquin Sierra	Jan Mikkelson
Santa Ana River	Steve Geier
Sequoia	Crystal Champion
Shasta Trinity	Sam Burrows and John Ellery
Sierra Freepackers	David Whitehead
Sutter Buttes	Corky Layne
Top of the State	Carol Hastings



Rendezvous 2009-BCHC Awards



Dave & Kathy Moser,
Mid Valley Unit, Cook-Off
Winners, Amateur Division.
Photo by Kathy Zumbrunn.

DUTCH OVEN COOK-OFF RESULTS

AMATEUR DIVISION

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 st Place | Dave and Kathy Moser – Cowboy Enchilada Casserole |
| 2 nd Place | Gary and Jan Heppner – Spare Ribs |
| 3 rd Place | Susan Flagg, Michelle and Joe Pimentel – Guadalupe Chili Pie |
| 4 th Place | Kellie Land – Roasted Orange Chicken |
| 5 th Place | Chuck Mount and Terry Johnson – Brunswick Stew |
| 6 th Place | Dan Cotton and Marcy Watten – Enchila Casserole, Pineapple Upsidedown Cake |

PROFESSIONAL DIVISION

- | | |
|-----------------------|--|
| 1 st Place | Ron Akers – Chili Colorado, Apple Pecan Caramel Cake |
| 2 nd Place | Sandy and Barbara Newsome – Pork Roast and Bread |

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL

Lyle Charter, Shasta Trinity Unit, recites
“The Cowboy in Paradise”



Musicians entertain at Friday Night Social

From left to right: Steven Horst (Kern River Valley Unit), Ron Jefferson (San Joaquin Sierra Unit), Julie Perry and Bob Daniel (Mid Valley Unit). John Black, Event Coordinator, in background. Photos by Kathy Zumbrunn.

CONTEST AWARDS

GENTLE USE DEMONSTRATION CAMP - Los Padres Unit

BCHC Units were invited to assemble a demonstration camp with equipment and supplies for two people for two days. The 10'x10' camp was to demonstrate “Gentle with other users”, an important Gentle Use principle. Points were given for signage, handouts, props/equipment, Gentle Use principles shown, best use of theme and best over-all “look” of the presentation.



Photo by Kathy Zumbrunn.

ODD LOAD PACKING COMPETITION - Mike and Zack Toberer

A two-packer team used iron mules on which to pack loads and tool bags provided by the Rendezvous Contest Committee. Contestants provided their own pack saddles, boxes/bags, mantles, lash cinch and ropes. Teams packed three loads typical of items needed for long-term crews doing backcountry trail work. One load was tools. Judging was based on a combination of time, teamwork, and load safety and security.

TRAIL TRIAL COMPETITION (a CSHA-BCHC partnership)

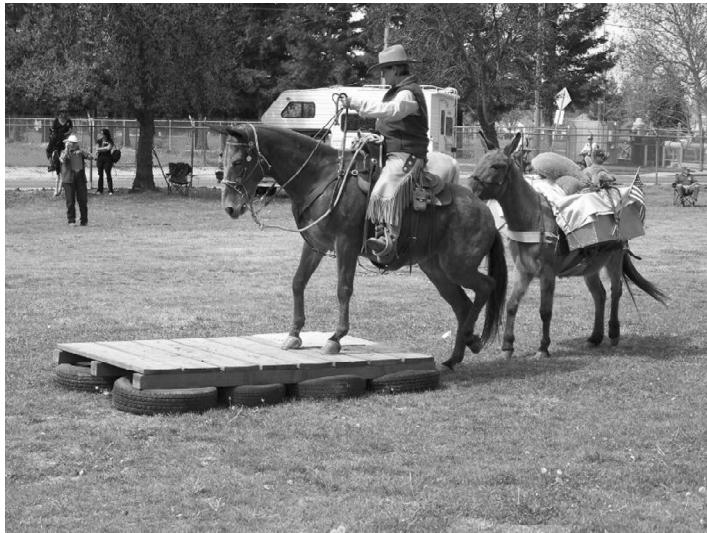
Judges: Joan Wilkinson, Lynn Madranya, Vicki Kardell, Diane Medlock, Dave Ewbank, Tami Sandburg

Lead Line – Billy Bob Chapin (60)

Juniors –

- | |
|--|
| 1 st Place – Sagen Maddalena (31) |
| 2 nd Place – Sidney Fultz (80) |
| 3 rd Place – Tyler Tobin (95) |
| 4 th Place – Sidney Rohrbaugh (114) |
| 5 th Place – Lindsey Michels (117) |

Rendezvous 2009-BCHC Awards



Ruth Ann Soeth, 1st Place in Trail Trial Pack Teams Event

Pack Teams –

- 1st Place – Ruth Ann Soeth (16)
- 2nd Place – Lloyd Erlandson (43)
- 3rd Place – Victor Pedroza (53)
- 4th Place – Dennis Peregrina (78)

Trail Trial –

- 1st Place Buckle – Kelli Land (14)**
- 2nd Place – Jill Creech (18)
- 3rd Place – Nellie Miller (28)
- 4th Place – Coral Kane (33)
- 5th Place – Sharon Power (36)

TABLE DECORATION CONTEST

All units decorating their tables at Saturday night dinner are automatically entered in this contest. Basic rules are that the Unit name must be clearly visible and entries over three feet tall are disqualified.

- Most Humorous – Lake-Mendo
- Most Original – Shasta Trinity
- Best Represents BCHC – San Gorgonio Pass
- Best Overall – Los Padres**
(in charge of Table Decoration Contest at Rendezvous 2010)



At left: Gary Heppner, Mid Valley Unit, explains how he creates his artwork in bronze.

WESTERN ART SHOW WINNERS

By Cheryl Wegner, San Diego Unit

First Place: Photo by Dave Clary

Second Place: Pencil by Ruth Deoudes

Third Place: Bronze by Gary Heppner

People's Choice Award: Donna Peterson (This won overwhelmingly.)

In the separate categories:

- Painting: Gary Heppner
- Photo: Dave Clary
- Carving: Brad Miller
- Arts n Crafts: Steve Grier
- Sewing: Vicki Moore
- Leather Work: Jade Oats
- Pencil: Ruth Deoudes
- Poetry: Lisa King
- Bronze (other): Gary Heppner

This was a really great show. Thanks goes to Promoter John Black and his assistant Jim Christensen for providing easels and extra hands when we needed them. We had 60 entries and they were all wonderful! Having the art displayed during the Wine and Cheese event provides everyone an opportunity to enjoy the great talent in our midst. Announcing the winners during the Wine and Cheese event worked better too. Thanks to all who participated!



Cheryl Wegner, San Diego Unit Art Show Coordinator, with Donna Peterson, Mid Valley Unit, winner of People's Choice Award

Photos this page by Kathy Zumbrunn.

Unit News

VALLECITO DAYS RELIVE COLORFUL PIONEER PAST

Travelers crossing desert would stop for fresh water

By J. Harry Jones, STAFF WRITER

Reprinted from the March 29, 2009 edition of The San Diego Union Tribune

Submitted by Cheryl Wegner, San Diego Unit

EAST COUNTY — They were all there yesterday afternoon: the soldiers, the mountain men, the stage coach passengers and the nearly dead horseback travelers who had crossed the dry, hot desert with dreams of a better life in California. "It was such a long ride," said Terry Jorgensen. "There was no water, no water for days." Well, not really. Jorgensen was one of dozens of actors re-enacting part of San Diego's history during the third annual Vallecito Days celebration.

Many westbound settlers have paused at Vallecito over the centuries. The area offers the one thing every traveler needs: fresh water from a nearby spring. "Every year we celebrate the stage station and the people that went through here," said Lynne Newell Christenson, the county's historian, who was dressed appropriately in an 1850s-era green-patterned dress. "From the time of the Gold Rush all the way through the Civil War, there were many people coming to California via the southern route and they would have come right by here."



Trail boss Terry Jorgensen and her husband, Marty, led riders to Vallecito Stage Station. The third annual Vallecito Days celebration continues today at Vallecito Regional Park off County Route S-2. (Charlie Neuman / Union-Tribune) -

That includes the unfortunate fiancée heading West to get married. She died at Vallecito, unable to survive the arduous trek. Legend has it that her wedding dress was packed in her bags and she was buried in it nearby. Many people swear her ghost haunts the sod stage station and surrounding grounds.

Vallecito Days is hosted by the San Diego County Department of Parks and Recreation, California State Parks and Ramona Trails Association, of which Jorgensen is the official trail boss.

"It's wonderful," said Joe Halsted, who decided to camp in nearby Agua Caliente County Park this weekend with his wife, Catherine, because of the Vallecito celebration. "We came down just for this." His wife was being taught by mountain man J. Alexander, 50, a retired sailor, how to start a fire using a flint striker, stone and char cloth.

Just around the corner, a couple of costumed men threw tomahawks at a target. And 100 feet away, more than a dozen soldiers from the Army of the West were manning a Gatling gun. Alexander and fellow mountain man Tim Gilkey have been portraying trappers for years. "This is me, this is what I love to do," said Gilkey, 47, who in his other life sells adhesives for the 3M Corp.

Over at the Army encampment, Trooper Frank Karg; his wife, Lisa; and 3-year-old daughter, Amanda, were all dressed in period garb. When he isn't playing soldier, Frank Karg is director of operations for a company that makes cardiac medical equipment. He said one day in April 1862, U.S. soldiers camped at Vallecito on their way to New Mexico to confront Texans heading West to claim California for the Confederacy.



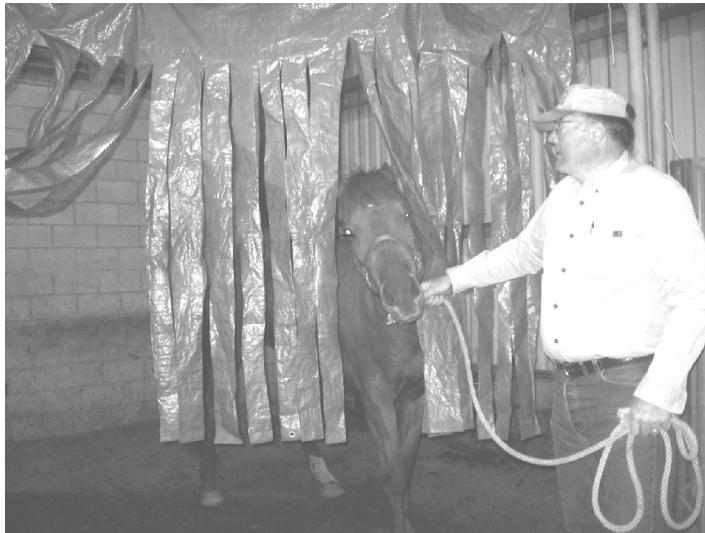
TOP OF THE STATE TRAINS SCOUTS TO PACK

Submitted by Chuck Knight, Top of the State Education Chairman

On March 10, Backcountry Horsemen of California Top of the State Unit held a Packing 101 class for Boy Scout Troop 57. Scout Master Dennis Raumaker and Troop 57 enjoyed an evening of instruction and hands-on experience. Four volunteer Packers- Dale Payne, Ken Duvall, Al Buchter and Bob Dean - did an excellent job of showing everyone present different types of pack saddles and packing styles. The presentation included balancing a load, tying the load down and what type of gear to take into the backcountry. An educational evening was had by all.

Thanks to Dennis, Troop 57 and all the packers! If your group or organization would like to attend a similar class, please call Chuck @ 530-598-1640.

Unit News



TOP OF THE STATE UNIT SPRING TUNE-UP

Submitted by John Lyons, Top of the State Public Lands Liaison

Top of the State Unit held a Spring Tune-Up on Saturday, April 10th. Laurie Robustelini demonstrated how to get your equine focused and ready for Spring. We talked about saddle and tack fit and how to take your equine over obstacles like tarps and bridges. Pictured is Al Buchter from Etna.



**EQUESTRIAN
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by Sue De Laurentis and Allen Pogue

What to Expect When Vaccinating
by Natasha Joseph

Make Money With Horses
by Don Blazer

Slowing Your Gaits
by Don Blazer

The Buffalo River of Arkansas Inspires Equestrians

This Month's Breed in the Spotlight - The Black Brigade Funeral Horses
by M. Y. Mim

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BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMAN OF CALIFORNIA



SANTAANA RIVER UNIT

Annual Backcountry Horsemen Packing Clinic Hosted by Santa Ana River Group

On Saturday, May 2, 2009 the Santa Ana River group will be hosting a Packing Clinic and Packing Trail course as this year's group fundraiser.

The event will be held at the following location:

Laramore Riding Arena
11380 Little Dipper St.
Mira Loma, CA 91752

The event is open to the public, and membership is not required. The clinic will introduce packing to equine enthusiasts interested in experiencing the serenity and beauty of high country wilderness in California's open space. The focus will be to educate "hands on methods" with iron mules, dummy mules, introducing packing equipment to horse "Men & Women", prior to practicing with real packing mules & horses. All essential equipment will be provided. Participants are welcome to bring their equine partners.

General Admission: \$5.00, which includes class instructions only

Hands-on Training: \$35.00, which includes approximately a 2 hour packing instruction on
"experienced mule/horse"

Packing Trail Course: \$10.00 entry fee

For More Information, please contact:

Al Shirley: (951) 329-0251
Or
Vicki McIntyre: (951) 213-1403

CONGRATULATIONS, RAFFLE/DRAWING WINNERS! WILD HORSE SANCTUARY RIDE

Deb Pearce, Wilton, CA

BEN YORK PLAQUE

Becky Wolk, Mother Lode Unit, Eldorado, CA

ROUND PEN

Ron Bevers, Sequoia Unit, Sparks, NV

Unit News

SANTA ROSA J.C. STUDENT TRAINING

By Dan Horn, North Bay Unit, Education Chairman

On Friday April 10th, Ranger Joel, Donna Meier and I took a group of Students from the J.C. lead by their instructor, Regional Park Ranger Bill Trunick, out to the South Trail Head at Lake Sonoma to work on the water trough and spring. We wanted to show them the advantages of using pack stock when doing trail work.

We started with a trailhead orientation giving the basics of pack stock, pack saddles and pack gear. For some of these young folks it was the first time they had ever seen pack stock except in movies.



After finishing up loading the stock, we took off to the spring location about a 1 ½ miles in. Donna and I took the lead with the students following on foot.

Once at the site, first order of business was to disassemble the old spring box. Our plan was to move it up the hill to where the water came out of the mountain. So Ranger Bill got the bunch started taking down the fence that we have to put around springs to keep the wild pigs out.

Then they dug up the old spring box, while we laid out where the new ditch would go up the hill. Ranger Mike Atchison had dragged in the new pipe behind the ATV a few days before.

While part of the crew began digging out the new spring location, we fired up the two Mantis Tillers we packed in to show them the advantages of modern equipment.

Ranger Bill gave us a demonstration of the backbreaking way grandpa use to do it, but there were no complaints from the crew about using the tillers.



While the crew was cutting ditch and setting the spring box, Donna and I went back to the trail head to get six 80 lb. bags of pea gravel to surround the spring box as a filter. We also had to call down to the Lake Office to scrounge some more pipe, seems my guess from memory was about 50 ft short.

Our timing was perfect to return, the gang was ready for the Pea Gravel. I had to laugh as they unloaded the bags off the pack stock, one of the boys said he was sure glad he did not have to carry them in from the trail head.

Ranger Joel added in the extra pipe we had Ranger Cindy Rowe run up to the trail head and the water started to flow.

Thanks to Ranger Bill and the J.C. students for a job well done. This water trough has been dry for over a year. I would like to give Shear Builders Inc. of Windsor a special thanks for donating the Pea Gravel.



Unit News

SJSU ATTENDS EMERGENCY FIRST RESPONSE AND FIRST AID CLASS

Article submitted by Mary O'dell, Photos by Katie Horst

Hi! My name is Ted Fischer, and on February 7, 2009 I had the opportunity to attend the Emergency First Response (EFR) and First Aid class taught by John Mikkelson. The class instruction, discussions, and demonstrations were awesome! John's knowledge and expertise were exemplary and his delivery, which was casual yet firm and to the point, invited great class discussion.

A few of the many highlights for me were learning the distinction between EFR Primary Care (CPR) and EFR Secondary Care (First Aid). We were taught the steps and techniques for handling life-threatening emergencies and first aid. I also enjoyed the emphasis that John placed on EFR when you are in the backcountry, riding, or packing. John discussed first aid items as well as survival items that we, as horsemen and horsewomen, should carry with us both on our person and on our animals.

In order to make this class time effective and efficient it was limited to fifteen people. I highly recommend that you contact John in order to be a part of his next class. The next emergency may be tomorrow in your own home!



John Mikkelson provides first aid to SJSU member, Mary O'dell

TRADITIONS AND PRIORITIES

By Kim Riley, Lake-Meno Unit

Submitted by Lisa Deas, North Bay Unit

So, it seems to have become a tradition, that on the first nasty-ass storm of the year, that that is the time that Karen has determined to go out on recon of potential new trail areas out at Highland Springs. Last year or the year before (can't remember, it's all a blur), found Kim Ross and I hiking in a near monsoon, at Karen's bidding, out on what is now called Prickly Pea Trail. We forded the creek in muck boots, holding ourselves up with branches and old rake handles, as the creek current was very strong, trying to step on the little tufts of grass as stepping stones, but knowing if we missed that our boots would fill up with icy, cold water. We had raingear, but we were slipping and sliding, holding onto trees and brush, clawing our way up the side of the mountain, only to be blown over by the hurricane force winds of the storm at the top. Karen only picked the day of the biggest storm of the year to do our recon work there, and of course, Kim Ross and I are sheep and just follow Karen wherever she determines that we might find a trail. So we were wet and grimy and cold when we finished, but, yes, it was fun. Oh, well, Kim and I survived. Karen was appeased...and we did get Hard Scramble and Prickly Pea for all of that hard work. And besides, on the good weather days, we ride...any questions?

With a tradition precedent set, picture yet another rainy day, another phone call from Karen, the two Kim's are slogging after Karen up the backside of the Lake Trail and then up and beyond. (The two Kim's are obviously not very bright). Karen is mumbling something about some trail that some other Karen had shown her years ago. Pushing through wet chemise and chaparral, their Gortex raingear not living up to its guarantee, the wet trio finally punches through and now we have See Saw Trail.

So, following tradition yet again, this past November, the first nasty-ass storm of the fall arrived. Karen calls on the phone and says, "We're going out!" No, no, we didn't languish inside, soaking up the heat of our woodstoves while reading a good book and eating bonbons. We didn't do the much-needed chores of the household (what a bore!), or watch movies (while eating bonbons...). We met at the horse staging area at Highland Springs and hiked in. So, again, we were slipping and sliding and pulling ourselves up with brush and branches and falling on our asses. Did you all know there was a gargantuan cistern up on the ridge just out of the horse staging area from the old hotel that was out there years ago? Well, there is and now, thanks to Mike (he has become a regular), the two Kim's, Clarisse (ahhhh! Clarisse is a new sheep of Karen's...she looks like a tiny china doll, but she cuts trail like a dynamo!), and of course, Karen

Continued on page 26

Unit News

TRADITIONS, continued from page 25

(what power does she hold over these sheep?), we now have Cistern Trail.

So, today, March 15th. (did not the soothsayer say, "Beware the ides of March?"), with County GPS in hand, Karen leads a small, yet foolish group through the drizzle. Near disaster almost foils the hike from the get go, when the GPS loses power due to drained batteries. But, hark! Do not fear. Victoria is here! (a new one suckered into the group) saves the day by diving into the depths of her jeep, tossing gear hither and thither and finding a walkie talkie with two AA's! Kim and Clarisse watch, holding their breath, as Karen puts in the two batteries...ta da! Power on and we're good to go. Up, up, up they hike (feel the burn, girls!) to what will hopefully become Quarry Trail very soon.

So, these trailbuster's traditions of going out in inclement weather, laughing in the face of turbulent deluges and impetuous torrents, facing the shear ferocity of Mother Nature's fury! These brave souls have brought us, and have yet to bring us, some mighty fine trails. (But, just because they've always done it that way doesn't mean it's still not incredibly stupid ;-)

Plus, these trailbusters have a different set of priorities. Oh, well, here's what I say about priorities: hundreds of years from now, it will not matter how clean my house was or the fact that all of my laundry gets heaped on the pool table, the garbage ALWAYS needs taken out (why is that?), or that there's always two dishwasher loads of dishes in my kitchen sink. The world may be a different and better place because we trailbusters did something so bafflingly crazy, so curiously bizarre, so truly fanatical, so obviously deranged...that it becomes...a trail...or a trail system...for all to enjoy...

Oh, and by the way, if you don't have caller ID and it's a rainy day, don't answer your phone. It could be Karen! (349-1559). But, don't be hard on Karen. She's a dinosaur, one of the last trail juggernauts, one of the few of us with directional knowledge. But her mind teeters on the brink, some days totally coherent, other days totally incongruous with only the glimmerings of the trail force, the trail karma, if you will. Send your donations to 9740 Kelsey Creek Drive, Attention: KIM, or better yet, donate your time and muscle. Keep the trails alive!

Rhonda Strickland won 3rd Place in the prestigious Max & Irene Cochran Journalism Award for the Redshank Riders Unit newsletter.

Rhonda is a web and graphic designer who handles the Redshank Riders Unit's website and volunteers to do the monthly newsletter. She also voluntarily designed the 2007 Rendezvous booklet.

Photo by Pete Spencer



RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING OFFERED BY SANTA ROSA PLATEAU RIDING CLUB JUNE 19 AND JUNE 20

Submitted by Rhonda Strickland, Redshank Riders Unit Editor

THIS YEAR, THE RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE CLINIC WILL BE HELD ON FRIDAY, JUNE 19TH AND SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH. THIS CLINIC IS ALWAYS POPULAR AND WE ARE ALREADY CLOSE TO HALF FILLED.

THE LAST FEW YEARS, OVER 75% OF THE PARTICIPANTS WERE FROM THE PLATEAU. THE RATTLESNAKE AVOIDANCE TRAINING HAS SAVED THE LIFE OF SEVERAL DOGS HERE ON THE PLATEAU, INCLUDING MINE. ON SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH, DR. ROB HILDRETH WILL BE ON SITE TO GIVE RATTLESNAKE VACCINE SHOTS TO YOUR DOGS. THE VACCINE BOOSTS YOUR DOGS' IMMUNITY IF THEY DO GET BITTEN BY A RATTLESNAKE. ONE OF MY NEIGHBORS, WHOSE DOG HAD BEEN GIVEN THE VACCINE, HAD HER DOG BITTEN AND THAT DOG ONLY NEEDED 1 VIAL OF ANTI-VENOM TO RECOVER.

IF YOU PLAN TO BRING YOUR DOG TO THIS CLINIC, PLEASE REGISTER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU WILL RECEIVE A CONFIRMATION EMAIL THAT INCLUDES YOUR APPOINTMENT. CURRENTLY, YOU ARE STILL ABLE TO CHOOSE YOUR DAY AND THERE ARE OPENINGS IN THE MORNING AND AFTERNOON.

ELIN MOTHERHEAD
APPOINTMENT COORDINATOR

ALSO - IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER, (for morning or afternoon on either day) FOR SIGN IN, OR APPLICATION OF DOG COLLARS, MONITORING A RATTLESNAKE, OR TO BE A DOG HANDLER (strong men needed for this) PLEASE LET ME KNOW. BRING YOUR TEENS IF THEY NEED COMMUNITY SERVICE CREDIT.

Patrick Callaghan's Rattlesnake Avoidance Training is a safe, humane and proven way to teach your dog to avoid rattlesnakes. Rattlesnakes can be found almost anywhere and their bites are quite common, dangerous and usually very expensive to treat. Avoidance training teaches dogs to recognize and stay away from the scent, sound and sight of rattlesnakes they become aware of.

Each dog is individually and personally trained by Patrick Callaghan who is a well known, innovative, specialist in the field and has many decades of dog training experience. For the most effective training we use live rattlesnakes which are carefully muzzled or defanged.

The safety and comfort of your dog is the highest priority! The training takes place in a controlled environment using a remote training collar system adjusted specifically to each dog's temperament, personality and physical response characteristics. Only the minimum level of stimulation is used to produce the desired education. Yearly training is recommended to refresh and strengthen your dog's rattlesnake awareness.

Unit News

LOS PADRES UNIT VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS

Submitted by Nancy Kimmell, Los Padres Unit Education Chair

On Saturday, January 31 and Sunday, February 1, 2009, the “Pacific Crest Trail Association” hosted an 18-hour “Chain Saw Operator Qualifications Class” at the USFS Little Tujunga Ranger Station in Sylmar, CA. Instruction was provided by personnel from the Angeles Forest Service. The curriculum covered topics ranging from classroom instruction of safety, nomenclature, operational procedures, mechanical operation, saw maintenance, and in-field operations (tree felling).

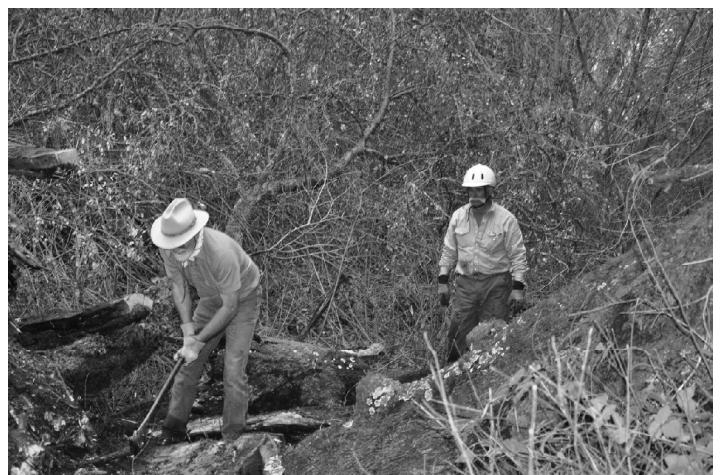
Attendance was approximately 24 people ranging from San Diego to San Rafael and East to Bishop, CA. Members from the Antelope Valley and Los Padres BCHC were also in attendance.

On February 2, 3, & 4, 2009, USFS “Volunteer Wilderness Rangers” and members of “BCHC-Lp Unit” assisted in trail maintenance of the “Upper Lopez Trail”. Persons involved were Michael “Mickey”



McTigue, Rik Christensen, Richard Waller, Carolina White, Bob Stone, and Bill Chaides as the Project Leader. Mickey McTigue is a certified USFS cross cut operator and, with his help, this project was able to be accomplished. Upper Lopez Trail is located in the Los Padres Forest, within the Wilderness area, that does not allow any power equipment such as chain saws. Trail trimming, tread repair, and a large downed tree blocking passage for equine by “Sulphur Pots” campground was extracted by use of the “Miserere Whip”. Also engaged was the implementation of steel cable and a hand held come-along to pull the large water logged tree sections from the trail path. 32 hours of administrative and reconnaissance was involved to establish a positive directive for this project. Mr. Steve Shaw was gracious in offering his property for our encampment during this project. BCHC-Lp Unit members, Melody Fountain Stone, Dave Rigoli and Russ Rantz visited our encampment site for preplanning operations. A total of 194 hours was tallied for this volunteer effort.

On Saturday, February 7, 2009, the USFS, Los Padres, Santa Barbara District, Los Priets Station, Trail and manager, Kerry Kellogg, hosted a “Volunteer Wrangler Training Program”. This training included procedural protocol regarding the USFS policies of wrangler projects, forest service stock handling and use responsibilities of stock and government vehicles. The Los Padres Forest Districts, including Monterey, Santa Lucia and Santa Barbara, have an ongoing wrangler stock program. Most of the stock is housed at the Los Priets Station in the Santa Barbara District. The program was attended by Volunteer Wranglers and members of our BCHC-Lp Unit, Everette Lambert, Otis Calef, Maureen Wallace, Russ Rantz, Nancy Kimmell and Bill Chaides, providing a total of about 45 –Lp Unit hours and 1002 of travel miles. The program has many planned outings for this coming year and is thankful for any assistance provided. If you don’t pack or ride, there is still a place for everyone. Contact person is Volunteer Wrangler President, Lisa Andresen, email lpwranglers@gmail.com.

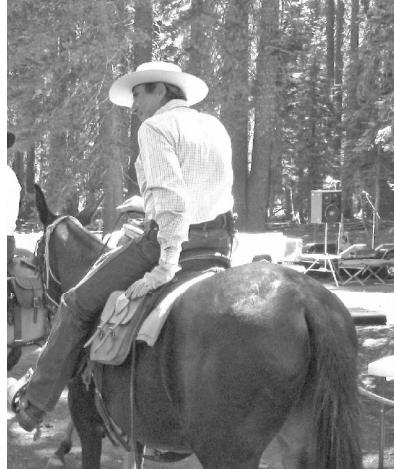


Unit News

JOHN LEWIS, MOTHER LODGE UNIT THE ORIGINAL COW PUNCHER

Submitted by Corky Layne,
Mother Lode Editor

We lost a great man on April 9, 2009. John Lewis was an active member of the Mother Lode Unit. John loved to pack his mules into the backcountry and volunteered to clear trails and assist in packing clinics and set up and take down the BCHC gentle use camp/booth at Horse Expo and grow grapes and on and on.... He was also very involved with Project Ride in Elk Grove. John and his wife Carolyn liked to camp ride the trails on their mules.



John's funeral may have been the biggest one ever seen in Elk Grove for he was well-respected and liked by everyone. At the reception, son Tim led John's favorite molly mule around the Project Pride Arena saddled and with John's boots backwards in the stirrups. There was not a dry eye in the place.

The following poem explains the man best:

THE ORIGINAL COW PUNCHER

By Jeralynn Strong

(from reminiscing with Carolyn, Boys and Family)

It was here in south county, John Lewis was raised
With family and farming and cattle to graze.
Playing football in high school and then U.C.D.
Ag business he studied and that was the key,
To raising tomatoes, wheat, cattle and corn,
Right here in Elk Grove, since before I was born.

He sure loved his sons, all close to his heart
If they got to fussin' he'd say "boys, let's not start...."
Explaining with patience, John did some fine teaching,
He was a good listener, never did preaching.
Give you plenty of time, so you'd figure things out,
He knew how to prioritize what life's all about.

It may be a rare parent, whose son's only fear,
Was in disappointing a Dad held so dear.
Call it "mind-meld" or stink-eye, or the lift of a brow,
Or his hand on your shoulder, you'd just know somehow,

He'd want you to relax or watch what you said.
He could radiate praise with a nod of his head.
John didn't like cussing, wouldn't stoop to a fight.
With peaceful encounters....It'd all be all right!

The ranch was a haven for all kinds of youth,
John lent a kind ear, he was fairness and truth.
He was called the "Original Cow Puncher" by many,
Whether mounted on gelding, or riding a Jenny.

With his neighbor Wackman, he'd fly on patrol
With their own special band of coyote control.
There were wine grapes and Christman trees, raised on his ground
Hauling cattle and shavings and produce around.

To many a friend, helping hands he has lent,
But considered a branding a social event.
He always had time for you, and good advice.
If you wanted a favor, you didn't have to ask twice.

John lived his life fully, with water ski teams
And fishing and hunting and camping it seems.
He loved horses and roping and mountains and snow,
Trekking through wild flowers, spotting a doe,
Packing with mules and headin' to Mule Days
Family and friends loved his comforting ways.

Cause John knew the value of family and fun,
He'd start many projects, maybe not get all done,
But the fun is in trying ideas that are new,
Wisely knowing there'd always be something to do.

He was charismatic, with definite style,
Charming and humble, with a handsome, kind smile.
From Big Sky Montana, he'd call home on Thanksgiving.
Carolyn asked "are you cold?" He'd say "This is good living!"

He was genuine, easy, his dancing was stellar.
He found excitement in nature, was a great story teller!
If someone he loved, was getting uptight,
He'd just reassure saying "you'll be all right."

John Lewis was calm in the eye of a storm,
He liked to be positive, keep in good form.
If the fabric of life, were all knitted and purled'
Like John lived his life, there'd be peace in the world.

I'm hopin' he's glad that we're all here to show him,
We were lucky and happy and so proud to know him.
John still might be saying, as he heads to the light...
"I know my way back to camp...
And we'll all be all right."

The “Round Up”

THANK YOU!!

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

As of February 2009, these are our Benefactor, Patron and Mt. Whitney members:

MT. WHITNEY:

MID VALLEY UNIT

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High Sierra	Allen, Gwen G
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	Kampen, Jeff & Alice
	Pendegraft, Karl & Trish
	Williams, Derek (Rick) &
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	Doornenbal, Rien & Lieske
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Sequoia	
Sutter Buttes	
Top Of The State	

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

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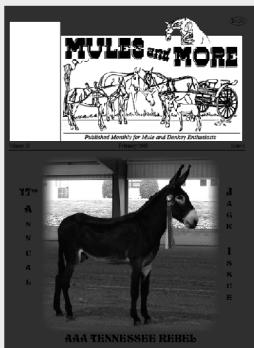
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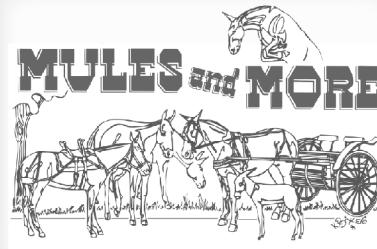
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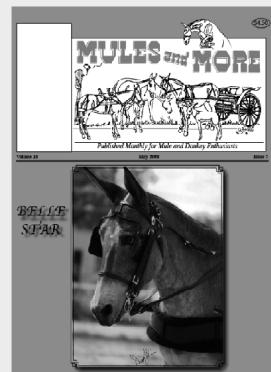
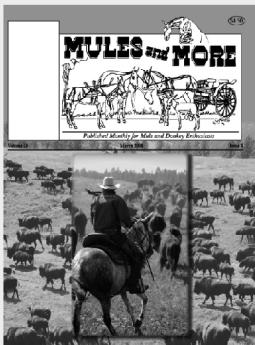
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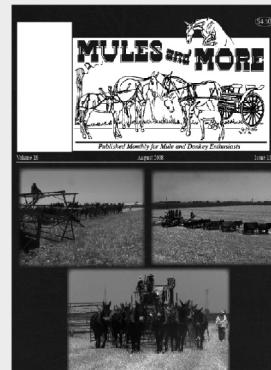
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