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

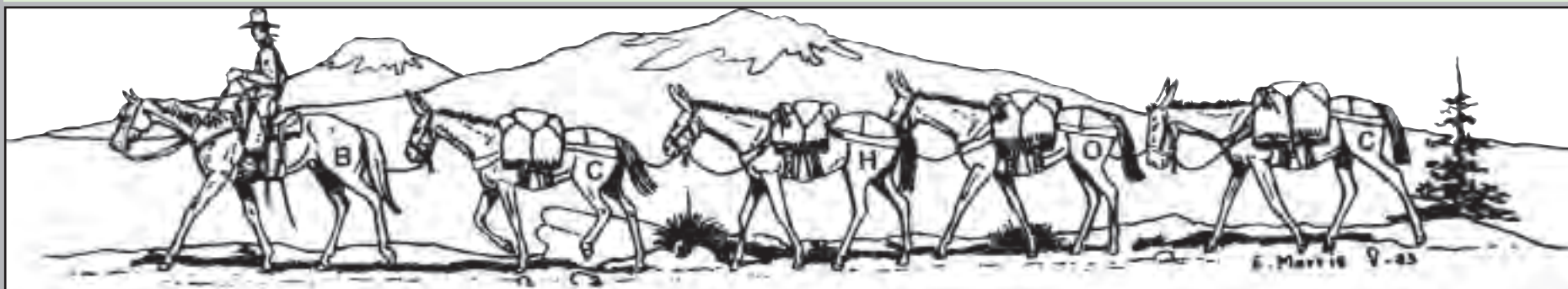
## **BCHC**

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# The Backcountry News



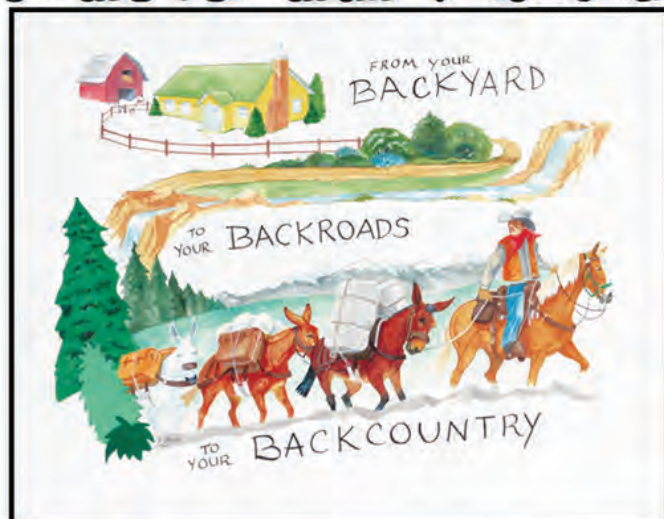
Volume 20, Issue 1

*The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California*

Winter 2013

## 24th Annual "From your backyard, to your back roads, to your backcountry"

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



## **MARCH 22-24**

**Norco, CA • Horsetown USA  
George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • ADMISSION IS FREE**

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

### **Some of the activities include:**

Trail Obstacle Challenge  
Dutch Oven Cooking Contest  
Western Art Show  
Kids Art Contest  
Odd Load Packing Contest  
Pack UN-Scramble Contest  
Pack Scramble & Hitch Tying Contests

To see more details see page 16. To download forms with information and for the events go to:

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/2013-rendezvous.html>

# The Backcountry News

*An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California*

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[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org)*

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**Who is BCHC?** The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501c4 nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of California, March 13, 1990, with a 501(c)3 education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any advertisements and/or articles that are inconsistent with the Backcountry Horsemen of California's objectives and purpose statement. Other material will be printed at the Editor's discretion.

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

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

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

Deadline	Publication Date
April 19, 2013	May 2013 – Spring/Summer
August 19, 2013	September 2013 – Fall
December 18, 2013	January 2014 – Winter

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

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

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

## 2013 Executive Committee

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### Annual Meeting

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### Membership

Chip and Linda Herzig • Toll Free: (866) 748-2033 • [membership@bchcalifornia.org](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org)

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Thad Chodakauskas - (951) 312-0724 - [ctchod@aol.com](mailto:ctchod@aol.com)

### BCHC Youth Coordinators

Jacque Murphy • (707) 498-6648 • [brennaluett@hotmail.com](mailto:brennaluett@hotmail.com)

Cathy Andrews • [catforestandrews@gmail.com](mailto:catforestandrews@gmail.com)

### Web Coordinator

Jacque Murphy • (707) 498-6648 • [brennaluett@hotmail.com](mailto:brennaluett@hotmail.com)



# President's Page



Greetings BCH,

I have now started my third term as President of BCHC. I look back and try to figure out where the last two years went? I wonder if I've done anything worthwhile. After doing some research I remember that we spent a lot of time trying to create a better partnership with the Pacific Crest Trail Association, Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. We had many meetings, emails and phone calls to develop a mutual understanding of what is needed to protect and preserve the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail. This partnership will be an ongoing effort to educate and develop packers and trail workers to carry on preserving the trail.

This last year we initiated a Legal Affairs Committee to oversee legal activities that come before BCHC. It came to our attention that leaving these matters up to the full Executive Committee would be cumbersome, and a lengthy process, so we came up with a Legal Affairs Committee to make recommendations to the Executive Committee. Hopefully this committee will not see much action, but it is in place if needed. Now all that is needed is to build up a nest egg, (Legal Action Fund) to use for any litigation. We have been talking about this for years. I just recently looked over a newsletter from the nineties and we started talking about this almost twenty years ago! The time has come to put up our hard earned dollars into this fund for future use in protecting and preserving our historic use of the back country. Hopefully we will never have to use it, but we can always utilize the interest off of a sizable emergency fund.

We've also been talking about getting our youth involved and we have been making inroads through our various activities, but I'm not satisfied, I've seen what other states are doing and I want to do more. My unit, Mid Valley, has formed a committee to start a Youth Horse

Camp whereby we can get our youth out on the back country trails. We see this as a way to get our kids comfortable with back country trails and camping. This will be their introduction into the wilderness ethics and history. If we are to keep this organization sustainable, this is a must do! We hope that other units will also pick up on this and get their own programs started.

As I'm writing this I'm thinking about our upcoming dues increase beginning the first of the year. For some it is hard to justify, but if you look at what we've been doing and what needs to be done, I think it is a no brainer that we need dollars to make things happen and to improve on what we've been doing. Everything we do today takes more dollars than last year so we need to be proactive and prepared for taking BCHC to the next level. We are more than another social horse riding club, our mission is to preserve and protect the historic use of stock in the back country.

One new event we are participating in this next year is the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation annual Elk Camp in Las Vegas. This event takes place Feb. 28 to Mar. 3, 2013 at the Las Vegas Convention Center and we will be part of the BCHA booth to raise awareness of BCH to the general hunting public that attends from nationwide. Hopefully we can gain membership and share some of our "Leave No Trace" principles. We have much in common with RMEF in maintaining access to the back country and the habitat that is critical to all wildlife. We will be showing the attendees "Who We Are and What We Do" and how our Volunteerism is what makes this organization different.

Since we have many varied activities there are numerous options for our members to get involved with that will improve our organization. It is the responsibility of each member to take part in the activities in order to enable our units to achieve its purposes. I would hope that all members take the age old mantra of, "If it is to be it's up to me!"

Dennis M Serpa



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

BCHC Rendezvous 2013

Will be held in Norco.

March 22 - 24, 2013

George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center

# BCHA

## 2013 Back Country Horsemen of America Double Diamond & Legacy Award

### Double Diamond Award

As the United States' leading organization defending Double Diamond Volunteer Project Award Program Back Country Horsemen of America honors special projects or programs in a program we call the Double Diamond Award. This award program was established in 2003 by the National Board of Directors.

The program honors special projects and programs that best exemplify collaborative spirit, community awareness and devotion to the mission and purpose of BCHA. Any state, chapter or affiliate may submit an application. The Double Diamond Award recognizes projects and programs that include, but not limited to, trail maintenance projects, trail construction, trailhead construction, educational programs and youth programs.

There isn't a specific form for applying for this award. Entries are usually a page or two of written words describing the project, what was involved in organizing the project, who participated in the project, how the project was accomplished from the conception to the completion. Any letters from agencies or private parties that you worked with on the project may be included, as long as the project improved access or benefited the general public or public lands. Photos are always helpful and may be included along with any other information that you think may help the judges in their selection of an award winner. Three copies of the application package should be submitted. One copy will be returned to the nominating party after the award presentation in April.

Applications must be received prior to April 17th of the current year, either at the BCHA office at PO Box 1367, Graham, WA 98338, or the first day of the National Board Meeting. The BCHA Volunteer Hours Chair and Committee appointed by the National Chair of BCHA will decide winner or winners. The winner or winners will be announced at the BCHA National Board Meeting annual banquet.

### The BCHA Legacy Award

In 2010 the BCHA board decided to recognize members who over the years have demonstrated what the BCHA is about, not in just a single incidence, as the Double Diamond award acknowledges, but many contributions made during their years of membership. The name chosen for this award is The

BCHA Legacy Award.

One of the main reasons we are members of BCHA is to be able to leave a legacy to our future generations. Our members work hard to keep our wilderness areas open so we can pass these areas on to future generations, for their enjoyment, and hope that the future generations will continue the cause.

From time to time, we feel that there is an individual that BCHA would like to recognize, who has exemplified this belief and has contributed to preserving our wilderness areas and promoting this legacy over many years of service as a BCHA member.

If there is a BCHA member you feel is deserving of this special recognition, you are encouraged to submit a written statement about why you feel this member is a candidate for this award. The statement can include the BCHA member's history with this organization, what accomplishments, recognition and the legacy this member has demonstrated in supporting and furthering the mission statement and BCHA causes over the years of their membership. Photos can be included. 3 copies of this statement should be submitted either to Peg (Peg2@mashell.com) or to Nick Martinez, (ennicolas@earthlink.net) chair of volunteer hours. This award is presented at the National Board Meeting in April. friendly trail head for all trail users to enjoy.

Nominations are being accepted for the Double Diamond Award and the BCHA Legacy Award. Criteria for selection is listed at [BackcountryHorse.com](http://BackcountryHorse.com)

Please send nominations to

BCHA - Awards  
PO Box 1367  
Graham WA 98338

or

email: [peg@backcountryhorse.com](mailto:peg@backcountryhorse.com)





# BCHA

This year, 2013, is the 40th anniversary of the creation of the Backcountry Horsemen of America.

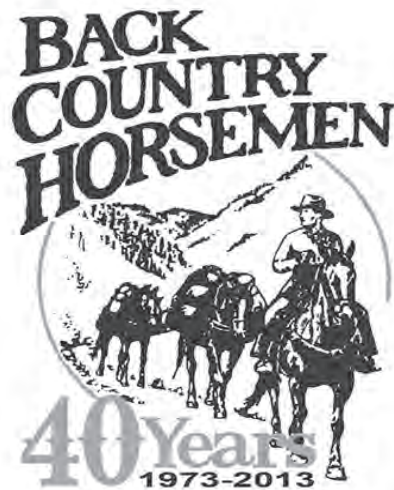
To commemorate the start-up of BCHA and the evolution of the organization over the past four decades a number activities have been planned.

To remind all BCHA members of our 40 birthday, a specially designed bumper/window sticker has been designed & made available. Members will be urged to proudly display this special logo.

In searching the archives we have found a good number of articles which trace our history. Of special interest are interviews of the founding fathers. Some of these will be reprinted as they give good insight into what BCHA is all about from the very beginning.

The 2013 National Board meeting will be held in Rapid City, South Dakota. The Black Hill BCH will host a bus trip from Rapid City to the Mount Rushmore Memorial to view the inspiring service and light show at the "faces" conducted by the National Park Service. This is a definite must see.

Each state will be asked to submit one [1] colored photo



#### Friday afternoon

- **Are You Ready** to take your horse in the backcountry?  
- free horse training seminar with Kathy Valentine
- Packing demonstrations
- Plan a trip in the "Bob"
- History and artifacts of the "Bob"
- Maps and navigation
- Backcountry first aid
- Rope splicing
- Dutch oven cooking

#### Friday evening

- Social hour followed by bluegrass music with Roy Wilhelm and friends

#### Saturday

- History of BCH
- Panel discussion by BCH charter members
- Afternoon seminars

#### Saturday evening

- Banquet and keynote speaker, Rick Potts
- Live and silent auctions
- Dance to country music by Roy Wilhelm and the Ashley Creek Ramblers

*Join us in celebrating*

## Where It All Began

Back Country Horsemen of Montana

### 2013 State Convention & 40th Anniversary Celebration April 5, 6 and 7, 2013

at the Red Lion Inn in Kalispell, Montana

Hosted by the Back Country Horsemen of the Flathead - we are the original chapter, formed right here in Columbia Falls in 1973.

We want to make our 40th anniversary celebration a special event and we want you to be a part of it.

Enjoy three full days of free exhibits and seminars.

For more information, visit us at:

[www.bchmt.org/flatbch](http://www.bchmt.org/flatbch)  
or call Andy Breland at 261.1109

#### **Coming soon!**

40 Years commemorative western shirts, T-shirts and caps

Raffle tickets - win a pack saddle, gun safe, set of tires, pair of White boots, or a framed 1899 map of the future Bob Marshall Wilderness



of an event, activity, meeting, work project, scene, something which depicts the spirit of BCHA and that particular state. These will be published as a "photo" supplement or edition - tentatively in the Fall Edition 2013 of the newspaper.

Al Sammons  
40th Chairman - BCHA Wyoming

# BCHA

## **For Immediate Release: November 16, 2012 - Back Country Horsemen of America Back Country Horsemen of America Names New Advisor for Wilderness and Recreation**

**By Sarah Wynne Jackson**

Back Country Horsemen of America, the organization leading the fight to preserve our right to ride horses on public lands, has experienced a changing of the guard. The legendary Dennis Dailey recently retired and endorsed Randy Rasmussen as his replacement as Advisor for Wilderness and Recreation.

### **A Natural Fit**

Dennis and Randy met a number of years ago when Randy was working with American Hiking Society and trying to convince them to “work with the horsemen.” In 2008, Randy made sure BCHA was involved in a conference focused on traditional or “quiet” trail use. Since then, Randy and Dennis have been working together to bridge the gap between hikers and horsemen. When it came time for Dennis to hand over the reins, Randy seemed a natural fit.

He comes to Back Country Horsemen of America with a wide range of skills gained throughout his lifetime of interest in protecting both the environment and our ability to enjoy America’s beautiful wild places. He earned a Master’s degree from Colorado State University in Natural Resources and Recreation, emphasizing Wilderness Management, and he has over 12 years of experience developing partnerships to protect traditional forms of recreation and to conserve important landscapes.

A specialist in public lands management and recreation policy, Randy has a proven track record in the arena of diplomacy and negotiation, as well as experience in media outreach and communications. His passionate yet open-minded approach has allowed him to develop a positive rapport with the leaders of federal agencies and elected officials.

### **A Lifetime of Dedication**

Randy recently served as executive director of Umpqua Watersheds, a southwestern Oregon conservation group, and as senior policy manager for American Hiking Society. From his office in Corvallis, Oregon, he coordinated and unified the conservation community’s response to recreation and “travel management” plans undertaken by each of Oregon’s 11 national forests. In this role, Randy applied policy, grassroots organizing, science and economics in the protection of wild lands and traditional “quiet” recreational uses.

In the same spirit of cooperation that Back Country Horsemen of America values, he has forged partnerships with hunters, anglers, horsemen, mountain bikers and other stakeholders. His most recent non-profit consulting clients include Responsible Trails America, which promotes common-sense off-road vehicle law enforcement and management practices.

Randy currently serves on the Oregon State University Forests’ Recreation Advisory Committee. He was appointed by the U.S. Secretary of Agriculture to represent dispersed recreation on the Oregon Coast Range Provincial Advisory Committee, which advises local offices of the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). He served as field representative in the southwestern U.S. for two other national non-profits—The Wilderness Society and National Parks Conservation Association.

A founding board member of Trailkeepers of Oregon, Randy once worked as a seasonal ranger in western Colorado for both the BLM and U.S. Forest Service. He has over a decade of experience as a consultant to state and federal agencies throughout the western U.S. preparing environmental impact documents and resource management plans.

Randy lives with his wife, Lorri, and their three children in Corvallis, Oregon. Lorri is a natural hoof care specialist and serves clients throughout the Willamette Valley through her company, Hoofwise, LLC. Selene, aged 17, and Bryce, 14, are active with track and soccer. Sage, aged 10, is sweeping the county 4-H competitions with Sugar, her Pony of the Americas. All five of the Rasmussen’s love to trail ride.

### **The Original Use**

As a six-year-old and again as a nine-year-old, Randy went on a two-week pack trip into the Mt. Zirkel Wilderness Area of Northern Colorado, famous for its rugged cliffs and jagged ridge lines. The outfitter, a family friend, packed his horses and mules with everything they needed, including canvas tents and delicious food. The experience instilled in Randy a love for the back country and inspired his belief that horses belong on the trails. After all, that’s how most of our trails got there in the first place.

He explains, “It’s a traditional use. If you look back at the framers of the Wilderness Act and Aldo Leopold, they defined a ‘wilderness’ as an area big enough to accommodate a two-week pack trip. You couldn’t take a two-week trip without pack animals to carry all your gear and supplies. So the idea of horses on the trails was a given.”

Randy also points out that it was horsemen who pushed for the Wilderness Act in the first place. Many of today’s trail sports such as hiking, backpacking, and mountain biking were entirely or nearly non-existent back then, but all modern day trail users enjoy the benefits gained from the efforts of horse folks of years past.

Tipping his hat to the amazing individuals who are Back Country Horsemen of America, Randy recognizes that, even now, it is still the horsemen who make it possible for all of us to be trail users. Every year, BCHA folks put many hours of hard work into maintaining existing trails and blazing new ones. Randy says, “The high level of BCHA volunteerism, over such a long period of time, gives me instant credibility when I enter meetings with agencies and other user groups. It gives me a strong voice in proposals and discussions.” He encourages Back Country Horsemen to keep up the good work!





# BCHC

## A Message From Your New Youth Education Coordinator Co-Chairs

As Youth Coordinator Co-Chairs, we have begun planning, and we've set some ambitious goals:

1. Create a standard program for BCHC Youth Groups. Units need to know what they can do with their youth groups, and that they are covered by our insurance policy.
2. Develop curriculum (similar to 4-H/Scouts/FFA) with defined goals and recognition of achievement.
3. Conduct activities for youth to participate in while attending BCHC events, as well as in their independent youth program.
4. Make youth participation and education something easy for all BCHC units to do, with the eventual goal that all units will have active youth programs.

We have begun investigating our insurance coverage, and we are researching possible youth activities that would work for BCHC. Please contact us with your youth experiences, suggestions, and ideas. We look forward to the new year of possibilities!

Sincerely,

Cathy Andrews &  
Jacque Murphy  
BCHC  
Youth Education  
Co-Chairpersons



### OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE of the

#### BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA (from the BCHC Bylaws)

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

GET INVOLVED, DO YOUR PART

**REMINDER: At the direction of the BCHC Executive Committee, we will no longer send out membership renewal verification "green slips" via regular mail. Instead, each unit president & membership chair will get a personal email from the BCHC Membership Chair (Chip Herzig) with each units' data AND it will be put on the web page in the password protected section.**

# BCHC

## WINTER STATE BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 22-23, VISALIA

The upcoming Fall State Board Meeting and election of officers will be held in Visalia at the Holiday Inn Conference Center, Friday and Saturday, February 22-23, 2013.

Holiday Inn Hotel and Conference Center  
9000 West Airport Drive, Visalia 93277  
Special BCHC price: \$79/night + tax.

Let the hotel know it is for the Backcountry Horsemen meetings.  
Reservation phone #: 1-800-465-4329

### Directions:

Take Hwy 99 to the Visalia exit. The hotel is literally right there on the cusp of Hwy 198 and 99.

### Meeting Schedule:

Executive Committee meeting: Friday, February 22, Plaza Room  
Dinner: 6:00pm, Meeting 7:00 -10:00pm (dinner menu and RSVP sent in the 45-day mailing)

Public Lands Meeting: Saturday, February 23, Plaza Room,  
9:00 - 11:30am, pre-ordered lunch available (info sent in 45-day mailing)

Education Meeting: Saturday, February 23, Birch Room,  
9:00 - 11:30am pre-ordered lunch available (info sent in 45-day mailing)

Board of Directors Meeting: Saturday, February 23, Plaza Room,  
1:00 - 5:30pm.  
Saturday night dinner and unit reports at the Farm Bureau in Visalia:  
information/reservations sent in the 45-day mailing.

\*Directors will receive more details in the 45-day notice packet.



Hotel's website is: [www.visaliaca.holiday-inn.com](http://www.visaliaca.holiday-inn.com)  
See lunch reservation info on page 12

## A MESSAGE FROM THE 2013 VP PUBLIC LANDS

Happy New Year, may the coming year bring y'all health, happiness and prosperity.



2013 will be a challenging year for some due to the current budget issues facing us all. If all BCHC members work locally to insure our continued access to public lands, we can retain safe access for ourselves and for future generations. We may need to develop partnerships with other trail user groups to counter Public Land Managers desire to close access to certain trails and lands, but we

can keep access and trails open if we are willing to "think outside the box" in some situations.

I am honored to serve as BCHC VP of Public Lands for 2013. I have been active in support of equestrian access to trails for 10+ years in the California State Horsemen's Association, working in several different capacities. I have also worked with California State Parks and have helped put on "conflict resolution clinics" at the California Trails and Greenways Conference, for the last seven years. As BCHC Sutter Buttes Unit President, I have worked with Lassen & Plumas National Forests and the PCTA to help keep relations between those entities and BCHC ongoing and positive in nature. The Sutter Buttes Unit is also working on the "Trails Classification" issue on trails in both the Lassen & Plumas National Forests. The SBU hopes to ride and document the condition of all trails classified as "Saddle & Pack Stock" trails in 2013 with the aid of GPS units with cameras.

As BCHC VP of Public Lands, I cannot be everywhere in California where they may be a problem and I am going to have to rely on BCHC members to contact me when and if there are any issues that may need to be addressed. Please contact me with any concerns or issues that members may have. I will try to do my best to address your individual concerns, and keep the BCHC Executive Board and BCHC Members aware of issues that may be of concern. Together, BCHC Members can be a positive influence to keep safe access to Public Lands in California

Bob Gage  
BCHC VP Public Lands 2013  
BCHC Sutter Buttes Unit President 2012-2013  
California Trails & Greenways Foundation, Board of Directors Member  
530-521-7369 Cell Phone  
[bobgage@wildblue.net](mailto:bobgage@wildblue.net) E-Mail



# BCHC ~ Education

## 2 MEMBERS TO CO-CHAIR YOUTH COORDINATOR POSITION

First of all, let's all thank Karen Lopes for the wonderful job she did while chairing the Youth Coordinator position. She will definitely be missed.

We are happy to announce that 2 members have stepped up to handle this position. It will be our own BCHC Webmaster, Jacque Murphy & Cathy Andrews. Here is a bit of information about these 2 so you can get to know them a bit better.

### MEET CATHY ANDREWS

Growing up in the era of Roy Rogers, the Lone Ranger, Gene Autry, the Cisco Kid, and many more western legends, I came by my love of horses at an early age. My family got our first horse when I was five, and by the time I was in high school, I was training horses professionally, green-breaking a new colt or filly every two weeks to pay for my own horse's board. I was given my choice of the herd of 2-year-olds to train and use while working towards my Bachelor's Degree at UC Davis, where I met my husband, Greg. To supplement the family income until our three boys were of school age, I worked for a magazine called the California Horse Review, as well as freelanced articles, and have been published around the world. One assignment for AAA's Motorland magazine took me on a pack trip with the Rock Creek Pack Station, where I requested a mule mount, my first mule relationship. I learned emergency vet care in the wilderness, as well as leave no trace camping and how to tie a diamond hitch on that trip.

After earning two teaching credentials, one in elementary and another in special education, I taught school while raising our sons. I was a 4-H leader for many projects, including the horse and horse breeding projects. I also did mounted search and rescue with the sheriff's department for 15 years.

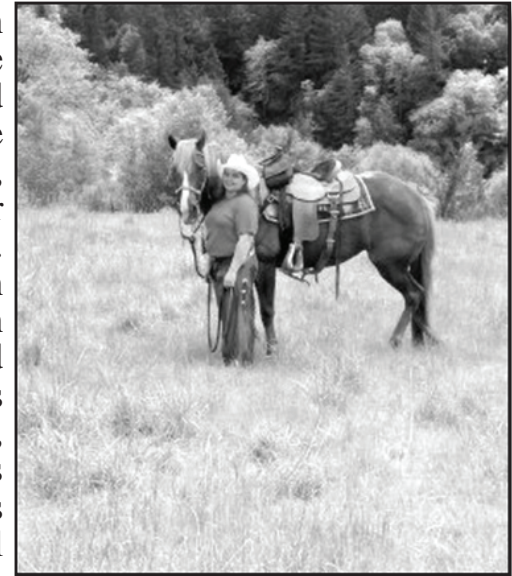
Now that I am a grandparent and retired from teaching, I finally have time to participate with our Mother Lode Unit of



the BCH, where I am the Education Chair. I want to share the love of equines, back country, and preservation with the next generation--they are the future!

### MEET JACQUE MURPHY

Born and raised in Bakersfield, CA, Jacque Murphy has always had a passion for horses. She enjoyed her time in FFA, where she developed her enthusiasm for education. Jacque now resides in Fortuna, CA and has been a member of the Redwood Unit since 2002. She has served as the unit's secretary, VP, education chair and as a board member, as well as their webmaster for several years. Jacque has three horses and enjoys riding in the redwood forests and the Marble Mountains. She has a one year old son, whom she looks forward to spending many summers in the saddle with.



Jacque has been on the BCHC Education Steering Committee for a few years, as well as Rendezvous planning. She has recently taken over the BCHC webmaster position from Lisa Deas. Jacque looks forward to using the great start Karen Lopes has done with the youth program and working with Cathy Andrews in helping BCHC develop a more structured statewide youth program, creating a zeal for the backcountry in our younger members and seeing the youth membership increase.



*As Jacque mentioned she also recently took over the job of BCHC Webmaster, taking the reigns from Lisa Deas. So it looks like she will have her hands full in 2013.*

*Let's all give them a great big welcome & thank you for stepping up to take over these important positions.*



# BCHC

## BCHC Unit Hires a Lawyer

By Bob Magee

Most of us by now are aware of the issue faced by the commercial packers who operate in the Sequoia Kings Canyon National Parks (SEKI) where the parks basically shut down their operations in the Parks during the handling of the lawsuit brought by High Sierra Hikers. Through the work of many people, the judge in the case did not allow the High Sierra Hikers to obtain the desired end they were hoping for in this case. BCHC had a large hand in the outcome of the case, but it was one unit in BCHC who brought this to the attention of stock users throughout the United States. This unit, the High Sierra Unit, home based in Visalia has been working on ensuring the ongoing use of pack and saddle stock in the SEKI for some time. As a result of their dogged work to protect pack and saddle use within the Parks they were able to emphasize to the Parks that horseback riding and pack and saddle stock are authorized within the SEKI.

The High Sierra Unit hired a law firm when the SEKI started working on their Wilderness Stewardship Plan (WSP). The law firm brought to the Parks attention that there was a law that protected horseback riding and pack and saddle stock use in the Parks. This is a portion of the letter that the law firm sent to SEKI addressing the WSP.

Public Law 111-11, 1903(March 30, 2009). With regard to this section of the statute, House Report No. 110-694 (\*4) stated:

While horseback riding and pack and saddle stock are authorized uses within the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks, the Secretary has the authority to manage such uses in accordance with laws applicable to the park, and consistent with park planning documents. The use of pack and saddle stock is an appropriate and historically accepted recreational activity, as documented in the 2006 General Management Plan for the parks. The Secretary may authorize horseback riding in, or the entry of recreational or commercial saddle or pack stock into an area designated as wilderness by this Act.

The Committee intends that any decision made to authorize these activities shall be consistent with the statutory authority under which Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks were created, and the Wilderness Act, including section 4(d)(5) related to commercial services. Any authorization of these activities shall be subject to conditions and restrictions deemed necessary to protect park resources and wilderness values.

By hiring the lawyer to write this letter, the Unit was able to emphasize to the Parks that Congress has made it known that horseback riding and pack and saddle stock have every right to use the Parks for recreation as was originally intended when the Parks were established in the late 1800's. Also the letter brought to the attention of the Parks that Congress determined as a matter of law that the WSP the Parks was developing cannot consider any ban of stock use in the Parks. The letter also brought to the attention of the Parks the point that should they proceed with an alternative that bans horseback riding and pack and saddle stock in their WSP they might be subject to a lawsuit brought showing they have effectively violated the law.

The law firm has sent two letters to SEKI for the High Sierra Unit supporting horseback riding and pack and saddle stock use. These are excellent letters that can make a difference to how the Parks develop their final WSP.

For those of you who are interested in reading them I have placed them on the BCHC Public Lands Google group web site:

<http://groups.google.com/group/bchc-public-lands>





# State Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Draft

## DRAFT

### SYNOPSIS OF MINUTES

#### BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

State Board of Director's Meeting

Holiday Inn, Visalia, California

Saturday, October 13, 2012

A. Call to Order: meeting called to order at 12:47pm by President Dennis Serpa

-special presentation by Dan Horn

-BCHC- Who we Are

-each unit will receive a copy of the CD

-if unit wants more- \$0.99 a copy if we can buy a total of 1000

-send check to Lynn Joiner for your order

-CD's will be distributed at the February meeting

-Jacque Murphy will put this on our website too

B. Record of Attendance: attendance taken as Executive Committee and Board of Directors signed in. The following were not present at the meeting:

-Dan Clifford, Rhonda Strickland, Karen Lopes, Carole Polasek and the Director from Ohlone Riders: Martha McNeil.

#### CONSENT AGENDA

-Minutes of January 21, 2012

-Treasurer's Report

-Membership Report

Motion to approve Consent Agenda made by Michael King, Second by Lloyd Erlandson. Motion carried

C. Secretary's Report: Kaye Bruns reported the correspondence from August 1, 2012 through October 3, 2012.

#### SPECIAL PRESENTATION

-Reid Hopkins: One Spade Youth from Kernville, CA

-he explained what his program is all about

-watched a video and heard from 3 students about their experiences.

D. Reports:

1. BCHA Action Report:

-Pete Kriger reported on the Oregon ranch that donated property to create a west coast version of 9 Mile.

-Ann Lange reported that Pete is the Education Chair of BCHA, she has information available on BCHA executive committee meeting reports, and auditor's reports.

2. Insurance: Richard Waller reported there have been 75 public days requested since January.

3. Membership: Chip Herzig reported that Mid Valley is the first unit to exceed 400 members.

Los Padres Unit is a close second. Proof of membership- BOD

wants an email list by units, sent to each unit president.

4. Education: Lisa Deas reported on the new stock first aid flyer, information that is on the website. New Youth Coordinators will be Cathy Andrews and Jacque Murphy. New member on the Education Steering Committee will be Laurie Bellburns. Leadership Training will be held at Rendezvous 2013. Wilderness Rider applications at Rendezvous, with training at Grey Meadow, June 8-14, 2013.

-The California Mission Ride Project: Lisa has been hired as their coordinator.

5. Public Lands: Bob Magee reported on the tremendous support from BCHC and BCHA regarding the SEKI lawsuit. Letter to be written by BCHC to show support of HR 1996 and SB1061.

6. Public Service: Carrie Johnen reported the increase in allotment from \$21.36 to \$21.79. Changes from BCHA received in July 2012, BCHC will implement new form in January 2013.

7. Youth Coordinator: Lisa Deas reported we have new co-chairs, Cathy Andrew and Jacque Murphy.

8. Webpage: Jacque Murphy reported the website is about 70% complete in reorganizing it.

-site will have links to unit projects, Facebook is doing well.

9. Newsletter: Chip Herzig reported for Rhonda Strickland- she needs more lead time when ordering additional copies of newsletter. Get that information to Chip, ASAP!

-cost of returned newsletter is \$3.30- units need to help get new addresses.

-newsletter is on the website, read like a magazine: check it out

-membership address labels can be sent from Chip, so unit can print own list that is current.

10. Historian: Jacque Murphy reported that Carole Polasek is working on documenting history of the Caballeros del Sol Unit.

E. Old Business:

1. Policy Review: Lynn Joiner is still working on project. When completed it will be on the website.

2. Rendezvous 2013: Roland Schmitz and Rendezvous Committee reported on trainers, artist, entertainment, trail trials, vendors, classes, packing classes, RV spaces, and registration packets.

3. Volunteer Hours: Carrie already reported her information.

4. Legal Affairs update: Bob Magee reported on how to deal with the legal process, need to develop a committee to do the support work, presented a handout with his proposal for the leadership manual.

5. 501C3 bylaws: Chip Herzig reported on how to apply for the money. Need units to solicit sponsors/donors for themselves and BCHC in general.

6. BCHA 2015: Dennis Serpa reported that BCHC was approved to host the 2015 National Board Meeting in the Sacramento area. Need help with entertainment, planning dinners.

# State Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Draft (cont'd)

Cont'd from Page11

7. Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation: Dennis Serpa reported the convention will be held in Las

Vegas, February 28-March 3, 2013. This will be a good venue for BCHC.

8. Pay Pal: Chip Herzig reported on the costs to use it. Motion made and carried, to use Pay Pal with service fee for membership dues.

## F. New Business:

7. Proposed by-law changes: Chip Herzig and Dan Horn used a power point presentation to show all the changes. First Reading for all the changes EXCEPT Article VII, involving the Membership Chair. (Membership Chair was Second Reading)

-all changes were approved. Documentation is listed in the Minutes of the BOD meeting, October 13, 2012.

1. BCHC dues increase: Dan Horn explained the process. Motion to increase dues \$5.00, starting January 2013, approved.

BCHA dues increase: start collecting \$5.00 in 2014 if passed. Motion approved.

2. Volunteer Hours: Carrie Johnen reported on the awards given at Rendezvous- if you win one year, you cannot win the award for three years. This includes the individual award, unit education award, and the service hour's award.

3. BCHC Summer camp: Dennis Serpa and his unit are working on the idea of a 3-5 day camp for kids.

4. BCHC is looking for a Public Relations person. Contact Dennis Serpa if interested.

## G. Other Business:

1. Elections: all officers will remain the same for 2013 except for Public Lands- welcome Bob Gage as our new VP.

2. Mid Valley calendar project is over the breakeven point.

3. Sam Burrows thanked the Executive Board for their work.

4. Los Padres Unit President, Bill Chaides invited everyone to the Fall Camp and Ride at Live Oak, near Santa Barbara by Lake Cachuma.

5. **Next state meeting will be held in Visalia on February 22-23, 2013.**

H. Adjournment: meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm

Respectfully submitted,

Kaye Bruns

BCHC Secretary



## Backcountry Horsemen of California February State Meeting Saturday Lunch, February 23, 2013

- Make your own sandwich is \$14.14 (tax included).
- Lunch is served with Pasta Salad, Potato Chips and a Soft Drink.
- Lunch starts at noon to allow time to eat before the Board of Director's Meeting scheduled for 1:00-5:00pm.
- Pre-orders must be received by: February 17, 2013

1. Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

3. Unit: \_\_\_\_\_

4. Number of lunches ordered \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$14.14 = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to BCHC and mail to:

Kaye Bruns

2060 San Fernando Road

Atascadero, CA 93422





# Public Lands

## Trails Conference and Symposiums in early 2013

These get together might be good to promote Backcountry Horsemen tenets and philosophies. Good place to share with others using trails.

First, the 2013 International Trails Symposium (used to be the National Trails Symposium) is being held in Arizona, April 14-17 at the Radisson Fort McDowell Resort plus there's other hotels in the area, how many of you or organizations you belong to are planning on attending? Or do you know anyone planning to attend? Are you planning on attending? The AQHA is sponsoring a Horse Caucus. A trail ride across the Verde River is planned. Horsecamping is available if you bring your own horse. Me, I'm giving a presentation on "Weed Free Feed -- fact or fiction".



<http://www.americantrails.org/2013/>

Secondly, the 2013 California Trails & Greenways Conference is being held May 8 -10 at Lake Tahoe's Granlibakkeen Conference Center and Lodge. There will be horsecamping available. How many of you or organizations you belong to are planning on attending? Or do you know anyone planning to attend? Or are you planning on attending? I've giving another presentation there on "Managing Noxious/Invasive Weeds At Multi-Use Trail Heads". I'm using the NPS study done at Dominican University plus the one AERC did and you can bet your bottom dollar that at THIS Conference, I'm not just going to talk about horse manure and weed free feed but mountain bikers, mountain bike tires, hikers and backpackers gear too!

[http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page\\_id=24151](http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24151)



Bonnie Davis



**2013 Rendezvous Sponsors**  
 Star Milling  
 Rock Creek Pack Station  
 Packing  
 McClintock Saddles

~

**Thank You to the Supporters of  
 the 2012 Rendezvous**

**Rock Creek Pack Station Packing**

**Hawes Farm Supply**  
 (Everything for the Farm)

**Maverick Outfitters**

*Please support our benefactors*



### IMPORTANT REMINDER

Please remember to use this address as the forwarding address for BCHC membership has expired:

BCHC Membership  
 PO Box 535  
 Beaumont CA 92223

# Education

## California Mission Ride Update

[www.thecaliforniamissionride.org](http://www.thecaliforniamissionride.org)

The California Mission Ride 2012 first stage to was the Northern Missions. The North Ride began in Sonoma on August 18, 2012, and ended in San Miguel on the mission's fiesta day, September 16, 2012.

Approaching the missions on horseback, was a way to explore perspectives of life and land in California from angles rarely appreciated since the advent of the automobile.

All along the way, we used this website (above) to chart our progress; to post information about special events and people; to blog about the journey; and to ask you to help us look for answers to questions big and small about California and Californians.



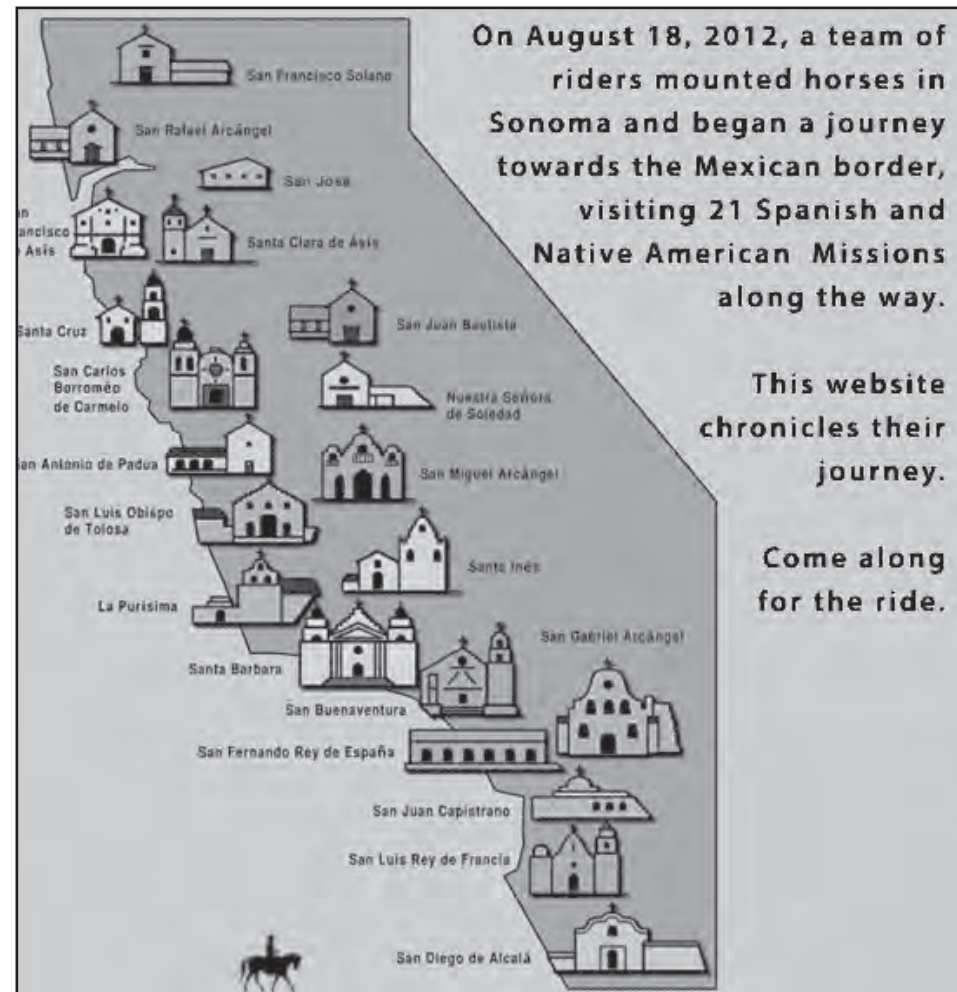
Director Gwyneth Horder-Payton



Filmmakers Billy Waters, Nuno Sa Pessoa and Rod Rondeaux



Riding the Monterey Beaches



On August 18, 2012, a team of riders mounted horses in Sonoma and began a journey towards the Mexican border, visiting 21 Spanish and Native American Missions along the way.

This website chronicles their journey.

Come along for the ride.



Lisa Deas and Sgt. Alan MacDonald Fort Ord CA

2013: The group will start the Southern ride in mid-August from Mission San Miguel and continue to the rest of the southern missions. (The ride ended in San Miguel in 2012).

Stirring up the dust in the city and on the trails

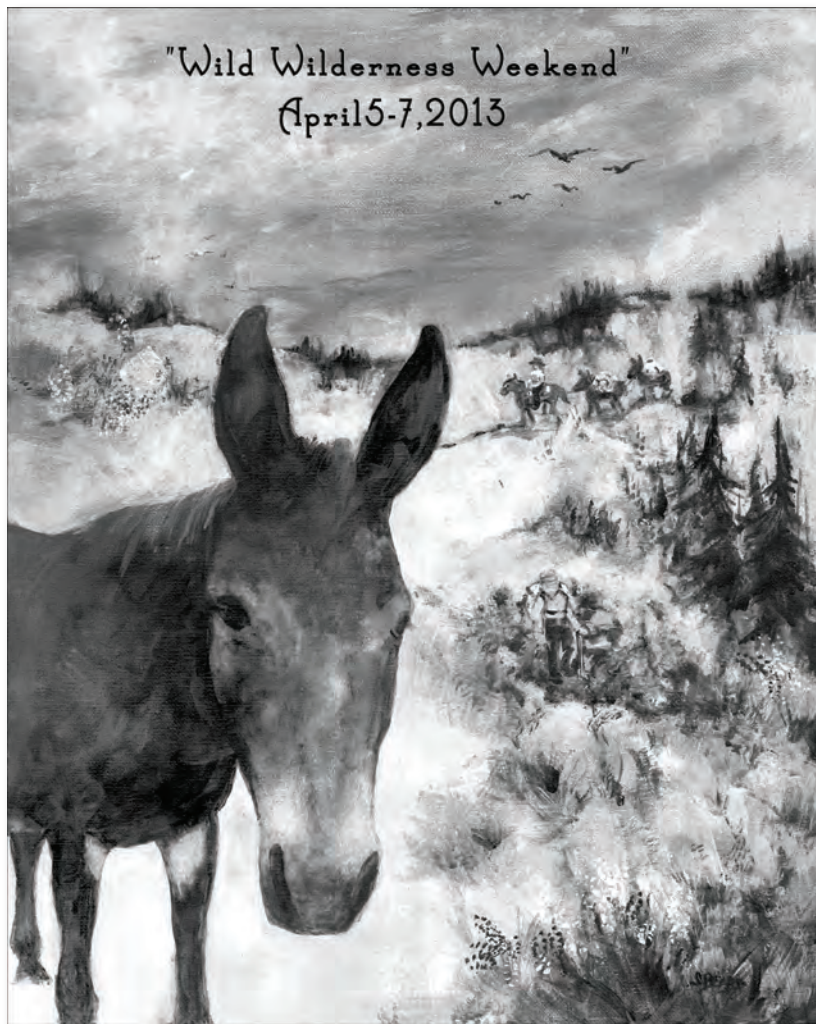
Yours truly, Lisa Deas

Co-VP of Education/BCHC - President, Steinbeck Country Unit

Read more about the amazing adventure at the website:  
[www.thecaliforniamissionride.org](http://www.thecaliforniamissionride.org)



# Unit & Local News



## EQUINE & TRAILS CELEBRATION April 5-7, 2013

Tehama District Fairgrounds, Red Bluff, CA.

Submitted by Kim Gardner

The north state units of BCHC that hosted the 2010 & 2011 Rendezvous would like to invite you to participate in our 2013 Equine & Trails Celebration (ETC) on April 5-7 at the Tehama District Fairgrounds.

The event is open to all members, guests, family & friends as well as the general public. Admission is free and all the seminars and classes are free.

Our 2013 theme is "Wild Wilderness Weekend" and it will be a wild weekend full of packing classes, gentle use classes, kids' activities, and fun for all. Friday's dinner will include square dancing and Saturday's dinner will have a raffle and live auction.

The famous Region 5 (Shasta-Trinity Nat'l Forest) mule team that placed several times at Bishop Mule Days in 2012 will be on display and the packers will be doing demonstrations and clinics.

The 4th annual Nor Cal HERO Ride for Life will be joining us on Saturday, April 6th.

Taste of the North State will be on Saturday, April 6th from 4-6pm with commemorative glasses available.

Registration packets and any other information that you may need can be found at [www.equinetrailscelebration.com](http://www.equinetrailscelebration.com).

Any questions, please contact Kim Gardner at 530-524-9873.

It is really nice once in a while to hear an attaboy for all the work our outstanding volunteers do. See the email below that I received today about the efforts on the Pacific Crest Trail. Please send out to our folks. I'll send him a thank you note.

October 2012

Michael K. McGlenn

Chairman BCHA

Mike:

*I thru-hiked the Pacific Crest Trail this past summer and I wanted to e-mail to give a big thank you to all the backcountry horsemen who donate their time to maintaining the trail. I had the opportunity to meet and talk with some of the crew near Chester and they were kind enough to provide me with some water. One of the crew had hiked the PCT in the early 1990s and Ralph, I believe his name was, rode the PCT in the early 1970s. Horse manure on the trail was one of the signs I used to confirm that I was on the PCT in some remote spots.*

Donald

I think this message from "Donald" the PCT thru hiker, was directed to all BCH members who work on the PCT, however if he encountered "Ralph" near Chester,



that could very well be Ralph Looney from the BCHC Sutter Buttes Unit. Ralph has been with the Sutter Buttes Unit from the beginning and has worked tirelessly to keep the section of the PCT from Belden on Hwy 70, North to Hwy 36 crossing, approximately 43 miles of trail clear for trail users on the

PCT. My hat is off to Ralph and other members of BCHC and the Sutter Buttes Unit.

Bob Gage  
BCHC Sutter

Buttes Unit

President 2012

(Photos submitted  
by Bob Gage)

Ralph hard at  
work.

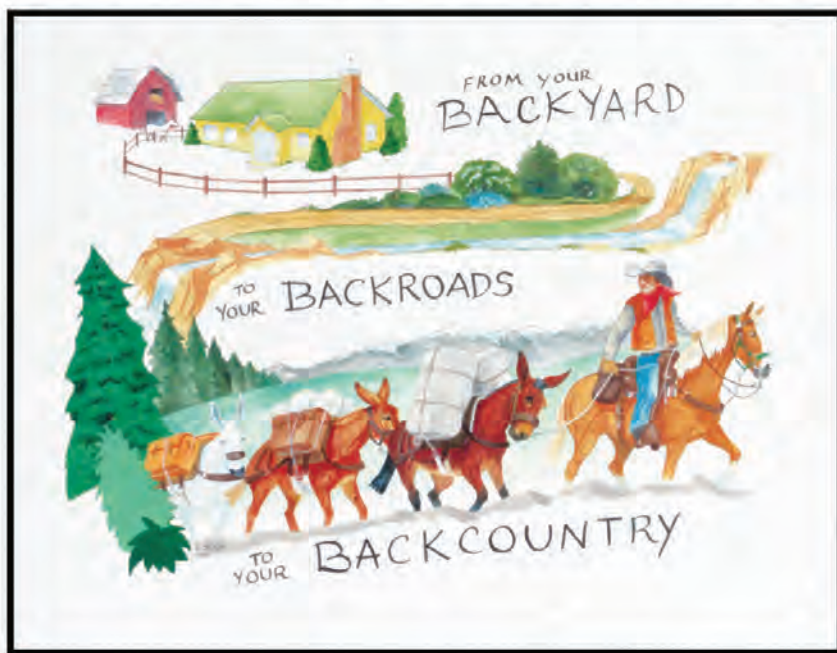




# Rendezvous 2013

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

## RENDEZVOUS



### MARCH 22-24

**Norco, CA • Horsetown USA**  
**George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center**

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC • ADMISSION IS FREE**

#### Events Include:

- Trainers: Jerry Tindell & Robin Bond •
- Dinner & Auction • Kids Activities • Raffle •
- Trail Trials • US Forest Service Pack Mule String •
- Beer & Wine & Cheese Meet & Greet • 100 Vendors •
- Cowboy Church • Contests • & More! •

#### Featuring Friday Night Show:



Dave Stamey  
 Nationally Acclaimed Cowboy  
 Entertainer [www.davestamey.com](http://www.davestamey.com)  
 Advance Tickets: \$22.00  
 At the Door: \$25.00  
 For Event Ticket Packets or Stamey Tickets go to  
[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) click on Rendezvous 2013

FOR MORE INFORMATION, visit [bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org)  
 Or contact Roland Schmitz at (951) 833-6403 or email: [roland@mntnrider.com](mailto:roland@mntnrider.com)  
 or Thaddeus at (951) 312-0724 or email: [ctchod@aol.com](mailto:ctchod@aol.com)

#### Trail Classes:

- Navigation on Horseback
- Trail Maintenance & Construction in the Wilderness
- Tools for Trail Building & Maintenance
- Crosscut Saw Use

#### Equine Classes:

- Natural Hoof Care
- Legs & Leg Issues
- Colic-What is it?
- General Equine health
- Equine Dentistry
- Saddle Fitting
- Stock Emergency First Aid
- Animal Trail First Aids & Treatment
- Livestock Poisoning Plants
- Manure Management
- Livestock Law
- Breeding for Mules

#### Packing Classes:

- Packing 101
- Packing 101 with Stock
- Advanced Packing Skills
- Odd Load Packing
- Highlines & Picketing
- Packing Knots & Their Uses
- Pack Saddle Types & Use
- Pack Stock & Packing Techniques in Wilderness

#### Gentle Use Classes:

- Gentle Use Plan Ahead & Prepare
- Gentle Use: Gentle with Other Users
- Gentle with Waste
- Gentle Stock Care
- Leave What You Find

#### Miscellaneous Classes:

- Dutch Oven Cooking
- Trail Head Horse Camping
- Wilderness First Aid for People
- Trailer Safety
- Leather Working for Adults
- Mountain Bike Awareness

#### Contests:

- Western Art Show
- Trail Trials
- Pack Scramble
- Pack Un-Scramble
- Dutch Oven Cookoff
- Odd Load Packing Contest
- Gentle Use Camp Contest
- Kids Art Contest

#### Kids Events

- Stick Horse Race
- Boot Race
- Dummy Roping
- + More

#### BLM Adoption

#### Confirmed Speakers are as follows:

Lee Green:

*Shoeing and packing*

Brian Borg:

*Equine Dentistry*

Bob Hodgkins:

*Fire Building Survival Skills 101*

Tammy Alsman/San Diego WRs:

*Leave What You Find*

Robert Eversole:

*Light weight horse camping*

*Your Compass-when it lies*

*Your map, the instructional manual*

*Contour lines- what are those wavy, crazy lines*

*Azimuths & Bearings-the needle points north?*

*Declination-Deciphering*

Paul and June Frisbey:

*Packing for the Knot Impaired*

Pete Kriger

*Stock Restraint*

Teresa Spencer / Equisafe

*Barn Safety / Design and Fire Safety*

*Being prepared for emergencies both on and off the trail*

*Evacuation Preparedness - both at home and away*

cont'd on Page17



# Rendezvous 2013 *(cont'd)*

cont'd from Page 16

## LESS THAN THREE MONTHS 'TIL 2013 RENDEZVOUS!

The 2013 Annual Rendezvous in Norco "City Living in a Rural Atmosphere", is less than 3 months away on March 22-24th. The 2013 Theme is "From your BACKYARD to Your BACKROADS to Your BACKCOUNTRY".

The location for 2013 Rendezvous is the following:  
George Ingalls Equestrian Center  
3737 Crestview Ave (Corner of 6th & Crestview)  
Norco, California 92860

Please look on the BCHC website: [www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) for information and registration packets.

Please sign-up and also if you want to attend Dave Stamey concert on Friday night the cost is \$22.00 if you pre-register. For more info about Dave Stamey go to: <http://davestamey.com>. We anticipate having 500-1,000 attend the concert, so please sign-up if you want to enjoy some great entertainment from the "Best Living Western Solo Musician".

We are planning on having 100 vendors attend the Rendezvous, plus educational programs, trail trials, Dutch oven and packing contests, saddle and 7-day pack trip raffles, kid's activities & events, and 2 well renown trainers Jerry Tindell & Robin Bond, and other items known to be of interest.

If you have any questions or need more information then please contact:

Roland Schmitz cell phone (951) 833-6403;  
E-mail: [roland@mntnrider.com](mailto:roland@mntnrider.com) or  
Thaddeus Chodakauskas  
Cell phone (951) 233-8027 - [ctchod@aol.com](mailto:ctchod@aol.com)

### 2013 RENDEZVOUS ON FACEBOOK

<https://www.facebook.com/2013.rendezvous>

## RENDEZVOUS RAFFLE DRAWING 2013

- \$5.00 each or 5 for \$20.00
- Drawing on Saturday March 23, 2012
- Winner Need not be present to win
- Winner arranges trip dates with pack station
- See your unit President to purchase tickets

McClintock Saddle  
by  
Garry McClintock

<http://www.mcclintocksaddles.com>



7 day Pack Trip  
from Craig London of  
Rock Creek Pack  
Station

<http://www.rockcreekpackstation.com>

## ENTERTAINMENT


Dave Stamey has been a cowboy, a mule packer, a dude wrangler, and is now one of the most popular Western entertainers working today.

<http://www.davestamey.com/>





# BCHC Membership Application

- ☐ NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION      Backcountry Horsemen of California
- ☐ RENEWAL APPLICATION      
- ☐ CHANGE - ( ) PARENT UNIT    ( ) ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL    ( ) MEMBERSHIP TYPE

DCTR (YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER) \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*NEW MEMBERS WILL BE ASSIGNED NUMBER BY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR**

PARENT Unit Affiliation: (Select and **CIRCLE ONE** Unit as your Primary Unit Affiliation)

Antelope Valley	Mid Valley	San Joaquin Sierra
Eastern Sierra	Mother Lode	Santa Ana River
High Country	North Bay	Sequoia
High Sierra	Ohlone Riders	Shasta Trinity
Kern River Valley	Redshank Riders	Sierra Freepackers
Kern Sierra	Redwood	Steinbeck Country
Lake-Mendo	San Diego	Sutter Buttes
Los Padres	San Geronio Pass	Top of the State

**MAIL TO:**  
 BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN  
 OF CALIFORNIA  
 PO Box 535  
 BEAUMONT, CA 92223  
<http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

## Donate to BCHC Education Fund? Tax Deductible

Packer \$10.00  
 Mule Skinner \$25.00  
 Other (Write in) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S NAME -No Business Names; Please Print Clearly

SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME -MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

( )

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

Make Checks Payable to: BCHC

CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_

DATE SUBMITTED: \_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

BUSINESS NAME -DONATIONS ONLY:

### PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)

Individual \$45.00\*    Family \$55.00\*    Benefactor \$100.00    Patron \$250.00    Mt Whitney \$500.00

*\*=BCHC shares portion of dues with Backcountry Horsemen of America*

**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.**  
 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNIT AFFILIATIONS **MAY NOT** BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT.

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))

*Please write additional choices on back*

Please clip form along dashed line - KEEP BELOW INFORMATION 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, each sharing 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.

- You may sign-up for as many Associate Memberships as you like.
- Associate Memberships may also be initiated at any time during the term of your Parent Membership.
- Associate Memberships must expire concurrently with the Parent Membership, and are renewable only at the time of renewal of the Parent Membership.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP page at: <http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

### KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I SUBMITTED AN Application Form for:

☐ Individual Membership \$ 45.00  
☐ Family (Shared) Membership \$ 55.00  
☐ Benefactor Membership \$100.00  
☐ Patron Membership \$250.00  
☐ Mt Whitney Membership \$500.00  
☐ Donation - Packer \$10.00  
☐ Mule Skinner \$25.00  
☐ Other (Write in) \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
☐ Associate Membership \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Total Remittance \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check Number \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date Mailed \_\_\_\_\_

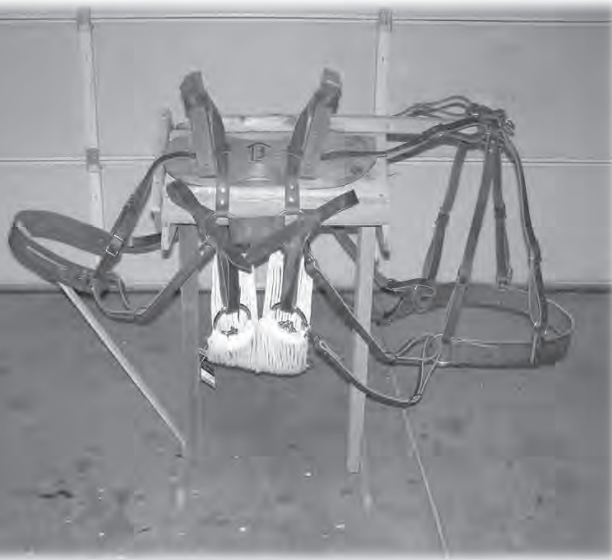
Questions: Contact [membership@bchcalifornia.org](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org)



# Unit News



## UNIT FUNDRAISER - PACK SADDLE RAFFLE \$5.00 EACH OR 7 FOR \$20.00



INCLUDES FULLY  
RIGGED SAWBUCK  
PACK SADDLE ON  
HUMANE TREE,  
CINCH, PACK PAD,  
SET OF WOODEN  
PACK BOXES  
Value \$800.00  
MADE AND  
DONATED BY  
RSR MEMBER  
MIKE LEWIS

WINNER NEED NOT BE PRESENT

**DRAWING to be HELD ON MARCH 24, 2013**  
(at the Rendezvous)  
**CONTACT**

STACY KUHNS 909-633-1705, AUDREY TURPIN 951-852-1705  
or MIKE LEWIS 951-760-9255

## LAKE-MENDO UNIT NEWS Submitted by Paul Villanueva



With 2012 drawing to an end the Lake-Mendo Unit of BCHC has finally completed the newest addition to the Boggs Mt. BCHC Horse camp. After over 3 years in the planning and construction, the new out house has been completed. With the aid of numerous members and non-members the outhouse is finally complete thanks to the \$12,000.00 grant funds supplied by Cal Pine Geothermal of Boggs Mt. The indestructible outhouse incorporated brown split face concrete block, open beam



ceilings with 2x6 TG pine. It also featured green metal roofing and a sky light. The horse camp now is complete with a custom rock fire pit thanks to Dennis Jensen past Unit president. There is also

a manure bunker with lumber supplied by Boggs forest trees milled from the forest. The camp also features 7 eight inch metal pipe high line polls which are capable of securing over 24 horses. Boggs Demonstration Forest features miles of mild to extreme multi use trails. Its use by the horse community has sky rocketed since the establishment of this great horse camp, making it an exclusive overnight horse camp facility. Its only drawback is the lack of water at the camp but there is a year round running spring with in a quarter mile of the camp.

The Lake-Mendo Unit has also recently aided BLM in their annual marijuana clean-up campaign. With over 20 head of stock supplied for riding and packing. Lake-Mendo members and the work crew met at the Cache Creek Redbud Trail head. Supplies were weighed and distributed between the individuals packing. Supplies were transported in one trip but a second trip was required to furnish enough water for the five day stay with 7 workers. The pack in on Nov. 5th and pack out on Nov. 9th went according to plans and no wrecks or rodeos occurred. It's always a good thing to have no problems and a good showing of BCHC volunteers.





# Unit News

Denise Robinson - Dutch Oven Cooking

## HIGH COUNTRY UNIT NEWS *Submitted by Valerie Lantz*

**Several projects underway contribute to camps and backcountry trail improvements. Descriptions of several projects follow:**

### Owl Creek Trail:

The Modoc National Forest (MNF) project to reconstruct the Owl Creek Trail in the South Warner Wilderness completed work on the remaining 4 of the 12 mile Owl Creek Trail. Trail crews completed grading, rock retaining walls, tread work, brushing and drainage during August. High Country Unit and Shasta Trinity Unit members assisted Forest Service packers by packing supplies.



### MNF RAC Projects for 2012

#### High Grade Trail Interpretive Signing and Trail Work

The High Grade Trail is located in the Warner Mountains, east of the Buck Creek Guard Station. Trail tread work was completed by MNF Trail crews. Trail signage & interpretative signs were ordered. Kerry Davis is the HCU lead on this project.



RAC funding was earmarked for East Creek Trail clearing this summer. An in-service agreement between Forests brought Ken Graves and crew to the MNF. They cleared portions of the trail.

Pack string heading out to supply the trail crews working on Owl Creek Trail. (photo right)

A High Country Unit team led by Dolores Wager prepared a display for the Modoc District Fair depicting camp cooking. (photo right)



### More photos of the 2012 happenings



Cindy McMurry takes a break during a South Warner Wilderness trail reconnaissance trip.



The High Country Unit volunteers and the Student Conservation Association Crew at the completion of the Soup Springs Corral Repair work party July 2012.



Ken Graves and Art Stackhouse pack supplies for the Owl Creek Trail project.



# Unit News

## EPIC EVENT *Submitted by Chip Herzig ~ San Gorgonia Pass Unit*



I have been on many BCHC work parties clearing trails but never on one that was defined as an Epic Event. The “epic” wind event was last October (2012) where the equivalent of the high altitude jet stream came down to earth. Winds out of the north were 100-120 mph lasting 5-6 hours with gusts that pegged the anemometers atop Mammoth Mountain. Best guess the gusts were in the neighborhood of 160-180 mph. As you might surmise the trees in the forests surrounding Mammoth took a pretty severe hit with blow downs estimated to be in the 10’s of thousands of trees toppled. The burnt still standing trees were

unaffected by the wind storm however the fully leaved and evergreens with their large sail areas were pushed down in massive matchstick piles all over the trails.



This massive toppling was the event that set the stage for a coming together of many BCHC units, Friends of the Inyo plus others in what was some of the best that we humans could put together. We all gathered in late June at Reds Meadow Resort and Pack Station. Bobby Tanner, our gracious host, provided camping spots for free as well as gave our equines stalls and provided all the amenities of home such as free showers to the tired and dirty. There were old friends, new friends and a ton of work accomplished. All organized by Bill Carter of the Eastern Sierra unit.

27 volunteers spent 9 days clearing trails, rebuilding root ball torn up tread and in

general rejuvenating a devastated trail system. All told five BCHC units were represented with 11 folks and 8 sawyers. All we volunteers cut over 370 trees on some 30 miles of trails. On a previous work party in early June BCHC sawyers cleared a 2.1 mile section of the PCT south of over 160 trees.

Each day as we rolled out of our various sleeping areas at Reds we were greeted with a hearty lumberjack breakfast, provided lunch fixings for the trail and at the end of each day we were treated to gourmet backcountry cooking by Todd. The long and tiring days were always greeted with good humor and camaraderie. It still amazes me how we all came together to accomplish this herculean feat.

Near the last day of the work party Bill called Michael Morse, of the local ranger district, to report on our project’s status. The report went something like this: “done, done, done...” At the end of Bill’s call, Michael was obviously impressed or maybe a better phrase would be awe struck with what we had accomplished. Yes, we all deserve a large

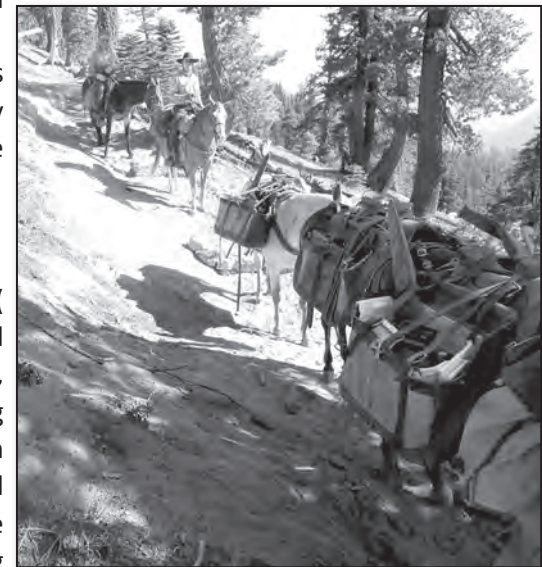
pat on the back!

With 175 different folks( FS Fire Crews, FS trail Crews, SCA,ACE, PCTA, FOI and BCHC) working to open the trails(with both chain saws and cross cut saws) in the RM area, removing near 5,000 blown down trees(many in complex tangles) not a single injury was reported.

More photos of the work can be found at <http://friendsofnyo.zenfolio.com/p853466974>



Trail Gorillas ~ Names of persons in these photos were not available at the time of printing.





# Unit News

## REDSHANK RIDERS REVIEW OF 2012 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By: Stacy Kuhns/Michael Lewis



Mike Lewis at the RSR Pack Clinic 2012

To kick off the year, our packing clinic went off without a hitch; Mike heading lead off for the day with the help of others. By the end, of the day everyone was throwin' ropes and tying loads. It was a fun time with a great turn-out.

For this year's unit raffle Mike Lewis has built a pack saddle. He has been our packing leader and has done a fantastic job. He has taken two more families under his wings to help them learn how to pack. This includes Stacy Kuhns, our president and Audrey Turpin, our 2012 vice president. They have been enthusiastic and ready to help at every turn. It has been a great year for our group.

Our relationship with the local agencies has been spectacular! The lesson learned is that we have been communicating better with the agencies and it has been paying off. We have a better attitude throughout our unit now regarding coordination with these agencies. It is awesome!

Lots of packing opportunities: We have been packing supplies in for multiple groups including the Cal State Parks, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Student Conservation Agency (SCA), Cal Conservation Corps (CCC), and Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA). This year we hauled over 50 loads for a weight of 8500 lbs. This doesn't include any of our unit projects.

We were asked by State Parks to assist the CCC on the San Jacinto State Park Fuller Ridge Project on the PCT, by helping to packing their gear and food throughout the summer months. This project was in its third year and has been from May thru Oct. We have had a good time meeting lots of nice people that are working hard on repairing the PCT. We have uncovered hives of bees, a hiker with 10- 5 gal pails tied to his pack (very scary) and overall it has been a great experience for all of us.

The PCT has also asked us to assist the SCA on the Mission Creek Pack projects. Don Line, a PCTA section chief, asked for pack support for his Trail Gorilla crew up at Snow Creek for a one week project. We were asked again this year to pack equipment and supplies for The Scientist (a research crew from the San Diego Natural History Museum), into the Admin Camp which is on the top of Devils Slide. We returned the following week to pack their gear and samples back down.



Audrey & Stacy ~ Mission Creek Pack Support



Stacy riding & packing - Fuller Ridge Pack-In

Trail recon is a very important part of helping share knowledge of where there are potential trail issues for pack stock. This year part of the recon was from Fobes Saddle to Apache Springs. Rock and trees removed along the PCT and feeder trails near Spitler Peak, Anstel Rock and Strawberry Cienega.

PCTA Trail tool School was held in Temecula and it had useful classes in the maintenance and use of hand and power tools used in trail maintenance. And the fun part was blasting rocks with the Boulder Buster. The San Gabriel Trail Builders sponsored a two day Rigging Class that taught safe use of grip hoists, cables, and blocks to safely remove large obstacles from trail. We attended PCTA's two day Trail Skills College. It was held in the Lytle Creek area and there were many courses offered from basic trail maintenance to rock work. The Rock Work course showed how to install check steps which slows water down on the trail to help keep the trail sustainable.



# Unit News

We have continued working on Beauty Mountain Wilderness on the BLM. The PCT Table Mountain Trail brushing project (on the PCT) was a three day project. Riverside County Conservation Agency and the Forestry Dept. has worked with us and allowed us to install multiple horse step-thru gates in our area including Cahuilla Mountain for the purpose of keeping motorized vehicles out of the wilderness.



Audrey & Stacy ~ Mission Creek pack out

We have been attending quarterly meetings with the Riverside Trail Committees regarding trails in our local area. We have also attended meetings conducted thru the Forestry Dept. (May Valley Trail Coalition) regarding multi-use on local trails to help solve issues. A member attended the Southeast (equestrian) trail builder conference in Kentucky. The State Parks had a focus group renew trail policies and Redshank was asked to represent the horseman from the south.

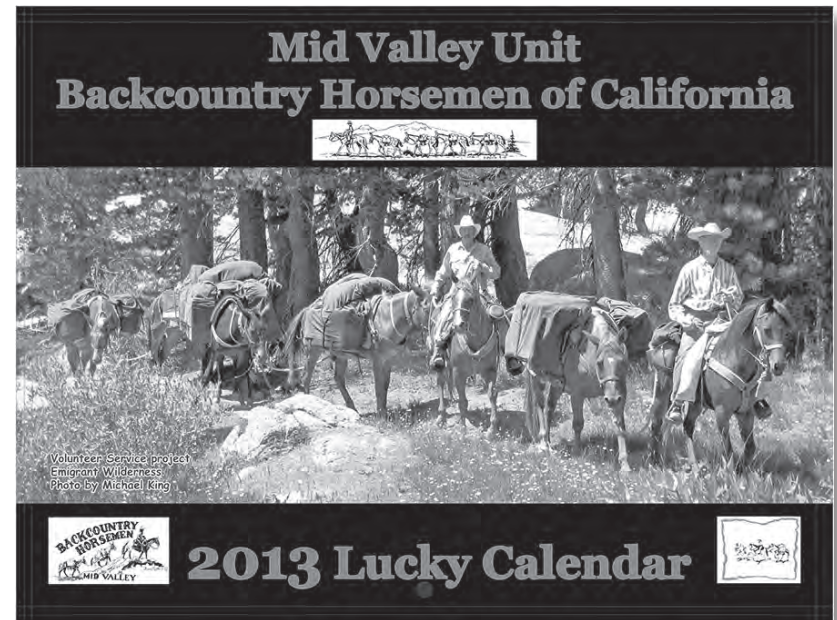
The "Day Late Dollar Short" obstacle challenge and Dutch oven cooking Event: We brought horses, (and mules) to practice skills on obstacles, practiced highline display and metal mule pack tying. We had some very yummy Dutch Oven Cooked Meals.

We had a packing demonstration at the Lake Riverside Estates where we showed our skills and discussed who we are as BCHC. We got new members! In the local community we have been working with the local Adopt-a-Highway program.

Our fundraisers included a treasure hunt ride and a poker ride. The treasure hunt ride had the committee out in the snow tagging trail and hiding treasures. The storm passed and the day of the ride was awesome and the Dutch oven cookin' warmed our bellies. We had rides throughout the year which have included in the following areas: Coyote Canyon to Tule Springs, Eagle Rock on the PCT, Santa Margarita, and May Valley/Apple Canyon as well as the Beauty Mountain Wilderness. We finished off our year with our Christmas ride. We had riders come out and sing Christmas carols as we rode thru our community. We had a decorated mule drawn wagon with passengers singing along. We had a toy and canned food drive in addition to a great potluck and gift exchange.

Our Redshank Riders Unit is hip deep in the Committee for the preparations for the Rendezvous for 2013. Cya there.

## MID VALLEY UNIT LUCKY CALENDARS



*Actual calendar is in color. BUY your calendars today. Call Michael at (209) 606-8323 or email: [mickngig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mickngig@sbcglobal.net) or Kathy at (209) 765-4923 or email: [runningzranch@gmail.com](mailto:runningzranch@gmail.com)*

## Upcoming Events

2013 BCHC Rendezvous in Norco, CA  
[www.bchcalifornia.org/2013-rendezvous.html](http://www.bchcalifornia.org/2013-rendezvous.html)

2013 Western States Horse Expo - Jun 7-9th  
 Cal Expo Fairgrounds in Sacramento, California  
[www.horseexpo.com](http://www.horseexpo.com)



# News You Can Use

## End of Trail

(from Western Horseman)

Submitted by Pete Spencer - Redshank Riders Unit

Across the United States, riding trails are at risk. More than ever, backcountry horsemen must compete with hikers, mountain bikers, ATV riders and others for public-land access. And, with increasingly restrictive—even anti-horse—regulations in some locales, trails on which riders were once welcome are now hostile environments for horsemen. Learn how 10 of the country's top riding destinations have come under threat, and how you can get involved in the fight to save them.

### **California Riding & Hiking Trail (CRHT)**

Location: Statewide

In 1945, the State of California created the California Riding and Hiking Trail to honor returning veterans of World War II and their fallen comrades. More than 40,000 pages of trail easements (rights of way for trail users) were negotiated, and a 3,000-mile statewide loop through 37 counties was mapped.

More than 60 years later, the trail is in danger of going to waste despite efforts by dedicated volunteers. Part of the problem lies with uncooperative landowners, notes Backcountry Horsemen of California activist Pete Spencer. According to Spencer, landowners continue to disregard deeded easements by building structures atop the trail, destroying signs and trail markers, erecting gates and fences, and even threatening horseback riders and trail volunteers who try to access the loop.

### ***Volunteer Opportunities:***

Backcountry Horsemen of California

- Pete Spencer, activist
- (760) 782-3747
- muleman2@wildblue.net

### ***Voice Your Opinion:***

California State Parks

- parks.ca.gov
- Steve Musillami,  
statewide trails manager
- (916) 653-6501
- smusi@parks.ca.gov



Read more: [http://westernhorseman.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=681&Itemid=76#ixzz2EK5Or300](http://westernhorseman.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=681&Itemid=76#ixzz2EK5Or300)



# News You Can Use

## ATTENTION UNIT HISTORIANS:

This is a special request from BCHA as 2013 represents 40 years as an organization.

Happy New Year and best wishes for 2013. As you are aware, this year is the 40th anniversary of the creation of BCHA. With that in mind, I have two requests of you.

**First:** In the 2012 fall edition of our national newsletter I suggested that each state and their respective chapters do something in 2013 to commemorate our 40 year birthday. As directors from your state, please “beat the drum” for this and urge your membership units to plan some activity or event to celebrate these past 40 years.

Let me cite an example. I live in Wyoming and in 1990 we celebrated our 100th birthday as a state. One of the events was a wagon train. It was estimated that on the final day of the train, there were nearly 3000 people, 200 wagons, and 1800 horses and mules – the largest single column of people and animals since the Civil War. It was an event I shall never forget.

Certainly I am not suggesting an event of that magnitude. But whatever, large or small, participation in an equine activity will make this 40th anniversary meaningful. So please work with your chapters to promote some celebratory events.

**Second:** For the 2013 Fall Edition of our newsletter – the final one for the year – plans are to feature a photo from each state depicting the spirit of BCHA in that state. Our editor needs photos from you within the next few months. Please go to work on this now and don’t wait until the last minute

Remember your old high school year book. For the kids who didn’t show, there was a blank space in the class photo section with the words “No photo available”. Don’t wait and be embarrassed by being a “no show”.

E-mail your photo – a single one is all we need – to Peg Greiwe or Sherry Jennings. [Address in the newsletter] Identify your photo with a short caption and if appropriate, the names of people. Example: “Sage Brush Chapter of Wyoming gathering cow chips for camp fire.”

Any questions - email or call me:

Al Sammons – 40th Coordinator  
Wyoming BCHA  
redmule@wyoming.com  
1 307 856-5021



675 N 600 W Suite #3,  
Logan, UT 84321  
(800) 742-7047

## Logan Coach Rebate Program Exclusive to BCH Members

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You can send that directly to Steve Hales ~ Logan Coach  
Phone (435) 752-3737 Fax (435) 752-3756

The deadline for submissions for the  
SPRING/SUMMER EDITION

of the Backcountry News is:

**April 19, 2013**

Send submissions to [BCHC.News@gmail.com](mailto:BCHC.News@gmail.com)

or mail to: Rhonda Strickland

Restless Designs

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# Unit News

## MOTHER LODGE UNIT MATTERS 2012 *Submitted by Corky Layne*

We started out our year having a great time at the Rendezvous, which was nice and close for us this year. Our table looked great once again (thanks to Terri Riley's decorations) but we were not part of the competition this year because we won the Table Decorating contest last year (2011). Our Table Decorating Committee took on the

awesome job of assigning tables and judging the table decorations. Not all units take the time or go to the trouble of decorating their tables, but the ones that do take it very seriously!

In March President Mike

Kohlaker attended a Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA) Summit that introduced PCTA crew leaders to BCHC Units that have PCT in their region. Everyone present shared job descriptions and discussed volunteer opportunities. During Rendezvous PCTA, BCHC and the USFS jointly gave a "partnership presentation" which reinforced the March Summit discussions.

Two of our members, Brian Kaiser and Andy Asserto, gave a

tremendous showing at Mule Days in Bishop as part of the Rock Creek Pack Station scramble, winning two out of the three scrambles this year.

On May 12, 2012, Jerry Heitzler, Jerry Ledbetter,

Daryl Shankles, and Mike Kohlaker had a booth and gave a packing demonstration at the Scout-A-Rama in Roseville. There were 12 troops (approximately 720 Boy Scouts.) A metal mule was used for the packing demonstrations. Thanks were extended to Jerry

Heitzler for making it happen. It was a good showing for BCH.

At the Forest Service Chain Saw Class in May, three of our members, Al Kaiser, Jerry Heitzler, and Jerry Ledbetter, were re-certified and a new member (Rory) was certified. Mike Kohlaker has taken the First/Aid CPR in preparation for the next Chain Saw training.

Our Gentle Use Camp at Horse Expo in June was fun and successful and looked really sharp. The camp area was set up with different stations: Metal Mule Packing Station, Photo Display and Handout Table, Highline and Knots, Dutch Oven Cooking, and Kid's Corner. There were two tents and a couple of metal mules. The Dutch oven cooking kept the people coming by and many people were interested in all the knots available for high-lining.

With a lot of support from our unit and the Sutter Buttes Unit we generated 383.75 volunteer hours over the four days and 110.5 travel hours. We want to thank the people who helped in the setting up, taking down, transporting of materials, and donation of equipment to our camp.

Bob Magee, BCHC Vice President of Public Lands, was our guest speaker at the June meeting. He spoke to our current public lands issues and answered questions. It was great having him there to hear firsthand about issues at the state level and receive his compliments on our Gentle Use Camp.

Mother Lode provided pack support for the Forest Service in early August. We packed in about 300 pounds, plus hand tools, to Lake Sylvia on August 5, and packed the group out on August 11.

The Student Conservation Association gave the Mother Lode Unit and Elegant Ears Mule Club \$1,000 in appreciation for the pack support we provided for the 2011 Maude Lake Trail Project.

Al Kaiser, Trail Projects Chair, reported there were 15 people and 4 7/8 pack animals (the 7/8 was Cathy Andrews' pony) who worked on the Tells Creek Trail project. They cleared a little over five miles of the Two Peaks Trail on Saturday and about 1.7 miles of the Sun Rock Trail on Sunday.



Little Guy at Rendz 2012



Dan Marus Gentle Use Camp



Big Guy at Rendz 2012



# Unit News

## HAVE YOU EVER? *by Mike Hughes ~ Kern River Valley Unit*

To provide an answer to a recent inquiry regarding the Back Country Horsemen of California, Kern River Valley Unit and what we do, people should know that we are a group of dedicated men and women working to preserve the historic use of trails with recreational pack and saddle stock. BCHC members perform public service activities for numerous land management agencies and are continually working to educate other members and the general public on how to be "Gentle Users."

Our focus is to enjoy the great outdoors via equine partners while helping provide access for others wishing to share in this same type of experience, regardless of their preferred mode of transportation. It is clearly understood that we don't accomplish this alone. We utilize the backcountry, front country, and coastline and when invited, private lands, to achieve this goal. As a group we have been able to explore wilderness, monuments, national parks, forests, state parks and large private ranches to name but a few venues.

Over the years we have interacted on a professional and social level with representatives of groups covering a wide spectrum of contacts, from the local to the national level, and this is as it should be. Many of these clubs, units, organizations and governmental agencies share similar interests and objectives and we work with them cooperatively for the greater good. At other times we enjoy a short but progressive partnership, building towards the same aspirations with groups whom our paths have briefly crossed.

Admittedly, there are those occasions when others and our aims are different and, unfortunately, we find ourselves at loggerheads and have to agree to disagree. I have to say it is a shame when governmental agencies get caught in this crossfire between competing interests of private citizens. When this happens, it is imperative that common sense and creative problem solving enters into the discussions.

Fortunately, we here on the Sequoia National Forest have such a levelheaded professional in the person of Recreational Specialist Bobby Frenes. I first met Bobby in the early 1990's when he was a new hire at the United States Forest Service and I was the day supervisor for Camp Owen. This young, diligent and unique personality showed up in his fresh starched uniform proudly displaying the Forest Service Logo stitched to his shirt. He gathered up his crew of Camp Owen wards to go forth and perform public service where it is most needed. He shared with me his plans for the day and then we would discuss trails which are in great shape, those that are most scenic, those that are in decent shape and those most in need of maintenance, which I mentally filed away for future reference.

Leading by example through projects such as Blackrock Trailhead, Cannell and Big Meadow adoption sites, Manter Meadow and trail clearances from the top to the bottom of Sequoia National Forest Bobby Frenes has been a study in success for all those with whom he comes into contact. Now, what Bob may not have realized over the more than two decades that I have known him is what an excellent representative

he has been for his agency. We members of the Kern River Valley Unit of B.C.H.C. have learned a great deal from him through the years. At times we have watched him handle his difficult work tasks, just like a juggler with a hand full of smoking chainsaws, and yet he has always remained a true professional. This, of course, leads us to ask the questions, have you ever met an individual who has a reputation for getting the job done right the first time? An individual who has the knack for seeing clearly the right path to follow and does so without reservation? If the question, "Have you ever?" were posed to us, the answer would come back, Yes, Bobby Frenes.

When horsemen gather at our regional conferences and state meetings we compare notes on the relationships we have with other groups. When discussing Bobby with other units, one of the most frequently heard quotes is, "Wow, you guys are extremely lucky, is there any way we can clone this guy and share him around the state?" Of course our answer is always the same, "Nah, we'll just have to keep him for ourselves."

Bobby, with this in mind, we members of the B.C.H.C. Kern River Valley Unit, are greatly appreciative of all the hard work and positive public relations you have accomplished throughout your career. You are a man who has built a reputation based on integrity, trust and standing by your word.



These are the reasons why on September 15th 2012 at our quarterly meeting, we awarded Bob Frenes with the first ever, KERN RIVER VALLEY UNIT, B.C.H.C. PLAQUE OF APPRECIATION.

From all of us, thank you for who you are, what you do and what you continue to represent.

# Information

## WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

The following new members have joined BCHC between

August & December 2012

Antelope Valley	Lynda Fenneman April S. Frisbey & Tim Golden Bradley R. & Emily Miles
Eastern Sierra	Desiree & Justin Federman June & Dale Schmidt Neta & Jim Snyder Richard & Judy Underwood
High Country	Katherine & Ben Zandstra
High Sierra	Bradley R. & Emily Miles
Kern River Valley	Colleen T. Brun Tom & Lynda Meredith
Kern Sierra	Cheryl & Ted Reese
Lake-Mendo	Dave Lowrie Chris Vallerga
Los Padres	Tracey & Callie Anderson Bob Benton & Sheri Larson Pamela Crouch Carol Darwin Alisa Davis Lori Donnelly Scott Guthrie Cynthia Hoff Christopher & Lisa Huhloff Gail Jamieson Bobbi King Jeanne Madrid & Danny Wells Ruth Means Dodie Nugent Michelle Odle Michelle Ratkay Jennifer Robinson Sharon Rosenfeld Lori Shepard-Johnson Shelly Wolfe
Mid Valley	Rose Marie Armendariz Kiki Edgerton DeAnn Edwards Jim & Sue Frier Gail Jamieson Debra & Scott Lewis Tami Peters Alan Serpa Randy J. & Ruthie D. Sims Prabhjot (Joe) Singh Kevin A. Van Dewark Kathryn & Jay Watt Nancy Willmes
Mother Lode	Bartley Baer Dorothy J. Foster Patty Lamarche Linda Lansky & Keith Schoendoerfer Helen & Brent McDermott Lori A. Oldfather Teri Personeni Karen Schwartz Roger Ward Michael & Brooke Wunschel

## NEW MEMBERS, *continued*

North Bay	Mark Aguirre & Sondra Wilson Howard & Joki Brusco Amanda Fisher Robel Halima Bill & Laurie Knispel Diane Ricketts Richard & Beverly Sanders M. J. Wickham
Ohlone Riders	Melanie Headrick
Redshank Riders	Eugenie & William Brunner Andrea & J.D. Burns Dana Conklin Mark & Linda Donahoe Beth Grossman Dave Houghland Ken Leach Cary & Jackie Lewis Beth L. Shook
Redwood	Randy Conley Sherrie R. Eaves
San Diego	Sharon Bakun Weston Barnes Jeani Buchanan Gabi Daigneault Roxanne Davis Linda Graham Mark Kukuchek Lina Mendenhall Harold David Patterson Laurie Rains
San Gorgonio Pass	Kimberlie Hall Susan Jackson & Greg Becker Linda Kehler Jay & Lisa Murphy J.T. Tillery
San Joaquin Sierra	Jeanne Bryson Jo Ann Caufield Jan Doyle Rick Evans & Kim Anderson Tom Smart Juanita Fiorello Linda Franklin Bonnie Pearce Patricia & Duane Peverill Donna Reiniche Art Riesgo & Becky J. Balistreri Kathleen Rising Donn & Carmen Sawyer Carolyn Shaffer & Ron Steger Ann Van Zant Kim Watkins Debra & Thomas Winegarden
Santa Ana River	David R. Hebeler & Laurentina Rodrigues Lynne Hinman Bill Moser & Marcia Moser-Hirsch
Sequoia	Hollace Miller Glenn & Sylvia Sprayberry Valerie Zera & Jon Meyer



# Information

## NEW MEMBERS, *continued*

Shasta Trinity	Erica Fruht & Keith Temple Tracey & Jim Phillips Robert & Kelly Sterling
Sierra Freepackers	Ann & Gary Bates Belinda Lopez-Minera Sharon & Jay Seslowe Carolyn Shaffer & Ron Steger
Steinbeck Country	Trudy Haversat & Gary S. Breschini
Sutter Buttes	Dr An Labarre & Dinah C. Gibbs
Top Of The State	Sandy & Mike McTeer

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and help us in our many efforts.

**THANK YOU!**

### IN CONCLUSION: To People of the Horse - Submitted by Mary Odell

For introduction, I'm Roland Cheek. I was in on the beginning of Back Country Horseman--even before the beginning, since BCH actually had its conception in my hunting camp several months before the first group organized.

Some months ago, I advised several folks on my BCH mailing list of a new YouTube show I'd put together called "Kids 'n Horses: A Match Made In Heaven (or Hell)--Parents Choice!" <http://www.rolandcheek.com/kidsslideshow/index.html> about the importance of starting kids out on older horses. That little presentation received a ton of emails from BCHers all over America who thanked me for clarifying a many-sided problem often encountered by parents hoping for a developing companionship between child and horse.

As a former outfitter and guide in one of America's greatest wildernesses, I learned about horses and how to get the most from each. And I often share with others. For instance, my next "Campfire Culture" blog, to be posted next Saturday (Dec 15) is titled "Into Heads To Reach Hearts" is about winning your pony's trust and confidence. It's an important training blog for the horse-user, so click: <http://www.rolandcheek.com/Newcampfireculture/index.html> during the entire week following Dec. 15.

Also for folks with e-readers (Kindle, I-Pad, etc.) I have a FREE short fiction piece on Roland Cheek's Amazon Kindle page for three days, Dec. 17, 18, & 19: [http://www.amazon.com/The-Elysium-End-ebook/dp/B00ACT3NGW/ref=sr\\_1\\_5?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1355503864&sr=1-5&keywords=roland+cheek](http://www.amazon.com/The-Elysium-End-ebook/dp/B00ACT3NGW/ref=sr_1_5?s=digital-text&ie=UTF8&qid=1355503864&sr=1-5&keywords=roland+cheek)

"The Elysium End" is about an old man who feels he has nothing left for which to live deciding to die in his idea of the most beautiful place on God's green earth. Except the ugly mare he rode into that very private Elysium place--the horse he detests (and who he thinks detests him) has other ideas.

Again, that story about an old man and an ugly horse is FREE on Amazon Kindle's Roland Cheek page for three days: Dec. 17, 18 & 19. Thanks for reading and listening. I do good stuff about good horses and good people.



If the thought of an open trail and distance riding intrigues you, contact the American Endurance Ride Conference for their free information packet.

It tells it all.

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## Membership Matters

Contact Membership Coordinators, Chip & Linda Herzig. They will be happy to address your questions or concerns.

Chip & Linda may be reached  
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