

**BCHC**

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# The BackCountry News



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SPRING 2021

## BISHOP MULE DAYS IS A GO!

*From Mule Days website, April 16, 2021*

The Bishop Mule Days Board and staff, working together with the Tri-County Fair Board and staff, as well as Inyo County Public Health has determined that Mule Days 2021 is a go!

In concert with health officials, a safe event is being planned that fans and spectators will remember for years to come. In compliance with State guidelines, mandatory restrictions and capacity limits will apply to arena seating, so be sure to call now to get your reservations. Some of the popular indoor events have been canceled due to these limits such as the Concert and Opening Night Supper. Despite restrictions, it will still be a quality show. They're going back to their roots where Mule Days is all about the mule!

Remember, guidance from the State of California can change at any time between now and the end of May. That said, all of the events will take place on the beautiful Tri-County Fairgrounds in the fresh outdoor air of the Owens Valley and the majestic backdrop of the mighty Eastern High Sierra, always worthy of visiting!

This in itself makes Mule Days a safe outdoor event. Mule Days staff have taken note of outdoor events across the country and learned how to provide a safe environment. They have noted the vigorous safety protocols of these events and determined how best to adapt guidance from the local Public Health Department in implementing COVID protocols.

It is time for Mule Days to return to the Bishop community, recognizing

not only the vast economic impact for the area, but to be one of the first in California to say, "We are back," better than ever and ready to welcome visitors and guests to the Greatest Mule Show on Earth!

Rules are different and stricter this year. For further information on admission, camping, policies, protocols and safety measures, please visit the [www.muledays.org](http://www.muledays.org) website to view Frequently Asked Questions or call the office, (760) 872-4263.



BCHC-sponsored Interscholastic Pack Teams will compete at Bishop again this year. Try to attend and cheer them on!

# The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

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BCHC Official Website: [www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org)

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

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

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

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

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

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*For more BCHC information, see our website: [bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org)*

# President's Page

## LET'S INSPIRE EACH OTHER

Howdy, everyone!

Last fall I saw and felt indications that it was going to be a dry winter. I sure called that one. Here we are in the middle of April; 27 days and counting into spring. Looking around at the grasslands, you would be inclined to believe we were on the cusp of summer already. What grass there is, in my neck of the woods anyway, is extremely short and is quickly turning brown. It has not really been that hot; there just wasn't enough rainfall to keep the soil moist for plant growth. Then there were the winds. Holy mackerel! The hard, persistent, drying winds. What soil moisture remaining after the last significant rain headed south on the wind and that was that. What a disappointment. With all of the daily problems we face, I had hoped California would at least receive the blessing of abundant rainfall this last year. With the perpetual hope of an agriculturalist, maybe next year...

Switching thoughts here, I've been thinking about the word "inspire" lately. The reason for this is due to some great news I received from our BCHC Saw Coordinator, Dan Horn. It seems that at the recent Red Bluff chainsaw class, a BCHC member/sawyer student expressed an interest in becoming a C Level Sawyer Instructor. This would not be just any instructor either. Yes, Tiffany van der Linden of the Mother Lode Unit stepped up to become BCHC's first female Saw Instructor Trainee. That is tremendous news! Tiffany will be a great asset in helping train new sawyers, especially women who may feel a little intimidated around the men who might have more saw handling experience. The ability to connect with, train and mentor other women in proper saw handling will be a great asset to BCHC.

So, I can already hear you asking, where does the word "inspire" fit into all of this? Well, let me elaborate. After learning of Tiffany's goal to become a Sawyer Instructor, Misha Wan-Budd from the Kern River Unit in southern California became aware of Tiffany's initiative, was inspired by her, and is now a Sawyer Instructor Trainee, too. How cool is that?!

I've got to tell you, I couldn't be happier about all of this. Our saw program in California is beyond compare, training not only our own members, but BCH members from other states too. Many public agency personnel have been trained as well. Not only did the safety training help them, it also established bonds between them and individual BCHC members. These bonds could possibly prove invaluable in the future.

Besides individual training, other states have expressed interest in setting up their own saw co-operator programs, and Dan has gladly offered what BCHC has to them. He is inspiring them to improve their local units/chapters via increased safety knowledge. The overall goal is to make all of us safer and able to go home in one piece with no leakage.

A couple of years ago I was traveling on the freeway when a car passed me driven by a man with a young boy passenger, whom I assumed to be his son. As they passed, I noticed the man had on a set of headphones, most likely listening to music. The boy was messing around with another electronic device, neither one interacting with the other. At that period of time the father wasn't inspiring



**BCHC President  
Michael King and "Bella"**

---

his son at all. What a shame. There were so many opportunities to create curiosity, to inspire and impart knowledge to his son, even while on the freeway.

When I was a small boy I accompanied my dad whenever possible. He was larger than life to me and, of course, he knew everything. He was a WWII B29 pilot, operated heavy equipment, rode horses and managed the family cattle ranch. My mom told me many years later of a "complaint" (comment) he once made to her about me, saying, "I think he asks questions just to hear me talk." I CONFESS, I DID! I wanted to know what he knew, to have the benefit of his knowledge. Of course, his comment about me was made in proud jest. I know he secretly enjoyed his stature.

Where I'm going with all of this is to encourage you to look around. There may be opportunities to inspire young people. Talk to them about riding horses and packing mules. Tell them of the wonderful things and places you have been blessed to see through these activities. Where appropriate, take them along with you, show them how to do things, build their enthusiasm. You never know what world you may be opening up to them. For several years, Mid Valley Unit has been sponsoring and training intercollegiate pack teams to compete at Bishop Mule Days. Some of these youth were absolutely new to packing, but took to this new activity with gusto. I look forward to them increasing their involvement in BCH. They will be part of our future. We need them.

Let's inspire each other whenever possible. Let's build each other up. We will all be winners!

*Michael King  
BCHC President*

# BCHC NEWS



BCHC Editor  
Carol Jo Hargreaves

## A SHOT OF HOPE

By BCHC Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

Hopefully you've had both of your COVID vaccinations by now and, like me, are feeling hopeful about getting out and doing more, seeing friends and not feeling as fearful about getting sick. With spring well entrenched and summer just around the corner, it's finally time to start enjoying the warming weather.

BCHC Web Mule Jacque Murphy has some great ideas for Things to Do in your unit as the state slowly loosens its COVID noose. See page 5. Remember to follow health and safety guidelines as you get back together for trail rides, work parties and other gatherings.

A couple of BCHC women have decided to become Sawyer Instructor Trainees. Michael King mentions Tiffany and Misha in his President's Message on page 3 and Saw Coordinator Dan Horn delivers more detail about BCHC's one-of-a-kind Saw Program and its successful Instructor Trainee Program on page 11.

First VP Jamie Wilson furnishes useful information about what BCHC's third party liability insurance covers on page 4 and lists some reasons you should consider getting personal horse owners liability coverage on page 9.

Michael Morse and Anna Baglione both recently received important honors. Michael was designated National Forest Recreation Association's Ranger of the Year (see page 12) and Anna was recognized as one of *Cowgirl Magazine's* "30 Under 30" for her contributions to the western industry (see page 13). Congratulations, Michael and Anna! We are proud of you!

Thanks to the efforts of Alternate National Director Pete Kriger, members can now donate money to BCHC through Amazon Smile. It's easy, painless and doesn't cost you a thing! Start doing it with your next Amazon purchase. See page 7 for Pete's story.

Keep reading!

~ Carol Jo

The deadline for submissions for the  
**SUMMER 2021 EDITION**

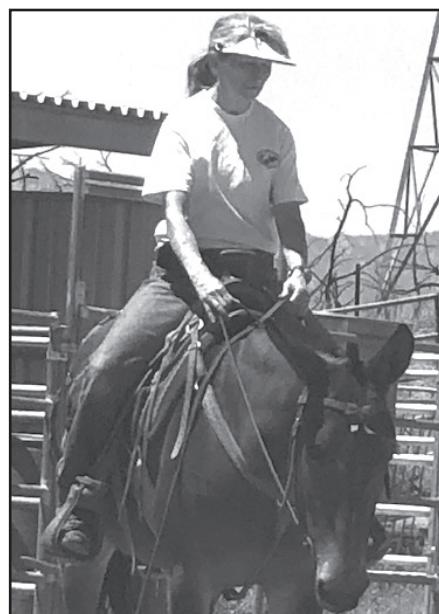
of The Backcountry News is: **July 15, 2021**

Submissions to:

BCHC Editor at [BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com)

## INSURANCE TIDBITS

By BCHC 1<sup>st</sup> VP Jamie Wilson



BCHC 1<sup>st</sup> VP - Insurance  
Jamie Wilson, DVM

Greetings, BCHC Members!

My name is Jamie Wilson, and I am the State 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President. Besides filling in for the President as needed, my main task is as Insurance Liaison. I am responsible for making sure that all units fill out an application for insurance and submit it every year. I am also the go-between for requesting coverage for individual events, including parades and public days. I try to answer basic questions from members about how to fill out event requests and when a public day is needed.

A question I get asked a lot is,

"What is covered by our insurance?" The answer is that this is "Third Party" insurance; it covers not you, not other BCH members, but third parties, such as hikers sharing a trail or spectators at a parade. This insurance is not widely available; only a few companies even offer it in the US. It is important that we have it, for it does give us some overall protection as a riding group. Without it, we might have to show proof of personal liability coverage just to have rides and events with stock. It costs approximately \$4.50 per member per year. In the past few years, the State BCH has been able to pay the insurance for all members, which is one of the benefits of our membership.

Recently, the State BCH sent out a letter to all members recommending personal liability coverage (reprinted on page 9 of this newsletter). Our insurance agent, Misty Mize, gave some scenarios to illustrate how we could be personally liable for things our animals did even though we were at a BCHC event. Talk about a wake-up call! It's not fun to think about these scenarios, but in today's society we need to protect ourselves.

I am a veterinarian, not an insurance specialist, and even an insurance agent cannot give out legal advice, so this is something that each of us will have to look into on our own. Some homeowner policies cover some horse activities, but not always those that are away from home. BCHC is not endorsing any one company or policy, just trying to make us all aware so we can be prepared.

That being said, we are fortunate that the company that handles the

**See INSURANCE, page 10**

# BCHC NEWS

## BYLAWS SUBCOMMITTEE ACHIEVES FIRST GOAL

By Bylaws Subcommittee member Susie Patton

The Bylaws Subcommittee was formed by the BCHC Executive Committee last summer to review the bylaws for both the BCHC Education Fund and BCHC, Inc. Chip Herzig, C.J. Hargreaves, Tammy Bozarth and Susie Patton were chosen to serve on this committee.

As most of you know, there are two parts of BCHC. The BCHC Education Fund, Inc. (501c3) side is the nonprofit side; there are no members, and this board handles all items related to education. The BCHC, Inc. (501c4) side has the units and their members. Each side has its own set of bylaws. Both sides are governed by elected officers of the BCHC, Inc.

The Bylaws Subcommittee started its process by meeting by conference call most Monday nights, under the direction of our bylaws guru, Chip Herzig. We began working on the Education Fund bylaws first, as they were the ones that had not been updated in a while. As we completed each section, we presented it to the Education Fund Board for approval at its monthly Zoom meeting. After many months of edits, revision of the BCHC Education Fund, Inc. bylaws is complete!

Some of the major changes were necessitated by changes in California nonprofit laws. We added officer job descriptions as they relate to the Education Fund and added wording about how to remove a director if that ever became necessary. These were complex issues and on some we had to seek legal advice.

With our first goal accomplished, we are now moving onto the bylaws for the 501(c)4 side. These are the ones that affect our members, as each unit's bylaws must follow the State BCHC bylaws. If you are thinking of revising your unit's bylaws, you might want to hold off until the Subcommittee completes this process. Since the BCHC, Inc. 501(c)4 bylaws have been revised on a more consistent basis, there should not be quite so many changes. We will be adding officer duties, and the officer removal language as we did in the Education Fund. We also will be addressing how the Executive Committee is now meeting monthly and how they do the day-to-day business of the organization.

If you have any concerns about the BCHC, Inc. 501(c)4 bylaws or would like to suggest wording changes in them, please contact one of the Bylaws Subcommittee members.

We look forward to presenting the completed (c)4 bylaws at the October State meeting of the BCHC Board of Directors.



BCHC Web Mule  
Jacque Murphy



Hello, BCHCers!

I have been fielding a lot of questions from members about whether some units are still operational. This tells me that we need to do more to remain active during this difficult time. COVID-19 has not cancelled everything, we just need to be smart and follow the guidelines set forth by our local government to stay active. BCHC members need to know they are still a part of something!

How can we do this? Here are a few ideas:

- Meet online. Zoom is free for the first 40 minutes. Facebook groups are an option, too.
- Host approved outdoor activities. Check your local area to see what is and is not allowed. Socially distanced: Trail ride? Outdoor meeting? Outdoor tack cleaning party?
- Send out regular emails to ALL members. This should really be the norm for your unit! Update members about events, meetings, local trail conditions, and other local equestrian news.
- Get creative! Plan some socially distanced challenges. Ride a certain distance or short list of trails for the month, enter to win a prize/title? Socially distanced scavenger hunt? Treasure hunt with clues that do not need to be touched. Trivia questions? Photo contest? Participants may submit photographs, written info, etc., via email.
- The BCHC Saw Program has a template for getting events approved and has been able to continue teaching classes during this pandemic. You may obtain a copy of the template and modify it to suit the regulations in your area. Contact me or BCHC Saw Coordinator Dan Horn for a copy.
- Continue planning events, even if they may be cancelled. Hopefully, things will get back to normal soon!

Do not let your unit members wonder if they should look elsewhere! Follow your local guidelines and keep your unit active.

~ Jacque Murphy  
BCHC Webmule

# BCHC STRATEGIC PLAN



## THE SEVEN PRIORITY OBJECTIVES OF BCHC'S STRATEGIC PLAN

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

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

The seven objectives are:

1. Enable more trail maintenance and trail support projects
2. Make program of best practices available to local units
- 3. Rebuild Rendezvous attendance**
4. Youth program development
5. New member development and retention
6. Website and social media transition
7. BCHC services available to local units

For more information, see your unit or state leaders.



## HERE'S MORE DETAIL:

### 3. Priority Objective: Rebuild Rendezvous attendance

**Success Measures:** Rebuild attendance and member participation in Rendezvous, including the use of this event as a great trail experience for bringing potential new members.

**Strategy:** As our primary statewide event, Rendezvous is the best experience that we have to offer current, new and prospective members. It's cowboy networking at its best. We'll update the format, frequency, locations, programs, pricing, sponsorships, marketing, partnerships with local government and local organizations to make it a don't-miss event.

**Unit Action Plans:** After surveying members as to what they liked and did not like about Rendezvous we realized that as our premier event we needed to offer a wider variety of classes and vendors. We want to have something for everyone, including but not limited to:

- Competitions – including some for youth, families and individuals – Trail trials for experienced riders/packers
- Education Classes –Cover all levels from novice all the way to the very experienced member: veterinary information, first aid for humans and animals, feeding and care of livestock, horseshoeing techniques, how to evacuate large animals, GPS training, laws on hauling livestock, Leave No Trace principals, Sawyer training
- Vendors that cater to the western way of life and sell equipment needed by members
- Youth Fun area
- Packing and Dutch oven cooking demonstrations
- Professional Trainers doing demonstrations that appeal to all levels of livestock owners
- Good food, fun and entertainment

Plan to attend 2021 Rendezvous, October 29-31, in Tulare!

# BCHC NEWS



## SHOP ON AMAZON >> DONATE TO BCHC An Easy, No-Cost Way to Make a Difference

By Alternate National Director Pete Kriger

You can support Backcountry Horsemen of California every time you make a purchase. Amazon shoppers can sign up at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to BCHC. There is no cost to you! Sign up and designate BCHC as your charity of choice. Then anytime you wish to make a purchase, shop at [smile.amazon.com](https://smile.amazon.com) and know you're making a difference for BCHC. It's that easy!

Here's how this opportunity came about...

BCHC has talked for years about finding funding sources for its cause without raising dues or otherwise asking members to give more. Pete Kriger spoke of the Amazon Smile fundraising opportunity at a pre-pandemic State Board meeting. After some discussion, it seemed that the process was not going to work for BCHC. Pete persevered, however, and set up BCHC as 501(c)3 organization to start the process. Pete explained to the BCHC Board that Amazon was willing to give this money to our organization, but for reasons unclear at the time, the money was not making it to the BCHC bank account. Pete's persistence finally paid off!

Like many of us, Pete has recently used Amazon for plenty of deliveries as the pandemic has reshaped the way his family restocks its household supplies and pantry items. Pete continued to get notices from Amazon about money they had sent to "his charity," BCHC. He would contact the BCHC Treasurer, only to hear that no money had arrived. Until this month...

Pete thanks Sigrid Williams of the Santa Ana River Unit who initially joked about him finding another charity to take Amazon's monetary donations. Sigrid did some Internet research and was quickly able to find information about a charity verification process at Amazon. It made sense that Amazon would want to make sure they were giving money to legitimate 501(c)3 organizations (got to protect those tax deductions when you're as big as Amazon). The verification process was shared with BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner, who enlisted help from BCHC's web expert, Jacque Murphy. Pete sincerely thanks all three of you for working on this project and putting up with his sustained persistence. He is grateful he could see the project to fruition and appreciates your help.

Lynn has now confirmed that \$56.33 was deposited directly into the BCHC account, an amount that matches Pete's recent quarterly report from Amazon (0.5 percent of purchases). Now, everyone who uses Amazon has a similar opportunity to make an easy, no-cost donation to BCHC. Thanks, Pete!

The BCHC Education Fund was recently signed up with Amazon Smile and very quickly made a little over \$100. I encourage all BCHC members to sign up with Amazon Smile and benefit our organization when you make purchases on Amazon. Thank you!

~ *Lynn Joiner*  
BCHC Treasurer

# BCHC NEWS



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

## MEMBERSHIP

By VP of Membership Chip Herzig

Are you a member of Backcountry Horsemen of America (BCHA)? The answer is yes but you do not send your membership dues to them. I do that for you. Once a year, I get together with our BCHC State Treasurer and we calculate how many Family, Individual and Youth memberships we have, then multiply those totals times the rate per each type of membership and send a rather large check to BCHA.

Last year we reported 686 Family, 511 Individual and 9 Youth memberships. To figure out what we owe BCHA, take the 686 Family memberships and multiply by \$18, Individual by \$15 and Youth by \$10 for a grand total of \$20,103.00.

Another topic concerning dues is how we calculate the rebate to units from their submission of membership dues. We take, for-example, Family dues of \$60, deduct the BCHA dues so  $\$60 - \$18 = \$42$ . Then we deduct Ed Fund dues at \$2 per and Legal Fund dues at \$2 per, leaving \$38, then divide the \$38 by 2, keeping \$19 for BCHC State costs and sending  $\$19 + \$1 = \$20$  back to the unit. The Ed Fund dues are actually dollars available to units for any kind of educational event(s). The BCHC Ed Fund treasury is just the bank for these funds. The Legal Fund is a growing asset that BCHC keeps for the "just in case" legal fees we might encounter.

If you have any membership questions or concerns, please contact me at [chipherzig@gmail.com](mailto:chipherzig@gmail.com) and I'll answer as best I can.

### CONGRATULATIONS!

Dr. Jamie Wilson won the drawing for the Bass Pro gift card.

All 1,000 tickets were sold and BCHC made \$525 on the raffle.

This event will continue to be held every three or four months.

### BCHA LEGACY FUND FOUNDING MEMBERS

The following members of Backcountry Horsemen of California are Founding Members of the BCHA Legacy Fund:

- Dena and Richard Cochran
- Teri and Darren Filkins
- Pat and Mylon Filkins
- Bob Magee
- Loretta and Dennis Serpa
- Anonymous - CA

The BCHA Legacy Fund was established to ensure the sustainability of BCHA into the future. As of this writing, the fund contains \$110,000 that is generating interest income. Once the \$500,000 threshold amount is met, BCHA can use the interest to help fund its operations and programs, including awarding grants to local units.

Keep BCHA thriving with your donation, one time or recurring, or your planned gift, and take advantage of numerous tax and financial benefits. You can also leave a legacy to be remembered by future generations.

For more information, see <https://www.bcha.org/giving/#estate-planning>



# BCHC NEWS



By BCHC Webmule Jacque Murphy

Be sure to check out our website, [bchcalifornia.org!](http://bchcalifornia.org)

If you are a member and are looking for more information about running your unit, newsletters, forms, volunteer hours, Wilderness Riders, etc., please click the gray "Member Site" button.

If you're not a member of Backcountry Horsemen of California, much of the information you'll be looking for will be available in this area.

As always, I am happy to help you with any questions, updates, or requests about our website. Don't forget to follow us on Facebook too: [@BackcountryHorsemenofCalifornia](#).

## INSURANCE INTELLIGENCE

By BCHC 1<sup>st</sup> VP Jamie Wilson

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR BCHC MEMBERS WITH LIVESTOCK RE: PERSONAL HORSE OWNERS LIABILITY

Dear BCHC member,

It is important for you to understand that even though your Unit has a liability policy in place it may not cover your horse or mule's behavior, damage it may cause to others or their property EVEN when you are participating in a club event.

The Liability Policy, which is carried by your Unit, provides coverage for occurrences that "the Unit/Club" is liable for. If an occurrence happens such as either of the two examples below, the club policy may not be found liable in a court of law. You may be found fully or partially liable.

Example #1 - Your horse/mule pulls back while tied at your trailer (or anything it may be tied to) at a parade, trail ride, pack trip or camp out and causes injury or damage to someone's property- this is NOT a direct result where the unit as a whole is liable and in a court of law, you, as the horse or mule "owner" may be found negligent or at fault in the occurrence and may be solely liable for the damages incurred.

Example #2 - Your horse or mule, is present at a function or club activity and a member of the public asks to pet your horse or mule.... The person is bitten or kicked... This is NOT a direct result of a club activity and YOU may be found liable in a court of law, not the club. Even though the horse or mule was present at a club function, it MAY not be considered a direct occurrence of a club activity.

What it boils down to is: Just because your horse or mule is "present" and participating in a club event or function does not mean the club's policy will be found liable for "your" horse or mule's behavior or actions.

The BCHC Liability Policy provides coverage for the Club as a whole, not for the actions or behavior of a member's livestock. And as we all know too well, horse and mules can have a bad day, any day. It is better to have a personal horse owners liability policy in place EVEN though you are participating with your Unit in activities. A personal horse owners liability policy goes with your horse/mule 24/7 anywhere within the United States.

The personal horse owner's liability is just straight out a good coverage to carry when you own horses and mules. It is reasonable as far as price as well.

These following quotes are from our insurance carrier, but you should check with your own insurance carrier and check pricing. Please let me know if you want to get in contact with our insurance person. (Jamie Wilson – [drjamie91@gmail.com](mailto:drjamie91@gmail.com))

A policy for \$1,000,000 limit of liability which "includes" up to 5 of your personally owned horses or mules is ONLY \$250 PER YEAR. You should add the BCHC as additional insured on your policy which will cost an additional \$20, so the total annual premium for each member who owns up to 5 horses and/or mules will be \$270 per year. (More horses/mules can be added for \$40 per animal over the first 5.) Horses or mules used for driving are also \$40 additional per driving animal and require a supplement form for driving prior to any coverage being bound.

That is not a big expense considering the exposure you are looking at if your horses are out and about with or without the club.

\*Note, some "homeowners" policy may provide coverage for your horses for liability, however, most do not. Check with your homeowner's policy first to make sure it covers your animal off your property. Oh, and make sure you "get it in writing" that coverage under your homeowners' policy DOES INCLUDE liability on your personally owned horses (both ON and OFF premise).

Jamie Wilson  
BCHC 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President  
[drjamie91@gmail.com](mailto:drjamie91@gmail.com)

Misty Mize  
Insurance Agency Rep

# PUBLIC LANDS



## PUBLIC LANDS UPDATE

By VP of Public Lands Troy Patton

**E-Bikes** – There is good news and bad news. First, the bad news - Tahoe National Forest has put forth a plan to add a total of 97 miles of trails for e-bikes by changing non-motorized trails to motorized trails and building new e-bike only trails. This means they are taking trails used by hikers and equestrians and allowing e-bikes on them, which basically

makes them unusable for hikers and equestrians. They are avoiding putting e-bikes on motorcycle trails and are making separate trails for motorcycles and e-bikes by removing trails used by hikers and equestrians. Thank you to all who sent in comments against this plan. We soon will see how they answer our concerns.

The good news is that the Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility (PEER) won a court case to restore the ban on electric bikes on non-motorized trails in national parks. The lawsuit challenges a 2019 order by the Department of Interior that directed the National Park Service to allow e-bikes on trails that allow bicycles. The order was issued after an industry-dominated advisory committee lobbied the Interior Department to issue this order. This ruling gives their case the go-ahead to proceed and, hopefully, hints that the actions of the former Park Service leadership may not have been legal. We will keep you updated. As you know, the Forest Service rules consider e-bikes a “motorized vehicle.”

**SB287- Recreational Trailer Licensing** – This legislation, if passed, will change the licensing requirements for people pulling horse trailers to be more in line with the rules for recreational vehicles. I was able to watch the State Senate hearing on this bill and it passed through the Transportation Committee without opposition and was sent to the Appropriations Committee. It just makes more sense that if someone can drive a huge motorhome or tow a large house trailer on their regular driver’s license, horse owners should be able to do the same thing and should not have to comply with the same requirements as a commercial truck driver. I would urge everyone to contact his State Senator and ask for support of this bill.

**Funding Concerns** - As I have mentioned before, the Land and Water Conservation Act, American Stewardship Act, and several others receive part of their funding from off-shore drilling fees and other fees that involve oil production. I am concerned that this funding will not be forthcoming with the current administration’s rules regarding oil production. Just something to keep an eye on.

From INSURANCE, page 4

BCHC insurance specializes in equine insurance. The Jorene Mize Insurance Agency is based in Central California and deals with all types of equine insurance, including personal liability policies. They have a website and are very accessible.

Insurance can be an intimidating subject; there is a lot of “legalese” and a lot of exceptions. I am happy to try to answer any questions, but I often have to forward them to the agent to make sure to give the correct answer. It has been encouraging to see a few event requests trickling in. Hopefully we can all have rides and clinics and work projects again soon! See you out there!

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Any events that were listed on the annual Unit Insurance Application as TBD or TBA without an actual date will NOT BE COVERED until an actual date is added! As soon as you know the date of a planned event, let me know so we can add it to the list.

Thank you!

The deadline for submissions for the  
**SUMMER 2021 EDITION**

of The Backcountry News is: **July 15, 2021**  
Submissions to:

BCHC Editor at [BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com)

## THE SEVEN LEAVE NO TRACE PRINCIPLES

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

# EDUCATION

## BCHC SAWYER PROGRAM

### Spring Sawyer

By BCHC Saw Coordinator Dan Horn

With things starting to loosen up, we have had a saw class every month since December 1. We even got out President Michael and Immediate Past President Lloyd to both a Crosscut and Chainsaw Class over at Lake Lopez. On a side note, if you are ever in Arroyo Grande, be sure to stop in at Lake Lopez. It is a County-run park, has a water slide, zip line and amazing RV camping. BCHC's Los Padres Unit has built a really nice horse camp. Be sure to check it out.

We are still waiting for the new changes coming out of Washington, D.C., on the National Saw Policy. I will get them out to all units as soon as the ink dries.

Our Instructor Trainee Program has really taken off, thanks to all who have stepped up to that challenge. It is really great to see many of our younger members jumping in. It will take a few years to work them up to full Designated Instructor level, but the future is looking good. We have over 20 people involved in the program now. The enthusiasm is really outstanding. I would chalk it up to their youth, but even that old timer John Wagoner went out and bought a new laptop and learned how to turn it on. Guess he pretty much killed that old saying, "Can't teach an old dog new tricks." Remco and Tiffany Van der Linden took the lead instructing a Chainsaw Class in Red Bluff this March with both Dan Chartier and I present, auditing their performance. They did an outstanding job. Tiffany, stepping up to be our first Lady Instructor, motivated one of our college age members from the southern part of the state to call me wanting to start in the Trainee Program. Welcome, Misha Budd, our youngest Trainee. The energy these puppies have sure makes us ~~old dogs look bad~~ (oops!) seniors look more distinguished.

I encourage all members to get involved and take one of the Saw Classes. Making safe sawyers is the goal of our program. Safety is the word. We want everyone to go home at the end of the day with No Leaks.

We have one Crosscut class on the schedule right now that is open to all who would like to attend.

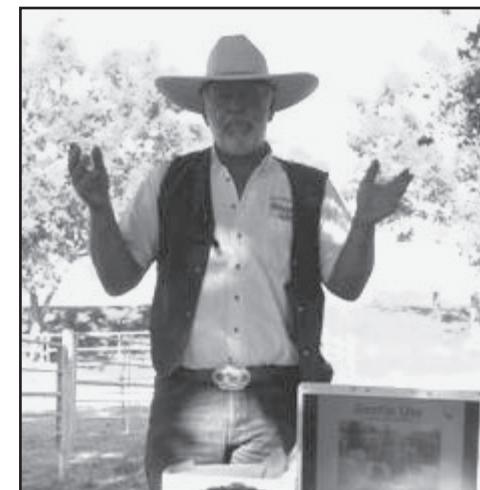
Crosscut Saw Class – May 15 and 16 – Kern River Valley Unit  
 Contact Patrick Shreffler – (661) 303-0362 – Email [p.shreffler@outlook.com](mailto:p.shreffler@outlook.com)  
 Or you can call me, Dan Horn – (707) 953-4903 – Email [Bearstrap@msn.com](mailto:Bearstrap@msn.com)

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

If any unit wants to hold a Saw Class (Chainsaw or Crosscut), please contact me.



By Jogi don - Own work, CC BY-SA 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=56551748>



BCHC Saw Coordinator  
Dan Horn

## BCHC SAFETY

By BCHC Safety Officer Dan Horn

First, I want to welcome Lucy Badenhoop who has volunteered (with some light arm twisting) to join Chip Herzig and me as the BCHC Safety Officers. Lucy's knowledge of government forms and her innovative ideas are sure to be a huge asset for BCHC.

Lucy, Chip and I are sorting out all the newest public agency safety documents and service agreements to post on the BCHC website, making them more available to members. We are finding out that not having all these documents in place is putting members' Workmen's Comp Insurance coverage at risk.

Once we have all this in place, our goal is to schedule a Zoom meeting with each unit to make a presentation explaining changes and to answer questions. So, watch for notice of these calls. We will let your unit president know the date and time.

We added a new tab on the BCHC website where you will find Forest Service Job Hazard Analyses (JHAs), BLM Risk Assessment documents, COVID docs and a Liability Release. Check it out and review the materials often. We will post new stuff once the ink dries.

Welcome and thanks for joining us, Lucy Badenhoop!

Public domain photo courtesy of Wikipedia



# Michael Morse, NFRA "Ranger of the Year"

USFS News Release, January 26, 2021

Michael Morse has been selected as the 2020 'Ranger of the Year' by The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA)

WOODLAKE, CA – The National Forest Recreation Association (NFRA) is very proud to announce that has been selected as the 2020 'Ranger of the Year.' Michael is the Co-Director of the Region 5 Pack Stock Center of Excellence; a Special Uses Permit Administrator; and the Wilderness and Trails Supervisor on the Mammoth Ranger District, Inyo National Forest He is a man of many talents and highly deserving of this award.

Michael's nomination came with a compelling letter from the Regional Forester of the Pacific Southwest Region, Randy Moore. "I'm delighted to send this letter supporting Michael Morse's nomination for "Ranger of the Year."

"His work exemplifies the spirit of collaboration and shared stewardship that are the pillars of the National Forest Recreation Association" stated Moore. "Michael understands the important role of partners and working together to meet shared stewardship goals... Through these partnerships, the Forest Service has been able to accomplish more than we ever could on our own."

Michael has had a 40+ year career with the Forest Service. He was one of the primary proponents of the Region 5 Pack Stock Center of Excellence which has partnered with organizations like the Backcountry Horsemen of California, American Conservation Experience, Student Conservation Association, CCC's and others to accomplish trail projects, bridges, and equestrian campgrounds on Forests throughout California. The program provides support to fire crews in wilderness areas, packing in food, tools, equipment and more. Such traditional means of fighting fires has earned Michael's team, along with the hardworking firefighters they serve, entries to the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena (in 2015 and 2019).

Michael's program has established a model for preserving and continuing the historic and traditional skills of packing. Innovative approaches include an internship program to teach and train college age youth to learn about packing, and caring for stock in the mountains. Other projects include classes to educate other Forest (and BLM) employees on the skills of stock and packing in Wilderness – like the original rangers of the early 20th century!

Michael has always been committed to providing a well maintained trail system for the public, including those who use pack and saddle stock. He has been effective in finding ways to accomplish trail maintenance even when budgets have been tight. Lloyd Erlandson and Jamie Wilson, President and Vice President of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, also supported Michael's nomination for this award. "I believe he is the reason stock users are welcomed on our public lands in the Sierra" stated Wilson. "His creation of the Stock Center for Excellence in Region 5 has allowed both agency folks and private stock users excellent training in wilderness ethics and safe use of equines on public lands... Michael always seems to find a way to get it done." A maintained system of wilderness trails is critical for users to have a wide array of recreational opportunities. Michael has been diligent to not let trails deteriorate, thereby keeping alive the unique trail system intended by the Wilderness Act.

With his responsibilities as a Permit Administrator, Michael also works to convey the needs of the commercial packers with Forest and Regional level decision makers. He understands the valuable and historic services the packers provide, enabling the public to visit and have a true wilderness experience.

Michael was nominated by Jen Roeser, who has known and worked with him throughout his entire career. "Michael's integrity and passion for his many responsibilities is why he is deserving of this recognition," stated Roeser.

"He goes above and beyond in everything he does and is truly a credit to the Forest Service." NFRA's President, Warren Meyer, congratulates Michael on his exemplary leadership and innovation."

His commitment to the many partners he works with, including many NFRA members, is greatly appreciated and it is an honor to recognize him for his dedication and outstanding service," stated Meyer. Michael will be honored at an awards ceremony at NFRA's Annual Conference, February 24, 2021.

NFRA's 'Ranger of the Year' Award has been presented annually since 1982 to individuals who show personal dedication in the realm of recreation management and exhibit a true sense of partnership with recreation service providers.

NFRA members are recreation service providers providing camping, lodging, horseback riding, marinas, youth camps, shuttles, rafting and other recreation services and facilities on public lands.



USDA Forest Service photo of Michael Morse taken by Jessica Rainier

# Anna Baglione *Cowgirl Magazine* Honoree



Packer/Wrangler, Anna Baglione, age 28, wrote the following on her *Cowgirl Magazine* 30 Under 30 application:

*"I have always marched to the beat of my own drum. I've never exactly fit into a mold or been "pageant material." The grit and hard work that's part of growing up on a ranch in California's Central Valley is what molded me the most. I began packing when I was 16 years old and instantly fell in love with it.*

The mountains, the mules and the wilderness can humble any human. This way of life has set me up for success in all my endeavors, and it's my passion to share it with others."

Future for women: "I envision a Western industry that represents women of all backgrounds. An industry that is always encouraging young women to be themselves and find their passion and community among Western professionals, wherever that may be."

## ANNA'S STORY

Article and photos courtesy of Anna Baglione

The summer I turned 15, is when the packing part of my story begins. It was a natural transition when my mother brought our family and horses to camp out at Kerrick Corral Horse Camp in the Stanislaus National Forest. We have always camped and ridden, but this trip combined the two. My mother was a new member of the Backcountry Horsemen and, after this summer I was, too. In the following summers we became very familiar with the folks at Aspen Meadow Pack Station, eventually doing a few trips with them and more. Let's just say things escalated from there.

When I turned 18, I attempted to hire on with an outfit in the Sierra, close to my home of Escalon, but I was told they weren't looking for new hires of my age or gender. The following summer I was hired by a bigger outfit. Spring 2012 my story at Rock Creek began. Rock Creek Pack Station, based in Bishop, California, was founded by the London family in 1947. It's a family-run business and during my time with the company the business expanded by adding two more pack stations: Virginia Lakes Pack Outfit, based out of Bridgeport, California, and Cottonwood Pack Station, based out of Lone Pine, California.

My first summer was a challenge. It was my first paying job, quite a long way from home, in a place where I knew no one and I had very little to my name. I was taken under the wing of a few cooks and packers and I paid my dues alright. I learned pretty quickly just how unforgiving the mountains are and how unforgiving a mule who had your number could be. I learned who to trust and that not everyone had the best intentions for me. I also learned that with a little determination and blind faith, I would make it through, and I was right. I was taught the "Rock Creek Way" by

the best of the best. Packing correctly and safely comes with a strong sense of hard work and tradition. We hold our mules in high regard and take pride in what our animals can do. It is now my turn to teach these high standards to new recruits each year and it is my passion to pass on this way of life to the next generation. In my eight summers at Rock Creek, I've guided well over 100 trips and over 1,000 people of all ages into the backcountry. I have trained numerous young new employees and I've spent countless hours in the saddle. I have sweat, bled and shed tears in country most will never see in their lifetimes.

I attended Modesto Junior College (MJC) and the University of California, Davis, completing my B.S. in Geology in June 2018. I've been heavily involved with BCHC's Mid Valley Unit since my family first joined. I've worked with them on various youth projects, outreach and trail projects. In 2017, our unit's parade group was selected to represent the packing industry at the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena on New Year's Day. We auditioned, practiced and rode our horses with strings of pack mules decked out in flowers. I participated in many interviews in the process leading up to the events. The parade is nationally televised, and the route was a six-mile ride through throngs of hundreds of people. It was an incredible experience that I hope we can someday repeat.

In 2014, with the help of BCHC Mid Valley Unit, I formed a collegiate women's pack team with students from Modesto Junior College. We participated in the newly created Interscholastic Packing Division at Bishop Mule Days. This team was the first BCHC-sponsored collegiate team. The inaugural MJC team received third place overall the first year and came back in 2015 to sweep the entire competition - first in all four events over the course of the weekend, a feat only repeated by another MJC team in 2018. I've since moved up to the Professional Packing Division and, in 2018, our Virginia Lakes Pack Outfit women's team earned the Reserve World

**See ANNA, page 14**



# BCHC NEWS

**ANNA, continued from page 13**

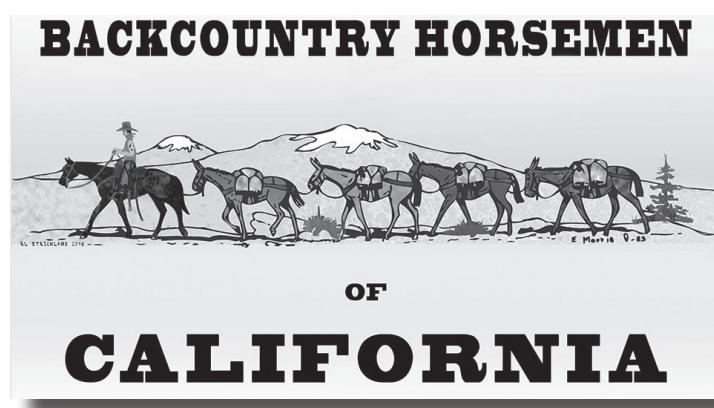
Champion title.

The collegiate event has grown in leaps and bounds since it began in 2013 and has become one of the most popular events of the Mule Days Celebration. Every year colleges all over California and Oregon send students to compete in this event and introduce them to the world of mules. With Mid Valley Unit's assistance each year, MJC recruits young folks to the packing industry through the interscholastic team. They teach new team members to pack, some of whom have gone on to work for pack stations following team participation. Some have also joined BCHC as volunteers, board members and future advocates. This has been the goal of the program from the founding of the Interscholastic Competition. I hope to continue to pass on this unique way of life that is packing.

Aside from my various exploits with Rock Creek Pack Station, Inc. and Backcountry Horsemen of California, I am also a sitting member for the Board of Directors for the American Mule Museum, based out of Bishop, California. We are still in the process of planning and raising money to build a full-sized museum, but for now we have built some exciting partnerships with local historical societies. I enjoy handling the correspondence and membership for the museum and working with folks of the previous generations who have dedicated their lives to mules and the Eastern Sierra.

In November 2020, I was awarded the distinction of being one of the women in *Cowgirl Magazine's* 30 Under 30 list. This annual award is given to 30 women under the age of 30 who have demonstrated significant contributions to the western industry. In March 2021, I traveled to Fort Worth, Texas, to receive the award and meet the other incredible women from this year's list as well as from the previous year's. It was inspiring and humbling to belong to such an outstanding group of ladies. I met stock contractors, dude ranchers, horse trainers, fashion models and PRCA barrel racers. It was an experience I will not soon forget, and I was beyond excited to represent packers and working cowgirls on such a large stage. This experience motivated me to double down on dreams for my future and the future of BCHC.

Ultimately, I wouldn't be where I am today without the support of my friends, family, coworkers and mentors. I am indebted to them all and I hope I am making them proud.



## ARE THESE IN YOUR TRAILER TOOL KIT?

### Leave No Trace Principle #1: Plan Ahead and Prepare

(Excerpted from a Trailmeister article)

#### The 4 Essentials:

- Fire extinguisher – for keeping a small fire from becoming unmanageable.
- Jumper cables – for saving the day if you leave your headlights on.
- Jump starter battery pack – for saving the day if you leave your headlights on, and you're on your own.
- First aid kit – for being your own doc until a real one can arrive.

#### The 10 Tools:

- Phillips head and flat bladed screwdrivers – for tightening and loosening screws; also for prying items apart.
- Pliers – for holding machine nuts while installing or removing or squeezing items together.
- Channel-lock pliers – for dealing with oversized machine nuts or turning pipes.
- Adjustable crescent wrench – for tightening and loosening bolts and machine nuts.
- Claw hammer – for straightening what got bent, bending what got straightened, driving nails and stakes, and pulling them out again, and providing "persuasion" where needed.
- Pocket knife – for cutting rope and twine, stripping wire insulation, or just whittling if you're so inclined.
- Wire cutters – for cutting electrical wire or turning metal coat hangers into marshmallow skewers.
- Small tape measure – for determining how much ground clearance you'll have while trying to get over that boulder embedded in the road.
- Mini hacksaw – for cutting away twisted bolts, damaged metal work, thicker plastics...anything where a knife won't work.
- Folding tree saw – for cutting trees that have fallen across the only road out and you can't back up.

For more practical information on trail riding and camping with horses, visit [www.TrailMeister.com](http://www.TrailMeister.com) - also the world's largest guide to horse trails and equine camps.

# UNIT NEWS

## SAN DIEGO:

### VOLUNTEER SERVICE CREATES POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS

By San Diego Unit Member at Large Kammi Montanero

Greetings from San Diego, you know, the unit way down at the bottom of the state; the unit where all we do is ride on the beach. No, not really. We have a whole beautiful county to ride in, from the Pacific Ocean to the mountains of Cuyamaca and Lagunas down into the spectacular Anza Borrego Desert. Plus, a whole bunch of trail systems in between. You really need to come down and see us sometime. Which brings me back to my reason for writing this piece.

2020 was a special year for us down here. I know, I hear you now: "Special, alright!" What I really mean is that 2020 was a Really Special blessed year for the San Diego Unit. The blessing in disguise is that even though parks and campgrounds were closed, the unit was able to get in and do an enormous amount of work.

State Parks was gracious enough to allow our unit in with stipulations of COVID procedures in place, the COVID questionnaire, temperature checking, masks in place and social distancing, all of which BCHer's are very good at. We naturally seem to know to stay either a mule or horse apart.

The most service work the unit did was at Vern Whitaker Horse Camp. The first weekend we went down, we raked and cleared out all corrals and the campground itself. All trees were skirted and dead wood cut down and hauled off. We washed and re-stained more than 20 picnic tables that were parched from the desert sun. The unit even started repainting the saddle/hitching posts at the 11 campsites. We only got five done because they quickly soaked up the stain and we ran out! State Parks was so impressed with the amount of work we got done they invited us back two weeks later to finish. So back we went, and this trip we finished those saddle/hitching posts and put new roofs on the tool shed and museum/library. We also repaired some of the frames around doors and eaves. To top this off, new flashing and new paint were put on both building and fire hose box. Boy, oh boy, does it look awesome! Nothing like fresh paint to make a camp look loved and welcoming.

A little history for your reading pleasure is that the San Diego Unit along with the San Gorgonio Pass Unit has provided trail maintenance and support to California State Parks at Vern Whitaker Horse Camp and the trails at Coyote Canyon for the past 27 years. The unit has provided not only the labor but also the materials for major projects such as constructing the gazebo and large fire ring. This long-term relationship with many different State Park District Rangers and Superintendents has developed from mutual respect and trust working together for the best outcome for the community. BCHC San Diego Unit formed a supportive relationship with USFS-Cleveland National Forest for both trail projects and horse camp

restoration and directly assisted with the rebuilding of Boulder Oaks Camp in Campo, California. The unit started providing pack support for their trail crews in 2020.

Earlier in 2020, we were contacted by a BLM Ranger who was tasked with complete renovation of a small camp in McCain Valley. While he had not worked with San Diego Unit before, several rangers in his office recommended he contact us for information and support. The positive comments he received from other rangers led to a new relationship with BLM and our unit was able to give input on the best options for the area to accommodate equestrian recreation. We have been able to offer equine trail education, Leave No Trace education and support in many public land access and preservation issues in San Diego County.



Saddle/hitching posts were washed and re-stained at 11 campsites.



Campgrounds were cleaned, buildings repainted, roofs replaced, doors and eaves repaired.

# UNIT NEWS

## REDSHANK RIDERS:

### A GOOD IDEA FOR NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Last year Rhonda Strickland, Newsletter Editor for Redshank Riders Unit, was going through some of the old issues of the unit newsletter, "Tails From the Trails." She was reminded that she had been doing the newsletter for her unit since 2006!

So, being locked down (more like locked up), Rhonda thought it might be fun to put together a retrospective issue. She got permission from Stacy Kuhns, unit president at the time, and created a 22-page newsletter full of pictures and stories covering 2010 to 2020. Not only did Rhonda have fun putting the special edition together, unit members had fun looking back at old photos and recalling unit history.

If this idea appeals to you, Rhonda thoughtfully set up links you can click on to view the newsletter and read it like an online magazine. The pages flip and may be enlarged to full screen.

Here is the link to the "THE SPECIAL 10 YEAR RETROSPECTIVE ISSUE" magazine page. If you would like to download the newsletter, may do so here:

[http://www.redshankriders.com/tailsfromthetails\\_specialissue.html](http://www.redshankriders.com/tailsfromthetails_specialissue.html)

Here is the link to the Redshank Rider NEWSLETTER PAGE where you will find all of the unit's newsletters back to 2006: <http://www.redshankriders.com/newsletters.html>

Thanks, Rhonda, for sharing your innovative idea!



Photo by Kaboompics.com from Pexels

## SIERRA FREEPACKERS:

Article and photos submitted by Mary Odell

The Sierra Freepackers have slowly returned to pre-COVID activities, after getting their shots and still maintaining social distance.

Activities so far have been trail work at Eastman Lake, assisting at a cleanup at Footman Park (a taking off location for winter rides), packing review and education at Footman Park, and trail cleanup at Bass Lake.



Patty McCartney and Mike Landress (on the bike) heading out for trail work.



Cathy Miller (sawyer) and Mike Landress getting to work at Eastman Lake.



Patricia Vallentyne assisting at cleanup at Footman Park.



Mary Odell's 3-year-old molly mule, MaeBell got a packing lesson.



Denise Robinson, Sharon Seslowe and Patty McCartney all packed up.

# UNIT NEWS



John Wagoner cutting one of 15 trees, April 7 at Bass Lake.



Mike Landress at another big Bass Lake pile.



Log rolling time with John Wagoner, Marlis Rohrer, Denise Robinson and Patricia Vallentyne.



The Freepackers also were able to purchase an enclosed trailer for storage of all our unit equipment this last winter (see above photo). We were able to do this with the help of Backcountry Horsemen of America Educational Fund (Thank you, BCHA!) and our fundraiser from last year. It is wonderful to know where all the equipment is stored!

Plans for the summer include continuing work at an educational booth at our local Coarsegold Rodeo, continued work at Kelty Meadows Horse Camp, cleanup of trails out of Fish Camp and MAYBE some work back at Granite Creek, a place that suffered from the devastating fires of last fall.

The deadline for submissions for the

**SUMMER 2021 EDITION**  
of The Backcountry News is:

**July 15, 2021**

Submissions to:

BCHC Editor at

BCHCNewsletter@gmail.com

**BCHC**  
**sincerely**  
**thanks the**  
**following**  
**2020**  
**Rendezvous**  
**sponsors**  
**for their**  
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A donation in the amount of your choice is tax deductible. You can now donate easily and quickly, using a major credit card or PayPal. Simply go to the BCHC website ([bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org)), scroll down to the bottom of any page, press the DONATE button and help us in our many efforts.  
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# UNIT NEWS

## SAN DIEGO:

### **Looking for a fun weekend this fall?**

Plan to come to the best desert horse camp in Southern California - Vern Whitaker Horse Camp in Anza Borrego Desert State Parks. The camp has experienced a decline in use by equestrians in the past few years, occupancy dropped from 11 percent to 10 percent, and, while there are some valid reasons for this, we also have folks who have never been there or are not sure how to get there. The BCHC San Diego Unit is putting together a fun weekend of camping, riding and entertainment. Mark your calendar and watch for more details in the next few months.

### **SOME BACKGROUND:**

As with most horse camps, Vern Whitaker Camp is in danger of being opened up to non-horse campers. The location is ideal and campers without horses are looking for more camps as the current ones fill up fast. The horse camps in Cuyamaca State Parks over the past five years have run at 11 percent occupancy so it's hard to negotiate with the land managers when they have paying customers asking to come in and horse people not showing up. San Diego Unit is trying to put on an event to draw as many horse campers as we can to the camp to acquaint them with the area, the camp and need to "use it or lose it" concept. Green Valley Horse Camp in Cuyamaca has already been turned into a multi-use camp due to low usage.

### **SAVE THE DATE: November 5, 6 and 7 Vern Whitaker Horse Camp Festival**

The past year has been different if nothing else with all the sheltering in place and closed camps, now everyone is anxious to get out again. In an effort to introduce or reacquaint equestrians to both horse camping in general and especially the unique beauty and history of the Vern Whitaker Horse Camp, the San Diego Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California is sponsoring a fun weekend camp out at Vern Whitaker on **November 5, 6 and 7, 2021**. This will be an all-inclusive weekend consisting of a campsite for up four people with four corrals, Saturday night dutch oven dinner, Sunday morning dutch oven breakfast **and** a Saturday night concert by **Dave Stamey**. If you are one of the few people who have not heard a concert from Dave before, you are in for a real treat. He has won more awards that I can list and is a regular at Bishop Mule Days, BCHC Rendezvous and many other events. He is also a BCHC member. You may listen to a sample of his music and humor on YouTube.

Vern Whitaker Horse Camp is in Coyote Canyon just outside the town of Borrego Springs, easily accessible via I-10 or the inland route through Warner Springs. The camp has large campsites, a saddle stand at each site, a picnic table, and a fire ring. There is a modern shower building with all the amenities. Water is available at your campsite and along the corral area. There is a museum displaying a variety of artifacts and books. Vern Whitaker was the last mounted State Park Ranger in Anza Borrego State Park and his personal saddle is on display in the little museum.

The area offers miles and miles of trails to ride. Some trails are in the valley around the camp and others go all the way up the mountain through Collins Valley up to Bailey's Cabin. We will offer some guided rides and a little history of the area or you can ride the trails on your own. **More details to follow. Registration will begin July 1, 2021. "Like" our Facebook page, "Backcountry Horsemen of California – San Diego Unit," to get timely updates.**

There are only 12 developed sites and room for 10 rigs in an open overflow area so this will be a small cozy venue. There is a "wind break" gazebo and large rock fire ring in the group area where the concert and meals will be provided. It will a fun-filled weekend as fall in the desert offers warm days and cool nights, perfect to gather with friends and enjoy some good times.

### **SAVE THE DATE and enjoy some quality horse camping at Vern Whitaker!**

**Additional information available by contacting Terry at (760) 789-5185 or by email at [tlh9749@yahoo.com](mailto:tlh9749@yahoo.com)**

# IN MEMORY

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

## WILL ANGLEMYER, SHASTA TRINITY UNIT



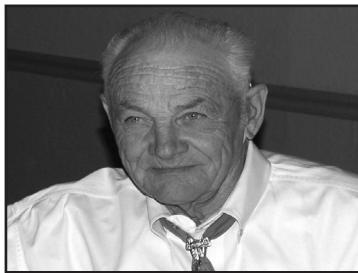
1930 - 2020

Will Anglemyer was a longtime member of Shasta Trinity Unit and an accomplished horseman. Born in Ohio, Will traveled West as a young man, working as a cowboy on ranches in New Mexico, Arizona and California. While on his way to Montana he stopped in Burney, California, where he met his future wife Nancy. Will and Nancy were married in 1969 and moved to their home in Shingletown where they lived the next 50 years.



Will made his living raising Paint horses, training, and as a local farrier. If a mule kicked at him during a packing experience, Will's philosophy was to just "pack 'em heavier." Will and Nancy's favorite area to pack into was the Caribou Wilderness area on the east side of Mt. Lassen. Will passed June 2020 from natural causes. RIP, Will. We will miss you.

## GENE GARDNER, SHASTA TRINITY UNIT



1933 - 2020

Gene Gardner, a lifetime member of BCHC, passed away in December. He was 87. Gene was an important part of the unit, always there for anything the unit needed. In his early years, he packed with three mules. He rode the parades, brought his mules to the shows and served on the unit's board of directors. Once Gene gave up riding, he became the electrician at the Rendezvous and the chief cook for fish plants and annual dinners. Gene was also active in Redding Rodeo Association and Asphalt Cowboys.



He left behind a loving partner, Sheila Gievet, three daughters and three grandchildren.

A celebration of life will be held in the summer of 2021 at the Redding Rodeo Grounds.

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

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

# Recognition of Special Individuals

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

## SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS,

1/16/2021 through 4/15/2021

### BENEFACITOR (\$100)

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

### Redshank Riders

### Redwood San Diego

### San Joaquin Sierra

### Sequoia

### Shasta Trinity

### Sutter Buttes

Allison Renck  
Ron Robertson  
Darrel & Carole Polasek  
David Roy Chevallier  
Lee Kelly-Gillen  
Walt J. Kirkwood  
John Cunningham  
Larry Nishma Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta  
Stephen Naylor

Werner Ansorge  
Jamie Wilson, DVM  
Larry Young  
Lyle Charter  
Alicia Mosher  
Corky Layne  
Jerry Walters

### PATRON (\$250)

High Country	Lynn Saunders
High Sierra	Richard Cochran Sonia Shepard McLellan
Kern Sierra	Willi Coeler Lynn Joiner
Los Padres	Otis Calef
Mid Valley	Sarah Rivers Sequoia
Sutter Buttes	Kathryn C. Bennett Jim Holly Ben DuBose

### MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Eastern Sierra	Sarah C. Sheehan
Kern Sierra	Roger Whitaker
Mid Valley	Dennis M. Serpa Terri Arington Lloyd Erlandson
Mother Lode	Timothy Durbin
Pacific Crest	Craig Bugajski
Shasta Trinity	Dean Angelides

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR  
SUPPORT!**

# WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS

The following new members joined BCHC from

1/16/2021 through 4/15/2021

**THANK YOU, NEW MEMBERS**

We look forward to meeting you!

High Sierra

Kern River Valley

Kern Sierra

Los Padres

Mid Valley

Mother Lode

North Bay

Pacific Crest

Redwood

San Diego

Santa Ana River

Shasta Trinity

Sierra Freepackers

Top of the State

Nikki Gibler

Brenton Cornelius

Brysen Nixon

Kali Beard

Chip Wullbrandt

Debbie Inskeep

Cody Norman Jacobson

Jennifer Lacy

Cheyenne Mason

Jason Skiles

Giovanni Soleti

Robert Walker

Lee Ann Fergerson

Nancy Finch

Jenni Moser

James Roach

Evelyn Soltero

Jane Taylor

George Lee

Craig Bugajski

Patrick Kanzler

Susan Mena

Tara Leann Pohlson

Fran Ratcliffe

Elijah Shannon

Tom Wagner

Tracie Whitlow

Alicia Ziegenbein

Rex Berry

Donald B. Hess

Mary Homicz

Valerie Lantz

Nina Martin

George Poppic, Jr.

Treva Sue Strain

Cathy Orth

Ashley Lofdahl

## WHY JOIN BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

(From bchcalifornia.org)

As a member, you'll:

Get to participate in state and unit activities

Learn valuable backcountry skills and outdoor ethics

Gain new friends in our wonderful members

Receive the BCHC newsletter

Be kept up to date on public lands issues

And more!

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

## JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE

- Fill out the ONLINE MEMBERSHIP FORM, save it and print a copy for your records.

- Submit the online form. A copy will be sent to Chip Herzig, VP of Membersio. **IMPORTANT:** Youth Memberships MUST also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will NOT be valid until the forms are received.

- Pay with your Paypal

## JOIN OR RENEW BY MAIL

- Fill out the MEMBERSHIP FORM on page 23, make a copy for your records. **IMPORTANT:** Youth Memberships MUST also print, sign, and mail these forms. Youth memberships will NOT be valid until the forms are received.

- Mail the completed form(s) and check\* to:

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

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

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

# BCHC Units Around the State

**ANTELOPE VALLEY**

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

**EASTERN SIERRA**

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

**HIGH COUNTRY**

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

**HIGH SIERRA**

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

**KERN RIVER VALLEY**

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

**KERN SIERRA**

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

**LAKE-MENDO**

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

**LOS PADRES**

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

**MID VALLEY**

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

**MOTHER LODE**

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

**NORTH BAY**

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

**PACIFIC CREST**

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

**REDSHANK RIDERS**

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

**REDWOOD**

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

**SAN DIEGO**

PO Box 833  
Descanso, CA 91916.  
www.bchcsd.com  
**Walt J. Kirkwood**  
(619) 445-3555  
walterjkirkwood@gmail.com  
suzannepkirk@gmail.com

**SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA**

PO Box 25693  
Fresno, CA 93729-5693  
www.bchcsjsu.org.  
**Joe Kaminski**  
(559) 733-9170  
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

**SANTA ANA RIVER**

PO Box 306  
Norco, CA 92860  
www.sarubchc.org  
**Mike Williams**  
(951) 340-1789  
socalhorsemn@yahoo.com

**SEQUOIA**

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

**SHASTA TRINITY**

16900 C Rd  
Cottonwood, CA 96022  
www.bchcshastatrinity.org  
**Greg Mittelstadt**  
(707) 330-3314  
donar\_723@yahoo.com

**SIERRA FREEPACKERS**

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

**SUTTER BUTTES**

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

**TOP OF THE STATE**

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

## Questions? Membership Matters

BCHC VP of Membership is  
Chip Herzig.

He will be happy to address  
your questions or concerns.

Chip may be reached  
Monday through Friday.

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

Email: chipherzig@gmail.  
com

Phone: (775) 463-3634

## Planning a Trip? Use



You will find the same airlines, hotels, rental cars  
and cruises as on other travel websites!

You'll get great travel prices!

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

**BCHC EARNS 60%**

OF THE  
COMMISSIONS!

It's that simple!

[www.ytbtravel.com/bchc](http://www.ytbtravel.com/bchc)

# MEMBERSHIP

## Backcountry Horsemen of California



### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

New    Renewal  
 Change

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

DCTR (Your Membership Number): \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S NAME - No Business Names, Print Clearly

SPOUSE/CO-MEMBER'S NAME - MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address/PO Box

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code (full 9 digits if known) \_\_\_\_\_ Area Code \_\_\_\_\_ Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

#### Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual \$50	<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family \$60	<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15	<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family \$110	<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old) \$15*	<input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual \$125	<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family \$150	*Youth members MUST fill out BOTH Youth Membership forms (available online)	<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney \$500

#### Associate Memberships: An Additional \$15 PER UNIT is added to your Parent Unit Dues

Associate Memberships Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/Unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/Unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

Add additional choices here

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

#### Parent BCHC Membership Types

Individual, Family, (Shared\*\*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt. Whitney

A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit.

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

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

#### Associate Memberships

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

#### Youth Memberships

Youth Memberships MUST be accompanied by a signed Youth Membership Permission Release and Youth Parent Permission Form. A Youth Membership is NOT valid until BCHC or the Parent Unit has received signed copies of these forms.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership  
is available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at  
[bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org) or call (775) 463-3634

#### KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual	\$50
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual	\$90
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual	\$125
<input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family	\$60
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family	\$110
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family	\$150
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old)	\$15
<input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old)	\$15*
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor	\$100
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron	\$250
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney	\$500

On that form, I also requested:

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Memberships      \$\_\_\_\_\_

My Total Remittance:      \$\_\_\_\_\_

My Check Number:      \$\_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Verification of BCHC Membership

Verification of BCHC  
Membership is  
available via:

- 1) BCHC Unit President's reports
- 2) BCHC Membership Chair reports
- 3) a self addressed stamped envelope submitted with this form
- 4) a valid email address

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

**Rendezvous 2021 is planned for October 29-31 in Tulare  
Please mark your calendars and join us!**



## **RENDEZVOUS 2021**

By Rendezvous Co-Chairs Lynn Joiner and Dan Baumgardner

We are still planning to have Rendezvous 2021 in Tulare, California, October 29-31, but have not been able to get a definite commitment from Tulare County Fairgrounds due to changes in California's COVID-19 rules.

With an optimistic attitude, we are moving forward! The theme for the Rendezvous is "Preserving Our Trails for Future Generations." We plan to have several clinicians including JoDe Collins and Sarah Muzquiz. Wilderness Riders will present Leave No Trace classes. There will be packing contests, pack saddle fitting classes, dutch oven contests, Kids' Corral, an art show, Trail Trials, Pack 'n Trail and lots of vendors. San Joaquin Sierra Unit will prepare the meals and a bluegrass band will provide entertainment. We will hold raffles for a gun raffle and a Lee Roeser pack saddle.

Rendezvous is a good time to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones. We are looking forward to a great time and hope you plan to join us!