

"Ode to Our Favorite Trails"



## BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

## Rendezvous 2025

APRIL 11-13, 2025 CORNING, CA ROLLING HILLS CASINO EQUESTRIAN CENTER

We chose "Ode to Our Favorite Trails" as the theme for 2025 Rendezvous as a way to celebrate, in words and stories, our favorite places to ride, pack, hike, camp and recreate. We're encouraging ALL trail users and advocates to attend Rendezvous and share their stories!

FREE ADMISSION | OPEN TO THE PUBLIC



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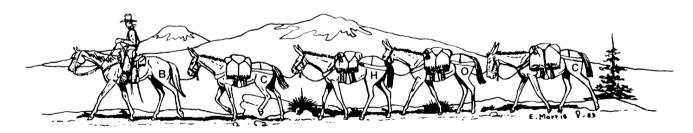
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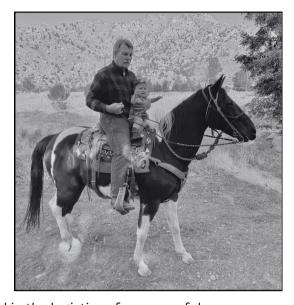
#### Food, drink & alcohol restrictions at the Equestrian Center

The Rolling Hills Casino has restrictions on the consumption of outside food, drinks and alcohol at the Equestrian Center. Attendees who are camping at the event may prepare and consume food and alcohol at their RVs, horse trailers and/or tents, but outside food/beverages cannot be taken into the arenas or other equestrian buildings. Personal water bottles are OK. Food will be available for purchase during the day at the arenas, and those wishing to buy Rendezvous event breakfasts and/or dinners may do so via the BCHC State booth (meals subject to availability). If you win a raffle item that features food, drink or alcohol, it must be taken to your RV or off the equestrian grounds to consume.

## Welcome to 2025 Rendezvous!

#### BCHC President | Mike Hughes

Well, here we are again, another year another incredible Rendezvous. Welcome, welcome, welcome to all newcomers, all of those who have previously attended, and to all of the dedicated volunteers and past years' volunteers. As most of the BCHC knowledgeable are aware, this is BCHC's big opportunity to introduce BCHC to the curious members of the general public. This includes horse and mule owners, as well as all enthusiasts who love and enjoy the great outdoors, regardless of their mode of transportation onto public use lands. The first and foremost directive of the BCHC Rendezvous is to educate, educate, educate about who we are, what we do and how we do it. This function is highlighted through the various equine clinics, the wide array of engaging events and the considerable depth of knowledge shared by the friendly interactions throughout the weekend.



Those valuable individuals who have been involved in and instrumental in the logistics of a successful Rendezvous event are aware of the depth of work and the amount of people it takes to stage an event of this magnitude. The resources it requires, even those that may seem insignificant, are critical to the completion of this daunting task. From our yearly Rendezvous theme (Ode to Our Favorite Trails) to the artistic creation of the thematic poster, from the online posting of the Rendezvous registration (available online) to the assembly and disbursement of the packets at the Rendezvous, from the printing of raffle tickets (all inclusive 4-day wilderness pack trip or \$500 Bass Pro gift card) to each Unit member purchasing tickets, from setting up gear for pack saddle competitions to awarding prizes to proud recipients, from offering a wide array of equine and trail clinics (many are free) to walking away with valuable life altering knowledge, and from the search for an equine appropriate location to a fully functional Rendezvous are but a few of the many pieces that our valuable volunteers make possible. Every BCHC member who can volunteer a few hours to a few days is needed to produce these valuable, educational and this positive publicity Rendezvous for BCHC. It is this team of dedicated and committed people that step forward to keep the momentum of this organization moving forward in the proper direction. This year is going to be extremely important for active BCHC volunteerism. With the recent downsizing of the federal work force, it appears that the burden of volunteerism will rest most heavily on our BCHC shoulders. As president of BCHC, I prefer to take a patient and measured approach toward this current situation by realizing that nothing can be accomplished without at least a temporary employee presence in the forest and wilderness. I believe that after the flurry of this downsizing activity we will see some clarity.

With that said, I recognize that in most of California, BCHC members have established many positive working relationships with our federal agency partners as the result of years of personal interactions, volunteer agreements and good old fashioned hard work. We are identified as the organization which usually is the first to step forward for public lands and trails. Our established good reputation has maintained this positive and trustworthy interaction with the federal agencies and employees.

I believe BCHC is held in high esteem for the valuable packing intern program we fund under the supervision of the U.S. Forest Service, the necessary public land projects we complete and the massive amount of volunteer hours we perform for the greater good. Therefore, we must constantly strive to increase membership, elevate productivity and maintain our usual respectful and positive attitude.

In closing, I would like everyone who is reading this message to remember that the Rendezvous remains BCHC's biggest fundraiser of the year. We diligently try to bring forth the best setting, clinics, competitions, education, entertainment, shopping and an overall remarkable equine environment that is possible. Now all we need is for you to join in on Rendezvous 2025 at Rolling Hills Equestrian Center on April 11-13.

#### Gratefully, Mike Hughes

## Welcome to 2025 Rendezvous!

#### Rendezvous Chairman | Larry Shuman

I was born and raised in Northern California. The last 35 years I have lived in Cottonwood. I was raised on a farm in Woodland and when I turned 30, I went into public service as an Engineering Technician and later as an Information Technology Supervisor at Water Resources in Red Bluff.

I joined the BCHC Shasta Trinity Unit in 1996, got elected to the Shasta Trinity Unit board in 1997 and have been involved in BCHC ever since. I have served as both 1st VP of BCHC and President of BCHC. I have been in the position of the Shasta Trinity Unit President off and on for 8 years. I am currently the Unit Work Project Coordinator, grant writer, state Unit representative and one of two BCHC representatives to BCHA. This will be my fourth Rendezvous that I have been chairman of. Each one is unique and presents its own challenges. I have relied this time on the hardworking people on the committee



and I want to especially thank Michele Machado Woods and Cindy McMurry for all their hard work. Interestingly I rode my first horse one year before I joined BCHC and now run a pack string of up to 4 mules with 8 in the yard. Things really changed in my life from that first ride at 48.



# 2025 BCHC Rendezvous Western Art

April 11–12
Rolling Hills Casino
Equestrian Center

Backcountry Horsemen of California members are diverse and talented. Be sure to check out the display of paintings, photography, sewing, knitting, quilting, carving, leatherwork, crafts, etc., in the Western Art Show. If you see something you like, contact the artist to purchase it, or attend the Saturday dinner to bid on artwork from the show.



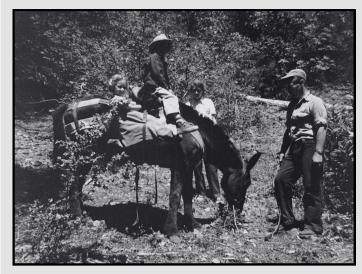


# About the Cover Artist

Gay Holland Berrien's first pack mule ride was when she was 5 years old, riding in a pannier on one side of Pedro, a pack mule belonging to New River packer Grover Ladd, with her younger brother in the pannier on the other side. Her parents borrowed the mule to carry them about 10 miles up the trail to the family's mining claim cabin above Denny. When she was 16, the Hollands moved to Denny from Marin County, and she was able to actually have her own horses.

Berrien retired after 30 years with the Forest Service in 2002. She worked in office positions as well as cultural resources, conducting field work and report writing in the region's history and prehistory. She is active as a board member in the Trinity County Historical Society and has written two books on New River history: Grover Hayden Ladd, A New River Packer (2014), and William G. Meadows, A New River Packer (2024). While researching for the book on Grover Ladd and his packing, she learned from BCHC members that her first mule ride when she was 5 was on a Salmon River pack saddle.

In 2016, Forest Service packer and Trinity Alps Wilderness trails manager Mike McFadin published a children's book, *Ivan, The Forest Service Pack Mule*, which Berrien had the privilege of illustrating. This was something she thought was "up her alley," since in elementary school and junior high she used to draw little comic books about a mule. From McFadin's children's book, she expanded to drawing individual cartoons of Ivan for the local weekly newspaper for two years and then compiled them into a book of cartoons as a fundraiser



Photos courtesy of Gay Berrien

**Above:** In 1951 with Pedro the Mule. Dick and Marietta Holland with Pedro on the New River Trail. Gay is on the side facing the camera, her younger brother, Ed, is on the other side out of sight, and their older brother, Chuck, is sitting on Pedro for the photo. Note that the pack is a Salmon River.

**Below:** Gay on her horse, Cisco, at Big Bar with the Trinity River behind.



for the Trinity County Fair in 2021 (*Ivan, Trinity Pack Mule, A Day at the Fair and Other Adventures*). In the past she was also a volunteer staff artist for seven years for the Cal-Western Appaloosa and for 13 years for Aim Intercultural Magazine. She and her husband, Rich (also a Forest Service retiree), live in Big Bar, and have one son, Adam, who lives with his wife, Sonya, and children, Sage and Amilius, near Jacksonville, Oregon.

### Leave No Trace Instructors



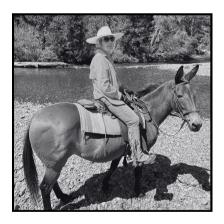
#### Carolyn Gilmore | Respect Wildlife

Carolyn Gilmore has been a member of BCHC for over 20 years and a Wilderness Rider for many years. She has been active with horses her entire life as evidenced by the photo of her in diapers on a horse with her father. She has been active in the Pony Express, a Tevis volunteer, and Bishop Mule Days as a contestant. Her favorite activity, though, has been with the Backcountry Horsemen of California horse camping and participating in the Rendezvous!! Coming from a career in education, she treasures the BCHC mission of helping horsemen to be knowledgeable in how to lessen their impact on our natural environment and at the same time throughly enjoy our stock on our trails. Looking forward to seeing you in my Leave No Trace workshop!!

#### Ruthie Heuer | Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces & Leave What You Find

I've been in the mountains all my life. Hiked, hunted, and got smart with packing stock as soon as I could afford them. It seems I've been a member of BCHC for quite some time. In 1996 I attended the first Wilderness Rider course and the following spring I attended Ninemile Remount Station for my Master LNT course. The next thing I knew was being a member of the State Education Steering Committee and then ...... like I said, been around for a while.





#### Lynn Joiner | Plan Ahead and Prepare

I have been involved with stock since childhood. As a youth I showed horses, riding Western and English. After marriage and children, I started trail riding. I was introduced to packing 30 plus years ago and have enjoyed the backcountry ever since, taking numerous pack trips every summer. I am a graduate of the Wilderness Rider Class of 1998.

#### Denise Robinson | Stock Management ℰ Leave What You Find

I will be sharing LNT practices with Stock Management at this year's Rendezvous. The majority (20 yrs.) of my packing experience have been in the Sierra National Forest of Eastern Madera County and the Ansel Adams Wilderness. I want to share what has worked for me while leaving no trace, which can be hard to do with livestock. I have also been a campground host in a Forest Service public horse camp for 10 years, still encouraging LNT principles in that setting. I have some fun stories too. You can get 10 points towards your boot pin for attending my class too!



### Leave No Trace Core Classes

LNT Core Classes are mandatory for the Pin Program. 10 points each. See sign-off sheet included with your program for full instructions on how to earn points for pins.

#### O Plan Ahead and Prepare

Planning and preparing your trip is vital to eliminate most of the problems that may occur. Are you knowledgeable of the area and campsites you are visiting? Is your equipment in repair? Are you and your stock in shape? Do you know the LNT principles? How about reading a map and compass? What is your group's interest, such as exploring, hunting, fishing, or relaxing? Do you know first-aid and where the nearest help is? Does someone know where you are? The list goes on and on. That is why we offer this class every year at Rendezvous.

#### 1 Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces

This starts as soon as you start your engine. Is your vehicle and trailer ready (planning ahead)? How do you take care of the trailhead? How do you conduct yourself and stock on the trail? What about safety while crossing meadows, creeks, social trails, snow, over or around trees and boulders on trails? What makes a good campsite? You need to know the difference between a hardened site and pristine site and proper care of each. The importance of wind flow, location of food storage, stock line and tents in camp. How do you leave your campsite?

#### 3 Leave What You Find

What things should be left and why. How do you preserve evidence of the past and the wonders and discoveries of natural objects? What visitors do, not realizing the damage left behind. What does the law say about removing natural objects? How can we prevent the spreading of non-native plants and animals? Knowledge and understanding helps us make the right decisions with this subject.

#### 5 Respect Wildlife

Seeing wildlife is one of the exciting experiences while visiting the wilderness areas. How do we keep them wild and us humans safe? Wildlife has a hard survival every day, so what can we do to not add to their difficult life? How are we acting when meeting them? How do we store our food and trash? How do we control our dogs?

#### 7 Stock Management

Humans and animals are all different with different abilities and talents. We all handle events and problems in various ways. What works for you and your stock may not work for others in the group. It is important to figure all this out before going on your trip. Practice with your stock way before you are on the trail. We will discuss different options for handling stock in the wilderness areas.



Scan here to learn more about BCHC's partnership with the Center for Outdoor Ethics https://www.bchcalifornia.org/leave-no-trace.html



Scan here to learn more about LNT. LNT.org



## **Equine Trainers**

#### Horse & Mule Trainer | Jeff Gleason

Jeff Gleason's horse training career started in a less traditional way. He is a husband to his wife Pam and a father to three sons and a daughter. He is a retired police officer with 28 years of service.

In 1996, he was team roping recreationally when his oldest son, Jared, asked if he could rope also. In order to facilitate Jared roping, Jeff got off his rope horse and gave it to Jared. Knowing he couldn't afford nice horses for both himself and Jared he decided the only option was to train horses himself.

Jeff bought his first colt that year and soon fell in love with the

training process. He spent the next several years researching information and getting his hands on as many different horses as he could.

In 2014, Jeff was asked to come to DT horses and help with their crop of 16 yearlings. That invitation led to an incredible opportunity where Jeff trained for DT Horses for the next 10 years. Through his experience at DT Horses, Jeff has trained hundreds of horses. Many of the horses trained by Jeff at DT Horses went on to have very successful careers in the performance world. However, he is most proud that all of them, regardless of talent, went on to be successful somewhere, whether in the arena, on a ranch, or as somebody's trail horse. Jeff was invited to the BCHC Shasta Trinity Unit annual pack clinic and gave a 2-hour talk and demo on mules. Unit members were all quite impressed with his knowledge, personality and especially his patience. We decided at that time he would make a great asset at our Rendezvous.

#### Horse Trainer | Bryan Neubert

Bryan was raised on his family's ranch near Salinas, California. In his teen years he became friends with neighbor Bill Dorrance. He spent all the time he could with Bill, working with horses and braiding rawhide.

After college, Bryan worked with Bill steadily, starting and riding colts on Bill's ranch. During this time Bryan met Bill's friend Ray Hunt and Bill's brother Tom Dorrance. He had many opportunities since those years to work for and with these gifted men. They have greatly influenced and helped him learn what he is able to accomplish with a horse and ultimately with parts of his life.



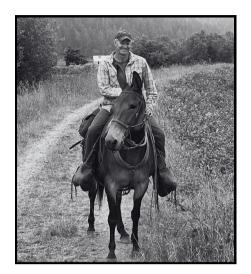
Bryan has spent 20 years cowboying and riding colts on some of the biggest ranches in Nevada and California. Thirteen of those years were spent as cowboss in charge of cattle, horses and the cowboy crew. He has had valuable experience working with wild horses in Nevada, as well as conducting demonstrations on wild horse handling across the country.

Bryan and his wife Patty have been married for 47 years and are blessed with three children, Jim, Kate and Luke. They all make their living working with horses.

Since 1992, Bryan calls Alturas, California home. He holds clinics at his home for part of the year and travels the United States and Canada the rest of the year helping people and their horses through his colt starting, horsemanship and cow working clinics. Bryan is eager to share what he has learned. He believes that he is constantly learning and considers himself to be a continual student of horsemanship. Check out Bryan's 2025 Clinic schedule and learn more at https://www.bryanneubert.com/.

## **Equine Care Clinicians**

\*Class qualifies for 10 points toward Pin Program

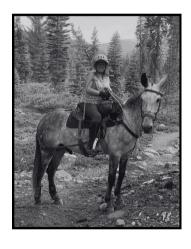


#### Equine Dentistry\* | Scott Essex, DVM

Dr. Essex grew up in Lake County, California. Born to two school teachers, teaching comes naturally to Dr. Essex, and for the 2025 Backcountry Rendezvous, he will be presenting on the benefits of equine dentistry. Dr. Essex obtained his BS at Oregon State University and his Masters and Doctorate from University of California, Davis. Dr. Essex has been in practice 25 years this year. He spent 10 years providing regulatory work as a field veterinarian for the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Upon returning to Siskiyou County, Dr. Essex and his wife currently own a large animal ambulatory practice. He also provides an extensive small animal spay/neuter program to rural sections of Siskiyou County. He is a dedicated husband, step-dad, animal lover, hunter, outdoor enthusiast and mule lover!

#### Shoeing and Hoof Care\* | Diane Greene

Diane Greene is a full-time, certified professional farrier and a lameness specialist with over 23 years of experience providing hoof care in the greater Redding area as the owner of West Coast Farrier Service. Diane has a BS degree in Animal Science from UC Davis (1984), has completed and graduated from the UC Davis College of Agricultural Education with Single Subject & Specialist teaching credentials (1986), and is a credentialed graduate of the Pacific Coast Farrier School in Sacramento, California (2001). Lameness treatment is her specialty, and farriery practices that forestall lameness issues are her passion. She can be found exploring the mountains on Clyde, her 12-year-old john mule, when she isn't scuba diving or working under a horse!





#### Saddle Fitting\* | Susan & David Hartje

Susan and David Hartje have been fitting Endurance, English and Western saddles since 2002. They focus on educating riders while helping find the best saddle possible, or improving current saddle fit. Susan is also a Certified Centered Riding Instructor and Equine Cranio Sacral Therapist. She uses her understanding of Integrated equine health and balanced riding to help clients get the right saddle and ride more effectively. Susan has studied with master saddlers and equine experts including Andy Sankey, Dr. Kerry Ridgeway, Dr. Joyce Harmon, Mark Rashid, Jillian Krinebring and many others. However, her best teachers are the horses, including their own herd of five mares. David's animal handling and educational background, combined with his mechanical skills, keep the business running smoothly.



#### **BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA 2025 RENDEZVOUS**



#### **U.S. FOREST SERVICE**

WILD HORSE & BURRO PROGRAM



## WILD HORSE SATELLITE **ADOPTION EVENT**

APRIL 11-13, 2025 ROLLING HILLS CASINO EQUESTRIAN CENTER APPLICATION



MORE INFO AND **ADOPTION** 



Essex **Veterinary Services** Serving Siskiyou County and Southern Oregon Call 541-892-8905

Dr. Essex will be presenting on the importance of equine dentistry

> Dr. Scott Essex, DVM Veterinarian and **Back Country Enthusiast**

## **Equine Care Clinicians**

\*Class qualifies for 10 points toward Pin Program

#### Masterson Method Body Work\* | Carrie Owan

Carrie's adoration of horses began as a young girl during pony rides in Reseda, California. Over the years, horses have not only been one of her greatest loves, but also her teachers, revealing deep lessons about self. As a Masterson Method Certified Practitioner serving Siskiyou County and Southern Oregon, Carrie is dedicated to helping horses feel better in their bodies and building a bridge of trust through the modality's gentle techniques. Learn more: https://mastersonmethod.com/





#### Backcountry First Aid\* | Christine Russell, DVM

Dr. Christine Russell grew up in Southern California trail riding with her mom everywhere from Pioneertown to Borderfield State Park. She received her Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Colorado State University in 2018 and later became certified in equine and small animal acupuncture in 2019 through the veterinarian led program CuraCore. Christine lives and works in Alturas, California, and is an associate veterinarian at Modoc Veterinary Center where she practices mixed animal medicine. Her passions include traversing the Warner Mountains with her favorite trail horse and friends, as well as hiking, kayaking, and fishing with her husband and three dogs.

#### Emergency Preparedness\* | Katie Thorne

Katie Thorne was born and raised in the small town of Rescue, CA, in the foothills of the California Sierra Nevada mountain range. She began her volunteer career with El Dorado County Search and Rescue in 2001, wanting to give back to her community by riding horses and helping people. Her membership in EDSAR diversified her training and knowledge in the world of emergency preparedness and response, fielding for lost and injured persons, fires, floods, animal evacuations, and sheltering of animals. She opened her business, Vet Med Trail Packs, LLC, following attempts to find equipment suitable for her teammates in the field of SAR and for neighbors in preparation for emergencies. Vet Med Trail Packs has since produced products with safety and preparedness in animal emergencies as its focus. In 2020, Katie led her EDSAR team to develop a Large Animal Rescue Specialty Team for response to a variety of animal rescues in the region. EDSAR Animal Technical Rescue Team has become a leader in large animal rescue in Northern California, working with UC Davis Veterinary School, CVET, the Halter Project, local fire stations, Cal Fire, Sac Metro Fire and many



other agencies to refine and advance responses to large animal emergencies. Her team has supported the 100-mile Tevis Endurance Ride for 2023 and 2024, and was an integral part of a recent complicated rescue of a horse that had fallen into an abandoned building basement. EDSAR ATR team has responded to eight individual animal rescues in the past six months.

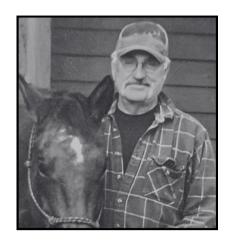
Also attending Rendezvous: North Valley Animal Disaster Group, https://www.nvadg.org/

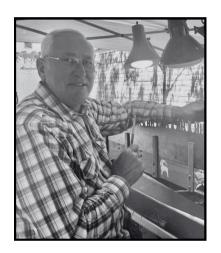
### Saw Instructors

\*Class qualifies for 10 points toward Pin Program

#### Chainsaw\* | Dan Chartier

Dan comes from a logging background. He worked in the woods of Humboldt County until the timber industry was shutting down, then he went to work for CALFIRE. After 25 years, he retired as a Heavy Fire Equipment Operator. Along with his wife of 42 years, they joined the BCHC Shasta Trinity Unit some 12+ years ago. They rode as outriders for a few years and now have five horses and three mules and spend their summers packing, opening trails, and supporting trail crews with the USFS. Dan was the lead chainsaw instructor and state cadre lead for CALFIRE chainsaw program from 2005 to 2019. He also has been part of the BCHC saw program from the start some years back. He is a CALFIRE Certifier and a USFS Chainsaw/Crosscut Evaluator.





#### Crosscut Saw\* | Dave Moser

Dave Moser has been a member of Mid-Valley BCH for over 30 years. He was an Ag Mechanics and Metal Shop instructor at Turlock High School for 33 years. Dave has been sharpening saws for 15 years after being trained and mentored by Dolly Chapman. Since his retirement, Dave has been supporting the development of sawyer training. He is currently a C Certifier Instructor for crosscut and chainsaw. Dave continues to facilitate collaboration between BCH and the Forest Service. Dave owns four horses and one mule which he rides and packs. He has been married for 48 years to wife Kathy. They continue to reside on their horse ranch in Denair where they raised their four sons.

Awards: Stanislaus County Teacher of the Year; Wilderness Rider of the Year; BCH Educator of the Year; LNN Master Instructor; Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers Member of the Year

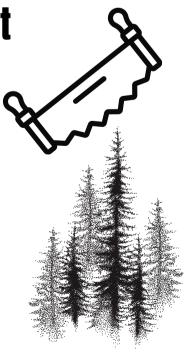
**Crosscut Saw Jackpot** 

Want to show off your crosscut saw skills? Don't miss the crosscut saw two-person team competition on Sunday, April 13!

Cost is \$5 per person, \$10 per team. Winning team takes all in this jackpot style event. All skill levels and ages welcome! Full rules and contest details will be available at the event.

Competition starts at 9 a.m. on April 13. Check the Rendezvous daily schedule for location. Sign-up on Friday-Sunday morning at the BCHC State booth or at the jackpot event location.

All PPE is required to compete. Saws and PPE will be available, or bring your own.



## Trail Work Instructors

\*Class qualifies for 10 points toward Pin Program

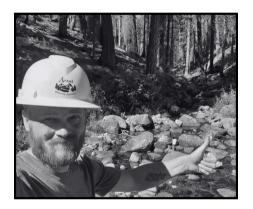


#### Volunteering on Trails\* | Jacob Shinners

Jacob Shinners has been leading trail crews for the Bigfoot Trail Alliance since 2022. He is a B Certified Bucking Sawyer and works with the Crosscut Saw Crew clearing logs from the trail. The last 2 years, Jacob has been learning how to sharpen crosscut saws and is passionate about keeping the "old ways" of doing trail work alive. He also supervises all areas of trail work in the field, teaching volunteers how to maintain trails. He has spent 900+ hours clearing trails in our National Forests. Pack teams like BCHC provide a crucial role in accessing and maintaining our trails by transporting food, tools, and supplies into the backcountry. Jacob is happy and honored to be part of the BCHC Rendezvous this year.

#### Trail Maintenance Tools & Usage\* | Zach Sullivan

After performing a Search & Rescue for Ascend Wilderness Experience, and being one of the most graceful humans through the process with our youth participant, we knew Zach Sullivan would be an AWE-some addition to the Ascend Wilderness guide team! Originally from the backwoods of Mt. St. Helens in SW Washington, he currently lives in the East Trinity Alps near the Long Canyon trailhead. He enjoys skiing, backpacking, and volunteering with various local organizations. As a bonus, Zach is a nationally registered EMT and has tons of experience in the rescue and EMS fields. Fun facts: He speaks English & Thai, loves cats, and collecting old glass bottles.



Scan the codes below to learn more about Ascend Wilderness Experience and Bigfoot Trail Alliance or visit https://ascendwilderness.org/ and https://www.bigfoottrail.org/.

#### **Important Trail Work Partnerships**

In January, representatives from the Redwood, Shasta Trinity and Top of the State Units attended the 2025 Wilderness and Primitive Trails Summit in Eureka. This event, hosted by the Bigfoot Trail Alliance, was important for our Units as we continue to forge partnerships with Northern California and Southern Oregon volunteer trail work organizations that have similar missions and goals. In past years, the Bigfoot Trail Alliance and Ascend Wilderness Experience have partnered with BCHC Unit packers to transport tools, gear, food and other supplies into our wilderness areas for important trail work. More supporting pack trips are scheduled for Summer 2025. When we attended the Trails Summit in Eureka, we heard so many kind words from these partner groups, as well as Federal and State agencies, and it

When we attended the Trails Summit in Eureka, we heard so many kind words from these partner groups, as well as Federal and State agencies, and it inspired us to keep building these relationships in an effort to get the most work done. Likewise, increased cooperation will help with educating BCHC members and these trail work partners on stock use in the backcountry. We're looking forward to attending the Trails Summit in 2026!





## **Backcountry Riding Instructor**

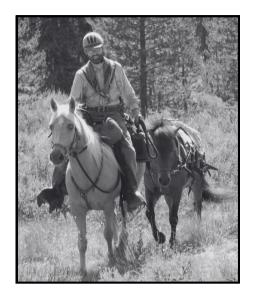
#### All Things Backcountry | Robert Eversole

Robert Eversole, the TrailMeister, spends months of each year traveling all over the United States, and internationally, leading trail riding and horse camping clinics. These clinics are geared towards helping horse and mule owners and their animals escape the arena and enjoy the great outdoors. At his clinics, the main goal is to help build the confidence of attendees with a mix of candid humor and straight talk as well as actionable steps to back up any lofty ideas he may share. See page 16 for a list of free clinics Robert will be teaching at 2025 Rendezvous!

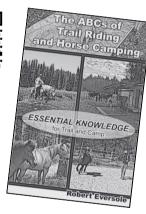
Robert is also well-known for his mohair cinch-making clinics and BCHC is fortunate and proud to feature one of these clinics at Rendezvous this year.

Robert's TrailMeister website and social media pages are a wealth of information for all things backcountry, frontcountry and horsemanship, including informational videos, timely articles, product reviews and knot guides. Need information on horse trails and horse camping across the United States? Robert's website features a comprehensive, searchable equestrian trail and camping list and map. Robert is a published author with his best-selling book, The ABCs of Trail Riding and Horse Camping.

Robert is an official business partner and supporter of Backcountry Horsemen of America.











## (1) Kid's Corral (1)



The Kid's Corral will be hosting a variety of activities throughout Rendezvous, such as Leave No Trace (LNT) for kids, leather crafts including bracelets, ID tags, bird house kits, rock painting, and talks about what to do if you become lost, a coloring contest every day, and much more. Check the schedule boards at the BCHC registration booth and Kid's Corral booth for times of activities.

# TRAILMEISTER CLINICS

Backcountry Horsemen of California is thrilled to welcome TrailMeister, Robert Eversole, as a featured clinician at our 2025 Rendezvous!

#### **FREE SEMINARS**

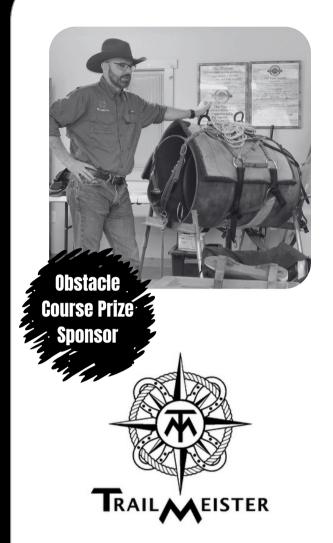
Horse Camping 101: All good camping trips with horses require preparation. And planning can be part of the fun. The reward is being able to ride for as long as you want with friends and family. Let's talk about tips for getting the most out of your camping trips this summer.

Lightweight Horse Camping: If you want to trot off into the wilderness for a few days but fall short because you don't have an extra horse to carry all of your gear, don't fret. You'll love the versatility of Lightweight Horse Camping! We'll borrow from the world of ultra-lightweight hikers, use the tools from Leave No Trace, and combine them with backcountry horse camping to get you into the backcountry without pack stock.

When the Shet Hits the Fan: Are you prepared for when "Just a Day Ride" becomes much much more? Are you prepared for the challenges you'll encounter during an emergency? Together we'll discuss what you'll need to get through a long night and how to summon help when the bars on your phone are few and far between.

Steps That Can Save Your Life if the Worst Happens During a Ride: Make your trail rides safer by examining a harrowing horse wreck and discussing what went right as well as what went wrong.

All TrailMeister clinics will be held in the Equestrian Center Office. Check the daily schedule for times.



#### **UPCOMING APPEARANCES**

**April 24-27:** Cinch-building clinics and more at the Minnesota Horse Expo

May 24-25: Camp and Craft Weekend Clinic at the Flying Horseshoe Ranch in Cle Elum, WA May 30-June 1: Back Country Horsemen of Oregon Wilderness Skills Rendezvous, Sisters Cow Camp, OR

**July 8-12:** Cinch-building clinics at Ty Evans Mule Week, Spring City, UT

https://www.trailmeister.com/

## SCAN FOR MORE INFO

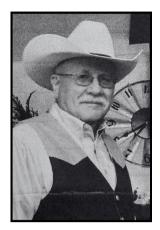


Photo courtesy of Robert Eversole

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## Packing & Grant Instructors

\*Class qualifies for 10 points toward Pin Program



#### Packing 101\* ℰ Advanced Packing\* | George Archer

George started his love of going to the mountains and camping at 11 years old in the Boy Scouts. In 1965, his mother bought him his first packing book, *Horses, Hitches and & Rocky Trails* by Joe Back. George didn't get to go on a real pack trip until 1975 when he married his first packing mentor's granddaughter. He was hooked! George and his brother went packing every summer and went to every clinic they could find. In 2000, George was hired at Shasta College as a packing instructor where he worked for 2 years. In 2005, he started teaching kids packing at Kidder Creek Orchard Camp where he took kids into the Marble Mountain and Trinity Alps Wildernesses for four summer trips. George is a BCHC Wilderness Rider and, in 2015, he took the Center for Outdoor Ethics Master Educator Course in LNT Stock Care.

#### Grant Writing | Lucy Badenhoop

I fell in love with grandpa's plow horse as a pre-schooler, but never realized my dream to own a trail horse until I retired in 1998. Since then, I have pursued enjoying the many trails in our region and making them better. As I aged out of the heavy trail work, I found I had other skills that could help. In recent years, I focused on the planning, organizing and funding of the work parties. BCHC sawyers and packers need equipment and travel expenses to support their field work. Grants are one source of funding for trail work. My success in obtaining grants for the BCHC Mother Lode Unit made me want to encourage other units to tap into this valuable resource, so join me to learn the basics.





#### Packing 101\* & Advanced Packing\* | Sam Burrows

I started stock packing in the Sierra out of Bishop, CA. I've been a member of BCHC for over 40 years. I was a founding member of Redwood Unit and have been a member of Shasta Trinity Unit since 1994. Attended the first LNT Stock Course held in Emigrant Wilderness. Traveled to Bailey, CO, for week-long LNT course with USFS. This led to my becoming LNT Master Trainer. Certified at the "C" certification for chainsaw and crosscut. I am committed to the practice of stewardship of our public lands and teaching our youth about BCHC and "Who We Are And What We Do."

#### **PACKING 101\***

This is a hands-on, basic packing class with iron mules or live mules that will involve pack saddle fit, use of panniers, load balancing, mantees, and different hitches to secure loads. Classes are free, but size is limited. Check the daily schedule for class times and location. There will also be iron mules set up with experienced packers to help you perfect your hitches from Friday to Sunday.

#### **ADVANCED PACKING SKILLS\***

This is a hands-on session using either iron mules or live mules. This class is free and will be limited in size. It will be customized for the packer who has some experience. We will discuss hauling tools, the use of the barrel and fish can hitches, and how you can customize the standard hitches for custom and odd loads.

## **USFS Packing Instructors**

#### North State BCHC Packing Intern | Matt Alloway

Howdy, my name is Matt! I'm an Idaho native. I was born and raised in the Wood River Valley, beneath the rugged Sawtooth mountain range. I grew up surrounded by the wilderness and have always enjoyed being outdoors. I love hunting, fishing and all-around adventuring. For several years I called the Frank Church Wilderness of Idaho my home, working at backcountry ranches as a packer, wrangler, cook, and caretaker. I've also packed at the Grand Canyon. I couldn't be more elated to start my second summer season packing with the Forest Service as the North State Backcountry Horsemen intern! If there's one thing I've learned about packing, it's that you are ALWAYS learning something new.





#### Northern Pack Stock Center of Excellence | Katy Bartzokis

After learning to ride and pack in high school, at 18 Katy was hired by the Inyo National Forest and was the first Pack Stock Center of Excellence apprentice. She later worked in Burns, OR, as a range rider, packer, and wrangler for the Bureau of Land Management. In 2019, Katy moved to Weaverville, CA, to work as the North Zone packer for the USFS Pack Stock Center of Excellence. She absolutely loves her work and is always happy to chat with anyone considering a career in the packing industry!

**Note:** Check the daily schedule for a USFS presentation regarding packing intern and apprenticeship opportunities!

#### Weaverville Ranger District Packer | Erik Cordtz

Erik Cordtz was raised in Trinity County, in a family supported by the timber and ranching industries. While still in high school he began what would become a career as a packer and farrier by apprenticing and wrangling for the commercial outfitters surrounding the area at that time, and then running his own small private outfit focused primarily on hunters. This led to contracting with the USFS, and then eventually being hired permanently to operate a Forest Service pack string in Weaverville where he has worked the past 15 years.





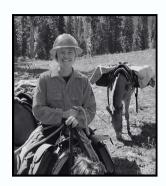
#### Northern Pack Stock Center of Excellence | Ken Graves

Ken Graves started packing for the Forest Service in 1977 and is still packing for them 48 years later. He has packed trail crews, fire crews, volunteers and numerous crazy things all over California. Home base has always been and still is the Yolla Bolla Mountains. Ken played a key role in developing the USFS Pack Stock Center of Excellence program, with the mission of providing the highest quality packing services and training to care for the land. He is the Northern Center of Excellence director and COE co-director for USFS Region 5 (California).

## **USFS Packing Instructors**

#### Salmon/Scott River Ranger District Packer | Kira Olson

Kira Olson is a current recreation technician and packer on the Salmon/Scott River Ranger District located on the Klamath National Forest. After spending a season packing in the Eastern Sierras in 2019, she then accepted a job on the Klamath National Forest as the apprentice packer in 2020. After four years spent as an animal packer, she then accepted a permanent position as a recreation technician in wilderness and trails. She currently packs and works on the ground to support several partner and Forest Service trail crews, often packing on fires in the fall.



## RENDEZVOUS 2025 RAFFLE

## CATERED PACK TRIP FOR 2 PEOPLE 4 DAYS & 3 NIGHTS

- Choice of a Trinity Alps
   Wilderness or a South Warner
   Wilderness experience.
   Everything provided except
   personal gear.
- 2 more people can be added for \$200/per day, per person.
- Trip must be scheduled between June 1-August 31, 2025.
- Estimated value \$10,000.

Tickets are \$10 each or 10 for \$90

## **\$500 BASS PRO SHOPS GIFT CARD**Tickets are \$5 each or 10 for \$45

Tickets for both prizes may be purchased at the BCHC State booth at Rendezvous. Drawings to be held April 12 at the dinner event. You do not need to be present to win.

## Packing Competitions

April 12 & 13 | Check daily schedule for times and locations

### **Adult Competitions**

## BOX HITCH AND DIAMOND HITCH SPEED COMPETITIONS:

Animals and all equipment will be provided. One packer will load and balance boxes with load provided. He/She will put boxes on the mule from each side. He/She will then put mantee on the mule properly, tucking all corners and top, then tie box hitch or a single diamond hitch of your choice. Speed and correctness of procedures will be split 50%-50%. This is a timed event and faults will incur a time penalty. Clean run beats a fault.

**COST TO ENTER: \$20 EACH** 

## PACKING CONTEST (ODD LOAD/BALANCED LOAD):

Animals and all equipment will be provided. A two-packer team will use live mules. The teams will be provided with two separate loads, one top load and one side load. The team will load the top load items provided on one mule, and tie on securely with a box or diamond hitch. The team will load the side load items on the other mule, and tie on securely with a box or diamond hitch establishing the best possible weight balance. The pack animals will then be led from the ground around a cone to establish stability. Scores will be a combination of time and load balance.

**COST TO ENTER: \$20** 

Visit the BCHC State Booth for information on how to enter the Adult classes!





## Intercollegiate and Youth Packing Competitions

Contests will be similar to the Bishop Mule Days competitions, however the packing systems to be used will include Decker and Salmon River packing systems along with traditional sawbucks.

Intercollegiate teams: Will consist of four college students who will compete in team and individual contests. Teammates may also gain points for their teams by attending any education events during Rendezvous.

Youth teams: Will consist of four students, ages 12-17, who will compete in team and individual contests. Teammates may also gain points for their teams by attending any education events during Rendezvous. Teams will be sponsored and trained by BCHC Units.

## DINNER HIGHLIGHTS



#### **FRIDAY MENU**

Served Buffet Style: Grilled Salmon, Roasted Pork Loin, Tossed Green Salad, Oven Roasted Veggies, Scalloped Potatoes; Vegetarian Entree also available

#### FRIDAY EXTRAS

- Cowboy Poets, young and young at heart, to entertain you
- Raffle & silent auction featuring local artisans, tack, etc.





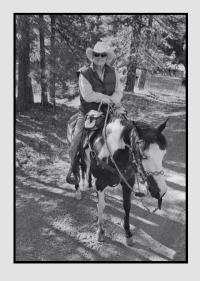
#### SATURDAY MENU

Served Buffet Style: Marinated Tri-Tip Roast, Chicken Marsala, Tossed Green Salad, Oven Roasted Veggies, Scalloped Potatoes; Vegetarian Entree also available

#### **SATURDAY EXTRAS**

- BCHC State Awards & Competition Award presentations
- Cowboy Poets, young and young at heart, to entertain you
- Rendezvous raffle ticket winners announced
- Live auction, raffle and silent auction for premium items





#### Carl Bott | Friday and Saturday Dinner MC

Lt. Col. Carl Bott, USMC (Retired) served for over 30 years in the Marine Corps beginning with his enlistment in 1970 to his retirement in 1999. He has served throughout the world including Europe, Africa, Asia and several excursions to the Middle East. In 2005 he was asked to return to active duty and deployed to Al Anbar Province in Iraq in February 2006 and returned in February 2007. He moved to Redding in May 2007 and married his fiancée, Linda, on January 1st, 2008. They began their radio station KCNR 1460 AM in December 2009 and expanded to 96.5 FM in 2018. They are celebrating their 15th year with KCNR as the only locally owned commercial radio station in Redding. They have had over 7000 guests on their show ranging from local/state/national candidates for office, businesses, non-profits and more. They have been members of the BCHA for three years.

## Entertainment/Auctioneer

Cowboy Poetry will be featured at the Friday & Saturday Night Dinners Live auction will be featured at the Saturday Night Dinner

#### Cowboy Poet | Craig Claver

#### Photo not available

Craig has raised and trained horses, raised and shown cattle and grown hay in Northern California, Oregon and Montana. He has been writing and reciting cowboy poetry for 30 years. Craig recently performed at the Shasta Trinity Unit fundraiser dinner in January.

#### Cowboy Poet | Axel Drake

Axel is 14 years old and is one the Shasta Trinity Unit's hardest working members. She was inspired to write her first poem two years ago after spending the summer helping the Shasta Trinity Unit clear trails. She's an up-and-coming poet who has performed at her Unit's fundraiser dinners the past two years.



#### Cowboy Poet | Ken Graves

Ken has been a packer with the Shasta-Trinity National Forest for 48 years. His four decades of packing experience has inspired many great and sometimes hilarious stories and poems. Ken was recently honored by the Shasta-Trinity National Forest with a Career Achievement Award for his commitment to public lands, his dedication to serve the public and his contributions of knowledge that help keep the four-legged civil servants he cares for in the business of doing the same.

#### Cowboy Poet | Bill Hooten

Bill Hooten is a 6th generation native Californian raised in the rural central coast. He is a retired veterinarian and part-time cowboy. He enjoys traveling, hunting, equitation and writing cowboy and veterinary poems. He's able to share his own cowboy stories set to poetry as if the audience was sitting with him around a campfire. Hooten started veterinary practice in clinics in Anderson, Corning and Red Bluff and was owner-partner at Antelope Veterinary Hospital in Red Bluff for 24 years.





#### Auctioneer | Lee Luft

Lee began his auction career in the 1980s. Since then he has sold everything from pencils to penguins, candies to cows. It is estimated that in the last 10 years that Lee has helped generate well over a million dollars for various organizations in the Redding area. "I really enjoy making people laugh and have a memorable auction experience."

### Entertainment

Cowboy Poetry will be featured at the Friday & Saturday Night Dinners Live auction will be featured at the Saturday Night Dinner

#### Cowboy Poet | Mike McFadin

Mike McFadin has been with the U.S. Forest Service in Weaverville and has written poetry inspired by his experiences in the mountains and with the mules we all love. He has recited poetry at our local events and BCHC statewide events for years.

Photo not available



#### Cowboy Poet | Deb Perdue

I'm Deb Perdue, I am a Christian Cowgirl from Wicklow Woods in Yreka. I write what God gives me to the tune of what pleases him with a ukulele and guitar. Writing and acting sharpen my joy of performing around Siskiyou County at the Avery, Farmers Market and SPAC. My songs and poems are meant to make you think, laugh or sing along to Western folk and Jesus too! I hold a day job as a County Library Technician where books have inspired a growing interest to write stories and children's books. My weekends are spent with family, dogs and a red Miata named Lotta, thanking God and loving life!

#### Cowboy Poets | Bill Roberts & Peggy Goshgarian

Bill Roberts has spent 50 years riding and packing horses and mules to clear trails and supply crews working the high country. This work, along with the people he has met, provide the inspiration for his poetry.

Peggy Goshgarian sings and tells poems and often works along with Bill. She has ridden the Pacific Crest Trail from the Klamath River to the Canadian border, 1000 miles.



#### Cowboy Poet | Judy York

Howdy I'm Judy York. I've been doing cowboy poetry for a few short years. I act in the Scott Valley melodramas in February, and enjoy playing Mrs. Claus at Christmas time. I like to volunteer with our local police department and fire department training exercises every spring. I enjoy participating in murder mysteries and watching crime shows. I work at the Fort Jones community Food Bank on Saturdays. Most of all I love to travel and have been all over the world including all seven continents. I like to ride horses, snorkel, hike in the woods and explore the ranch on the ATV. I have a wonderful family, three daughters, four granddaughters, one great granddaughter and a good son-in-law. I also have a pretty good husband of 57 1/2 years.

Also performing: Ned Nichols and Jefferson Jim Dwyer

#### **BCHC 2025 RENDEZVOUS**

## DUTCH OVEN COOKING

**Competition:** Friday, April 11, 1 p.m., Equestrian RV camping area

**Demonstrations:** April 12

(see program for times and location)

During the Friday competition, come meet the contestants to observe Dutch Oven cooking in action. You will learn about essential equipment, temperature control, and cleaning/storage of the pots. Plus, you get free samples of the dishes, recipes, temperature control charts and a chance to vote for the best dish!



## **Trinity Equine**

#### **Veterinary Clinics**



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Clinic Hours

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**530-221-7004** 10302 Old Oregon Trail Redding, CA 96003

#### **Veterinarians**

Karen Shaw, DVM, DACVSMR Kelly Shaw, DVM, MRCVS Katheryn Browne, DVM, DACVM Wesley Pezzini, DVM



# TRAIL OBSTACLE COURSE CHALLENGE

SATURDAY, APRIL 12, 2025
ROLLING HILLS CASINO EQUESTRIAN CENTER
SECONDARY ARENA

At least 12 fun, trailinspired obstacles!

## CSHA SANCTIONED EVENT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

Prizes to
4th place

#### **Divisions**

Mini-Youth\* (ages 10 & under)
Youth\* (ages 17-11)
Novice
Intermediate
Advanced
Pack Animal (Adult & Youth\*)

#### Registration Costs

Adult: \$40 per division

Youth: \$25 per division

CA drug fee: \$14

Register day of event: Add \$5

All entrants must sign release of liability form at event

#### **April 12 Schedule**

8:30 a.m. – Rider walk though with judges 9:00 a.m. – Start with Adult classes 6:30 p.m. – Awards ceremony at dinner

#### Questions?

BCHC - Michele Machado Woods, 817–308–0258 CSHA - Vicki Nims, 707–695–4235



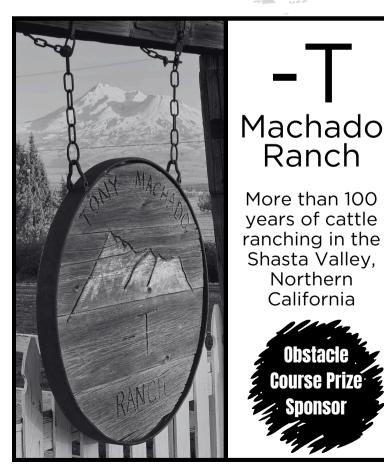
\*Must wear a helmet and have adult/parent present

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# Thank You, Equestrian Center at Rolling Hills Casino!

Backcountry Horsemen of California is thrilled and honored to be hosting 2025 Rendezvous at this fabulous facility! Thank you, for the generous hospitality. We hope to be back again for a future Rendezvous event.





#### THANK YOU, ADDITIONAL SPONSORS!

Lloyd Erlandson – \$250 Gold Country Trails Council Inc. – \$100





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Ingredients: Brimstone, antiseptic, zinc, aloe vera, citronella

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Created by and sold by endurance horse racing veteran, Kassandra DiMaggio, in Greenwood, CA.

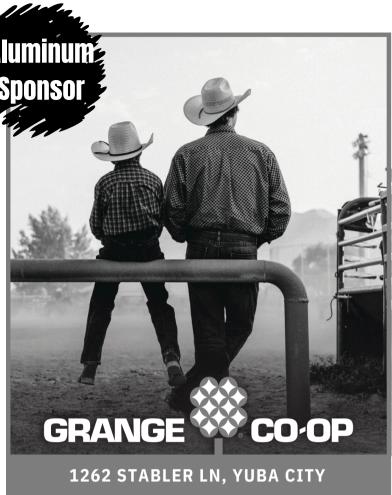
Learn more at https://www.mtrushnomoreranch.com/ or https://www.facebook.com/kassandra.dimayo

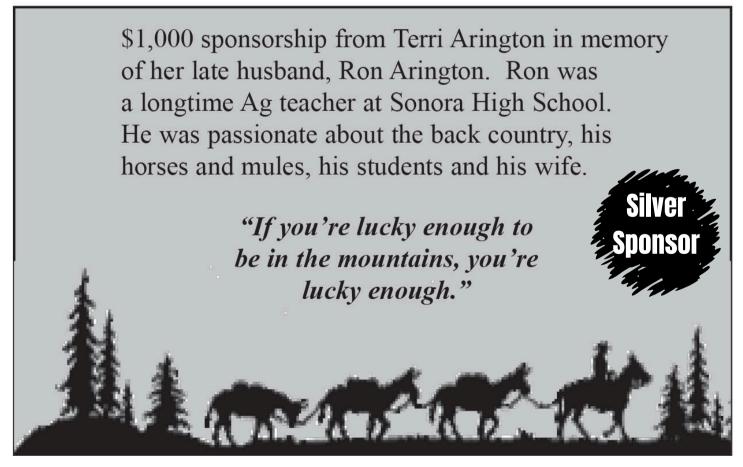


Kassandra and Wt. Bezarif (a.k.a Taser)









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**Katie Thorne** Owner 530.363.2042

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steve@reynoldsranchandfarm.com jess@reynoldsranchandfarm.com



STEVE & JESSICA DYKE **Owners** 

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# Backcountry Horsemen 🗼

MAIL TO: BCHC

	1280 State Rt. 208	
	Yerington, NV 89447	
APPLICATION PARENT UNIT AFFILIATION: (Select and CHECK a Unit as your Affiliation)		
Valley Los Padres Re	edshank Riders Sierra Freepackers	
	edwood Sutter Buttes	
	n Joaquín Sierra Top of the State	
,,	nta Ana River	
	quoia	
Si	asta Trinity	
DCTR (Your Membership Number):		
MEMBER'S NAME - No Business Names, Print Clearly SPOUSE/CO-MEMBER'S NAME - MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS		
in Code (full 9 digits if known) A	rea Code Phone Number	
•	110101111111111111111111111111111111111	
	k No.	
Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)		
amily \$140 include date of birth		
Associate Membership: An Additional \$15 PER UNIT is added to your Parent Unit Dues Associate Membership Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT		
	\$15/Unit	
Associate Membership for:\$15/Unit Unit Name (from above list)		
Associate Membership for:\$15/Unit		
Please clip form along dashed line and keep the below portion for your records.		
KEEP FOR YOUR REC	CORDS Verifying BCHC	
I submitted an Application For		
1 Year Individual \$60	1) BCHC Unit	
mes 2 Year Individual \$110	President's reports	
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Patron \$250	form	
1120 112220	4) a valid email address	
On that form, I also requested: Associate Memberships		
My Total Remittance:	-	
	Valley	



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\*Based on EDA tractor sales data of under 40 horsepower models from 2018 to 2022. © Kubota Tractor Corporation, 2025. Your Kubota Limited warranty gives you special legal rights. You may have other rights which vary from state to state. Kubota Tractor Corporation does not authorize any person to create for RTC any obligation or liability other than that stated in the limited warranty. This material is for descriptive purposes only. Kubota disclaims all representations and warranties, express or emplied, or any liability from the use of this material. For complete warranty, disclaimer, safety and product and incentive offer information, consult your local Kubota dealer and the Owner's Warranty Information Guide for the Kubota limited warranty on all products. Visit KubotaUSA.com/disclaimers for more information.



Note: Dogs must be on a leash while on the equestrian grounds