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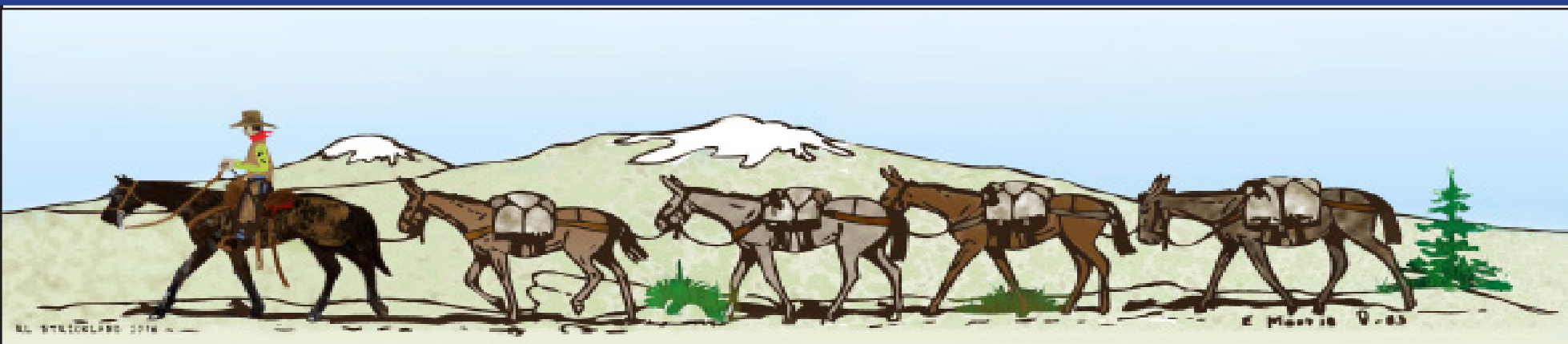
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The Backcountry News

Volume 37, Issue 3

The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California

SUMMER 2025



TAKE THE REINS - BE A LEADER

BCHC ELECTIONS COMING IN OCTOBER

By Carol Jo Hargreaves

Do you have ideas for the future of Backcountry Horsemen of California? Want to help shape the direction of our organization - or simply enjoy working with a passionate team of fellow members? Then now's your chance: elections are coming up this October, and we're looking for enthusiastic members to step into leadership roles!

You don't need prior experience - just a willingness to pitch in, represent your fellow members, and help guide BCHC forward. Whether you've been with us for years or are relatively new to the group, your voice and perspective matter.

We're currently seeking candidates for the following elected positions:

- ☐ President
- ☐ Vice President of Education
- ☐ Treasurer
- ☐ National Director

These roles will be filled at the State Board of Directors meeting in

October 2025 and will take office January 1, 2026.

In addition, the incoming President will appoint members to fill one-year terms for:

- ☐ Vice President of Public Lands
- ☐ Secretary

These two positions will be up for election in October 2026.

We're looking for committed, forward-thinking individuals to help lead BCHC into the future. If that sounds like you - or someone you know - please consider running for office!

Need more info?

Job descriptions for all officer roles can be found in the BCHC, Inc., 501(c)4 Bylaws (Article VII, Section 1) and the BCHC Education Fund, Inc., 501(c)3 Bylaws (Article 4, Sections 1-11). You'll find both documents on the BCHC website at bchcalifornia.org/Documents & Forms

Interested in running - or want to nominate someone?

Contact a member of the Nominating Committee:

See **ELECTIONS**, continued on Page 5

The Backcountry News

An internal publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc.

Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

BCHC_Newsletter@bchcalifornia.org

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Who is BCHC? The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization incorporated in the State of California, March 13, 1990, with a 501(c)4 education foundation established in 2007. The Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., reserves the right to refuse any articles and/or advertisements that are not consistent 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 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 should be sent in a Microsoft Word format to include author and photo credits. Longer articles are subject to edit for space at the discretion of the Editor. Photos may not be returned.

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

<u>Edition</u>	<u>Deadline</u>
Fall 2025 Edition	October 15, 2025
Winter 2026 Edition	January 15, 2026
Spring 2026 Edition	April 15, 2026
Summer 2026 Edition	July 15, 2026

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

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

Advertising: All ads must include all fonts and images used in artwork. Ads must be at a resolution of 300 pixels per inch at the actual size used in the artwork. Mail payment to the BCHC Treasurer. Checks returned from the bank will have a \$25 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.

2025 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

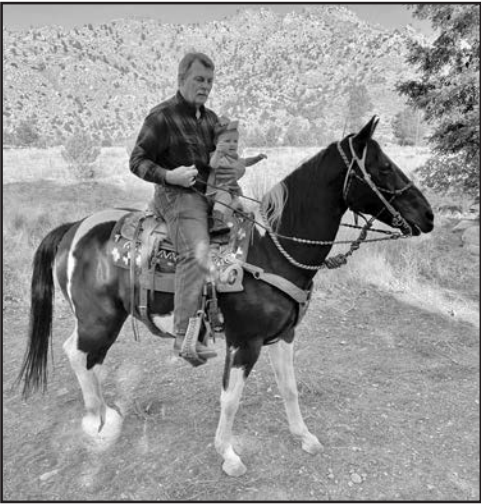
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For more BCHC information, see our website: bchcalifornia.org

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



BCHC President
Mike Hughes

Well, the end of my four years as President of BCHC is quickly coming to a close. Therefore, in order to look forward to the next President’s election in October, we must reflect on a few very important issues. I had to determine in the beginning if I took on this honorable but weighty task, what my motto or better yet my anchor would be. Reflecting on other board positions I have held, the answer became quickly and abundantly clear:

Leave it better than I found it.

That phraseology encompasses a wide variety of positions and opinions. One thing, however, was that the Executive Committee of the Backcountry Horsemen of California could not stagnate. That is, we would have to be constantly moving forward. Much of the change had to be based on what we saw ahead of us on the horizon as well as peering back to see how previous events had been handled. How we were going to strategize and plan so that at a time of need we would be ready and proactive with things ready to be put in place. This in contrast to being reactive and playing catchup while putting out fires along the way.

To do this I felt we had to look at previous scenarios and how they had been handled by former Executive Committees, Directors, and Presidents. This approach was a great help to me in formulating positions and determining what direction BCHC should follow. Now that is not to say we did not encounter spontaneous problems and occurrences. Though unexpected as these were, through a constant flow of communication with the Executive Committee, Board of Directors, subcommittees, and members with special skills and talents, they were handled in an expedient manner.

BCHC also tried to keep a positive and fluid interaction with the mother ship at BCHA. Even with this as our guidepost there were times when confusion would creep in. Recognizing that only one letter separated the organizations, the policies and procedures would occasionally become clouded. A concise example of this was BCHC’s “Leave No Trace” versus BCHA’s “Light on the Land.” Though many principles were common to both, they were distinctly two very different programs. With dedication, commitment, research, and diplomacy the situation was handled.

The consistent golden thread of commonality between our organization and our partners in this mission was the underlying theme of

VOLUNTEERISM. When keeping this in the forefront of our planning, thinking and actions, it was easy to remember we were all working toward the greater good together.

Upon reflection on my time in office it was apparent one of my greatest assets was the Executive Committee I was blessed to work with. The chemistry from my perspective was outstanding. That is not to say it was a rubber stamp or “yes man” group - anything but that. Executive Committee members were not hesitant or afraid to express their opinions and were often the catalyst for ideas. This position led to recommendation of many new policies and necessary changes approved by the Board of Directors.

I can state unequivocally to the incoming President that a good Executive Committee will assist with keeping the organization on track, vibrant and moving forward toward common and shared goals. This is the most important way that we can properly represent the vital membership of this organization.

However, even with a great leadership team in sync down through the subcommittees, officers and units, **volunteerism at the unit level is what keeps this organization on track.** Unit members are the true leaders of BCHC, and we must not ever forget that. Therefore, it is my fervent hope and belief that the incoming President will recognize and continue to construct upon these critical building blocks of our BCHC organization and carry them forward.

It is with immense appreciation for all the volunteers out there that I forward to you my deepest respect for the time, energy, and resources you expend on our mission every day. BCHC is made up of powerful and impactful groups of dedicated volunteers.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your President and to contribute in some small way in giving back to BCHC over the past few years.

Mike Hughes
President, Backcountry Horsemen of California

Here’s the QR Code for BCHC’s website. Check out all of the information and resources available to members and units! Just open the built-in camera on your cell phone or tablet. Point the camera at the QR code. Tap the banner that appears and you’ll be at bchcalifornia.org



BCHC NEWS



BCHC Editor
Carol Jo Hargreaves

WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A VOLUNTEER

Being a volunteer means giving your time, energy, and skills without expecting anything in return. It's about stepping up - not because you have to, but because you *want* to help. Whether you're pitching in at an event, helping maintain trails, serving on a committee, or mentoring new members, volunteering is how things get done in organizations like ours.

Volunteers are the heart of Backcountry Horsemen. They show up early, stay late, ask questions, and offer solutions. They lend a hand when no one's watching, and they do it because they care - about the mission, the people, the stock, and the places we ride.

To be a volunteer is to take ownership of something bigger than yourself. It's about being part of a team, creating community, and making a difference that lasts longer than a single afternoon. It doesn't matter if you're leading the charge or supporting from the background - your effort counts.

While volunteers give a lot, they also *get* a lot in return (just not in the form of a paycheck).

Volunteering gives you a chance to be part of something meaningful. Whether it's preserving public lands, supporting fellow riders, or simply making someone's day easier, it feels good to know you're making a difference.

From leadership and public speaking to event planning or trail maintenance, volunteering builds all kinds of useful skills. You might learn something brand new - or get better at something you already enjoy.

Volunteering is a great way to form lasting friendships, strengthen bonds within your unit, and feel part of a team with shared goals.

Helping others - and seeing the results of your work - boosts confidence. There's satisfaction in knowing you showed up and made an impact, even in small ways.

Volunteering often leads to unexpected adventures, inside jokes, trail tales, and memories that stick around long after the job is done.

In short, volunteers give their time - but they usually walk away with an even more valuable reward: a deeper connection to the work, the people, and the purpose. Thank you for being a loyal and hardworking member of BCHC! We can't do it without you!



BCHC Secretary
Susie Patton

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE SUMMER MEETING

By Susie Patton, BCHC Secretary

We were blessed to hold our Executive Committee meeting in the beautiful redwoods of the Sequoia Forest this year. Thank you, Ruthie Heuer, for hosting us. Several Executive Committee members were unable to

attend, but we did have a quorum to do the necessary work of BCHC. We had a great carne asada dinner Friday night and got to have some interesting discussions after members arrived.

The next morning after breakfast we started the official meeting. We had a discussion on Rendezvous and how we can improve the experience and involve more members. Our 2026 Rendezvous will be held in Ceres at the Diamond J. Mid Valley is hosting and Lloyd Erlandson is working on the theme and the artwork. A big thank you to the other units who have stepped up to assist. Our total profit from the 2025 Rendezvous in Corning was around \$4,000. Only about 175 members registered, which is around 1/10 of BCHC's total members.

Your Executive Committee discussed our upcoming election in October 2025 and discussed filling the vacant positions on the board. Look for a recommended slate of officers prior to the October meeting. If you, or someone you know, would be interested in the office of President, VP of Education, National Director, or Treasurer, please contact Lloyd Erlandson at lloyd.erlandson0@gmail.com. The Secretary and Public Land positions will be filled by appointment of the BCHC President to complete the terms which would be up for election in October 2026.

We also discussed the upcoming Officer Trainings that will take place in 2026 throughout the state and are working on the revision of the Leadership Training & Resource Manual. We discussed some proposed Bylaw changes and a possible new policy that would be presented to the Board of Directors in October.

Our meeting ended Saturday evening with a steak and potato dinner, corn from Ruthie's farm and Lynn's lemon bars.

All in all, it was a very productive meeting with cool mountain breezes and dedicated BCHC officers.

I've included two photographs of the outdoor venue on the next page.

BCHC NEWS



Members of the BCHC Executive Committee joined for their Summer Meeting at Ruthie Heuer’s cabin near Springville, California. Sunlight filtering through the trees in the quiet woodland invited reflection, imagination, a deep breath of inspiration and a productive meeting.

Shown above: BCHC President Mike Hughes and Co-VP of Education Denise Robinson.

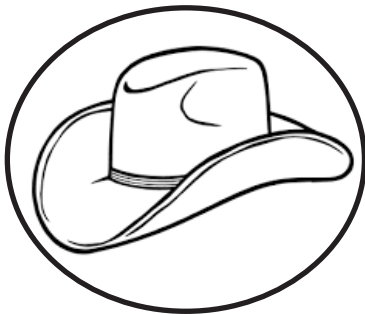
ELECTIONS, continued from Page 1

- Lloyd Erlandson - lloyd.erlandson0@gmail.com
- Chip Herzig - chipherzig@gmail.com
- Michael King - mickngig@sbcglobal.net or (209) 606-8323

Have questions?

Don’t hesitate to reach out to any current officer - we’re happy to talk about what the positions involve.

Let’s keep BCHC strong, connected, and moving forward. Throw your hat in the ring - we’d love to have you on the team!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The October State Board Meeting will be held October 3 and 4 at Carl and Julie Perry’s Party Barn in Hilmar, California

Details and directions to be included in the 45-Day Notice Package to be mailed to Presidents and Directors.

DEADLINE
FOR FALL 2025 EDITION

of the Backcountry News is: **October 15, 2025**

Send submissions to:

BCHC Editor at

BCHC_Newsletter@bchcalifornia.org

Remember to let the Editor know, by the newsletter deadline, if you would like extra copies of the paper printed to distribute at upcoming events/activities. Send the number of papers you would like and the mailing address of the person to whom they should be sent.

PUBLIC LANDS



BCHC VP of Public Lands
Troy Patton

PUBLIC LANDS UPDATE

By Troy Patton, VP of Public Lands

MONUMENTS - Since our February State Board meeting where Monuments were a big topic, the Range of Light National Monument did not come to pass. It would have taken almost the entire Sierra National Forest and placed the land under the National Park Service which is not always friendly to horse and pack stock. However, Biden did pass two Monuments here in California: the Chuckwalla National Monument in southern California and the Sattitla Highland National monument in northern Cali-

fornia. He also expanded the San Gabriel National Monument and the Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument which are also in California.

PUBLIC LANDS – BCHA warned us about the news that the House was looking at a bill to sell off Public Land. Fortunately, that bill was killed before it moved forward. There was then a move to add it to a bill in the Senate, but that was also stopped due to public outcry.

ROADLESS RULE - U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins recently announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is rescinding the 2001 Clinton Roadless Rule. The Roadless Rule is an outdated administrative rule that contradicts the will of Congress and goes against the mandate of the U.S. Forest Service to sustain the health, diversity, and productivity of the nation's forests and grasslands. Rescinding this rule will remove prohibitions on road construction, reconstruction, and timber harvest on nearly 59 million acres of the National Forest System, allowing for fire prevention and responsible timber production.

The USDA's action to repeal the Roadless Rule aligns with President Trump's Executive Order Unleashing Prosperity Through Deregulation to get rid of overcomplicated, burdensome barriers that hamper American business and innovation. The Clinton Roadless Rule was designed to deny access, management, and use to 58.5 million acres of National Forest Service lands. This was done in violation of the 1897 Organic Act, Wilderness Act, and National Environmental Policy Act. Rescinding the 2001 Roadless Rule will enhance forest management and economic opportunities for several states. By removing restrictions on road construction and timber harvesting in previously protected areas, the repeal allows for more active forest management. This will lead to improved forest health, reduced wildfire risks, reduced insect infestations, and the creation of jobs in sectors like logging, construction, and maintenance. Such activities contribute to many states' economy and improve access

for outdoor recreation and tourism.

TOWNS TO TRAILS - project has been completed. This project was an effort to connect various trails near rural towns in Inyo, Mono and Alpine Counties. This marks the culmination of two years of work, from Spring 2023 to Spring 2025. Over that time, the team collected existing conditions data (including GIS datasets); engaged with agency partners, stakeholders, and community members; refined potential alignments; analyzed network gaps, and field-verified the final proposed route. The Final Report details the process of evaluating the feasibility of a regional trail using existing infrastructure, while the StoryMap allows you to explore the proposed alignment in greater detail. Moving forward, this group has been awarded a Sierra Jobs First Catalyst grant to explore opportunities for a westside Towns to Trails route—one that would connect Calaveras, Mariposa, Tuolumne, and Amador counties to each other and to the Eastside alignment. If you'd like to stay informed about this new westside effort, please reach out to info@townstotrails.org.

PCTA - I received this information from Michael Lewis and Jerry Stone: If you work for the PCTA as a volunteer, you should know that they will no longer cover your stock while working for them. You are responsible for any equine liability. You should be aware that if the project is not a BCHC project, our BCHC third party liability insurance will not cover you. It is optional that you have equine liability insurance, but you will be required to sign written confirmation that you accept full responsibility for your animals and agree not to hold the Forest Service or PCTA liable for any incidents, injuries, or losses that may occur. This information is per Amy Calvillo Aubin, PCTA's Associate Director of Volunteer Programs. Please be proactive and check your insurance policies before signing to accept full responsibility for your animals.

PUBLIC LAND VP - As I have mentioned before, I have submitted my resignation as VP of Public Lands, effective December 31, 2025. Any member is eligible to fill the position, and I will assist them in getting started. You may contact me at outdoortroy46@gmail.com, Michael Hughes at 4Hranch@earthlink.net or any member of BCHC's Nominating Committee: Chip Herzig at chipherzig@gmail.com, Lloyd Erlandson at lloyderlandson0@gmail.com or Michael King at mickngig@sbcglobal.net. The VP of Public Lands position requires computer skills with email, texts, website searches and research into legislation. The job also involves traveling to two State Board meetings, one in February and one in October, a summer Executive Committee meeting, and attending various Zoom meetings throughout the year. You are also expected to oversee nominations for the Ann Lange Public Lands Award, attend Rendezvous and other meetings around the state that involve Public Lands. Every other year you will be expected to attend and conduct public lands training at three BCHC Officer Training venues in the south, central and north parts of the state. All of the travel, lodging and food are at your own expense; BCHC does not pay for this. Last year I logged 6,000 miles for BCHC and expended around \$5,000.

EDUCATION & VOLUNTEER SERVICE



BCHC Co-VP of Education
Ruthie Heuer



BCHC Co-VP of Education
Denise Robinson

EDUCATION UPDATE

By Ruthie Heuer and Denise Robinson,
Co-VPs of Education

The October BCHC State Board and Committee Meetings are coming around the corner. They will be held at Carl Perry's Party Barn in Hilmar on October 3 and 4.

Unit Education Committee Chairs, this is your reminder of your responsibility to attend this meeting. On the agenda will include reports/ drafts of the

- New wanted poster
- New video
- Update on Wolf Wisdom flyer

All these items are for review, input and suggestions from you, the Education Committee.

Included on the agenda will be a time for each unit to share what is happening in their Unit's Education programs. The Officer /Leadership Training dates and locations for the northern, central, and southern areas will also be announced at the October meeting.

Wilderness Rider/Master Leave No Trace course for April/May 2026 is being planned.

The Executive Committee has been busy bringing our Leadership Training Manual to current standards, which describes and explains how all our offices and committees work together to serve our state organization. This has been no small accomplishment.

Be sure to get your information from your Unit President to be prepared for the Education meeting. The Education information will be included with your Unit President's 45-day Notice Packet. This will include the Education agenda and last February's meeting minutes.

REMINDER: Volunteer Hours are so important! Hope you are keeping track of work projects, service and education activities hours and reporting them to Cindy McMurry. She can answer any of your questions.

Rendezvous 2026 will be held in Ceres, CA. We know this is still months away, but all units need to remember to offer help to Mid Valley. There is no job too small.



BCHC Volunteer Service Hours
Coordinator
Cindy McMurry

VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS UPDATE

By Cindy McMurry, Volunteer Service Hours
Coordinator

After several years of persistent communications with BCHC's unit Volunteer Coordinators, we had **complete compliance from all units in 2024**. Sutter Buttes was late with its report but did submit the report once they had a volunteer to complete it.

Our totals for the 2024 year are included at the end of this document.

There have been several requests that we develop a way for members to record hours digitally on their phones so that hours automatically are recorded on a master document. Research so far, has shown that purchasing one of the programs that were recommended would cost from \$3,700 to over \$10,000. Neither of these options is viable due to cost. In addition, there would be a considerable increase in time for the Volunteer Service Coordinator to extrapolate the information needed to send to BCHA. With the years it's taken to educate our membership to use the current system, I can't see how changing it now is in BCHC's best interest. Gail Inman has adapted the current form to be used on a cell phone but I was unable to read it due to the size of the print.

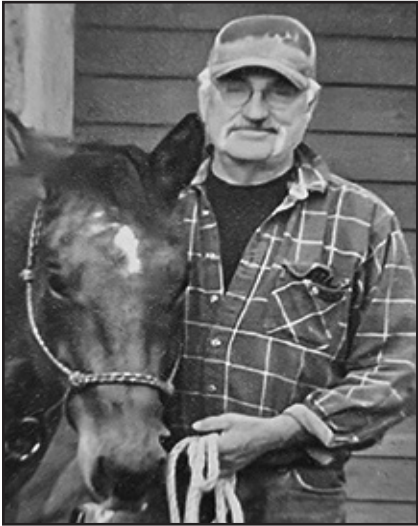
BCHC's major issue now is underreporting. Members should be reporting prep and cleanup for an event; trail riding is considered Recon; answering emails and writing letters to legislators are BCHC Administrative Activities, and anything used for project work such as hay, grain, food for potlucks and meals eaten on project work are Donations. All of these statistics are used to justify our existence, to lobby legislators and as in-kind funds for grants.

I'm seeing lots of posts on Facebook of the fun activities and project work you all have been doing this summer.

Be sure to keep track of all your time, miles, and the work you do for our statistics at the end of the year. Hours will be due to me by January 15, 2026. It helps me some if the members of my unit update me 3 or 4 times a year and some of you may find this a helpful practice, too.

See **VOLUNTEER SERVICE**, continued on Page 9

SAW PROGRAM



BCHC Saw Program Manager
Dan Chartier

SAW PROGRAM UPDATE

By Dan Chartier, Saw Program Manager

The transition of the new USFS R-5 Chainsaw/Crosscut lead Jason Murieen is going well. He has attended one of our joint BCHC crosscut classes with Forest Service. He understands how important BCHC is to the USFS and other services we provide with our stock and trail work parties.

The saw classes that were held last spring resulted in 29 chainsaw and crosscut certifications.

We have had no “reported” saw injuries, which is a good sign that the program and those of you on the trail are being safe while working.

I would like to give a shout out to our BCHC/USFS qualified Saw Instructors Mike Lewis (south state), John Gleason, Patrick Shreffler and Dave Moser (mid-state), and Remco Van der Linden and myself (north state). The amount of time these instructors donate to keep their qualifications current and host classes is much appreciated.

At this year’s Rendezvous in Corning, we had a good turnout for some friendly crosscut competition. We even had a few youth teams compete.

This coming fall and spring there will be dates coming out for more classes in both crosscut and chainsaw. I will reach out to the local units with those dates and locations when they become available.



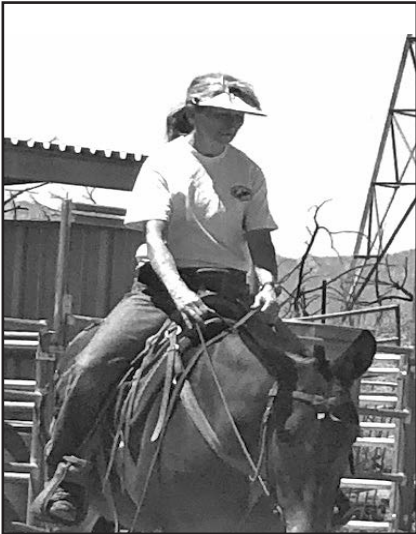
FREE ONLINE LEAVE NO TRACE CLASSES

Go to <https://learn.lnt.org> to find more information about the 101 introductory course, as well as classes about minimal impact backcountry travel, the ins and outs of stock use in the outdoors, even LNT for fishing.

“One person trained in Leave No Trace goes on to educate 256 additional people resulting in 5.2 million others this year alone.”

Leave No Trace is a partner of BCHA.

INSURANCE



INSURANCE NEWS

I am happy to report that things are going well with the BCHC Insurance policy. Units are sending in their information to me in advance of events, and the Additional Insureds and Proofs of Insurance are emailed to the units.

Please remember to have ALL participants sign the BCHC Liability Waiver before unit events. This is especially important for non-members. The BCHC Insurance Event Release Waiver may be found on the BCHC

webpage under Documents & Forms/Insurance.

Please contact me with any questions on insurance at drjamie91@gmail.com or (559) 202-7216.

Thanks, y'all, for being safe out there, and happy trails!

Jamie Wilson, BCHC 1st Vice President
Insurance Contact



On June 27, 2025, the Forest Service sent out the following message to its email subscribers:

“We’re reaching out to let you know that we’re switching to a new email system. Starting in August, once our new sign-up form is available, you’ll need to resubscribe on the forest or grassland website to continue receiving project updates from your local forest or grassland.

Our current email notifications will end on June 29, 2025. In the meantime, you may receive updates directly from your local Forest Service office through a shared inbox until the new email system is in place.

Thank you for staying connected.”

VOLUNTEER SERVICE

VOLUNTEER SERVICE, continued from Page 7

Several people have called with questions regarding how to log various activities. One of those activities is parades - these are logged as Education. You can put them under Attended or Taught Training. Fair booths are logged the same way as well as any other activity where you are sharing information about our organization.

Keep in mind, I am here to answer your questions any time,

Cindy McMurry
Volunteer Service Coordinator
(530) 640-0429
mcmurricindy@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP



BCHC VP of Membership
Chip Herzig

SOMETHING TO REALLY CONSIDER

As our BCHC summer activity lists grow, we should also be thinking about our membership. Sounds weird but the point I'm driving at is our activities are covered by our insurance and if you let your membership expire, you are exposing yourself to some serious dollar loss. So, **check when your membership expires and renew early before your unit events!**

BCHC VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS REPORT, 2024

Total Trail Recon Hours	823	\$33.49	\$27,562.27	Calculated per hour
Total LNT - Education	2,640	\$33.49	\$88,413.60	Calculated per hour
Total Public Meetings	1,388	\$33.49	\$46,484.12	Calculated per hour
Total Administrative Service	3,432	\$33.49	\$114,937.68	Calculated per hour
Total Travel Time	3,492	\$33.49	\$116,947.08	Calculated per hour
Total Hours	16,945			
Wilderness Trail Miles	638			
Other Trail Miles	1,397			
Total Trail Miles	2,035			
Personal Vehicle	67,096	\$ 0.67	\$44,954.32	Calculated per mile
Stock Hauling	35,705	\$ 1.35	\$48,201.75	Calculated per mile
Total Travel Miles	102,801			
Power Equipment	41	\$35.00	\$1,435.00	Calculated per hour
Heavy Equipment	10	\$140.00	\$1,400.00	Calculated per hour
Total Equipment Hours	51			
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)	322			
Total Stock Days	1,385	\$125.00	\$173,125.00	Calculated per day
Total Donations	\$12,797.10		\$12,797.10	

TOTAL **\$883,416.90**

REMEMBER

Send your membership renewals to VP of Membership Chip Herzig. **DO NOT SEND THEM TO BCHA.** Sending to the wrong place will delay payment and cause your membership to show as "Expired" so you cannot participate in unit events.

REMINDER:

If you are using **PayPal** to pay for a membership that is not your own, notify the VP of Membership at time of payment. (**PayPal** does not have an option to attach a message when units or individuals pay for someone else's membership.)

BCHA: DEDICATED TO KEEPING TRAILS OPEN FOR EVERYONE



- Be respectful in your habits and actions. Every interaction with our horses is a moment where we can build trust and comfort for our equine partners.
- Since less than 2% of Americans are involved with the equine industry in some way, equestrians and how they treat their horses stand out. Be aware of your impact on others.
- How we treat other people affects how they feel about us personally, and, by extension, about horse people in general. Be nice. Don't look down on people that don't know. Be willing to teach them.

As you are out and about, actively enjoying your horse, ask yourself: Are you an ambassador for the larger equestrian community that will keep our social license active? Someone you meet might decide to take riding lessons, buy a horse, and volunteer with us! (Read the full article on the BCHA website.)

SAVE THE DATES:

2026 BCHA National Board Meeting
Embassy Suites, Kansas City, Missouri
April 12–15, 2026

According to Randy Hackbarth, National Director, BCHA committees continue to do their important work. Like its state affiliates, BCHA is trying to stay helpful while government reorganization is taking place. Monthly email blasts are distributed with national happenings and you can find Monthly Updates posted at BCHA.org.

Here are some excerpts from the July 2025 BCHA *Monthly Update*:

- BCHA thanks its many members who called, emailed or sent letters to their Congressional representatives for helping to stop Senator Lee's proposal to sell off 2 to 3 million acres of federal public land. The message, "Keep public lands in public hands," was heard loud and clear and the Senator withdrew his proposal...for now. BCHA and the outdoor recreation community will continue to monitor the situation and educate members of Congress of existing laws that allow for the transfer of discrete parcels of federal public lands to local governments, particularly where such lands are vital to community growth and the provision of affordable housing. Importantly, those laws require that land sales be transparent and include public input and review.
- From a BCH Decker Dispatch article: Social License - Being a "Good Citizen" Equestrian: We want to maintain our "Social License to Operate," a new buzz word meaning the perception of others that an industry operates in a legitimate way. In other words, equestrians need to be seen as socially acceptable to be able to continue to have and ride horses. We must continue to be perceived as stewards and caretakers rather than users and abusers. We are in the public view and public opinion matters.

There are four ways we can maintain social acceptance:

- How we talk to and about our horses is important. Our words become our actions!

Back Country Horsemen of America is a 501(C) 3 non-profit organization dedicated to the following mission:

To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.

To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.

To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.

To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.

To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.

Grassroots members help carry forward our organization's mission and values throughout the United States and Canada working closely with trail partners and local land management agencies to clear and maintain trails.

BCHA members volunteer their time and stock and travel over 1.1 million miles to locations to do volunteer work.

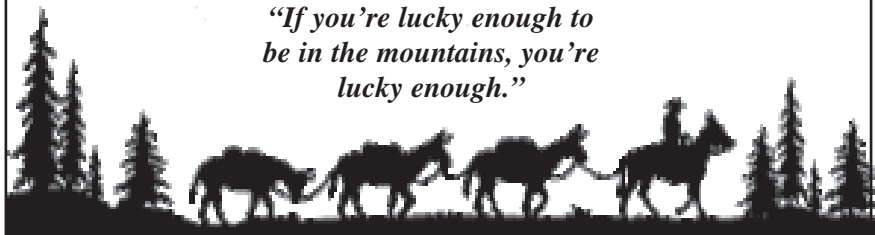
THANK YOU, 2025 RENDEZVOUS SPONSORS!

BCHC sincerely thanks the following 2025 Rendezvous sponsors for their generous support.
Please visit and support these businesses when you have the opportunity.

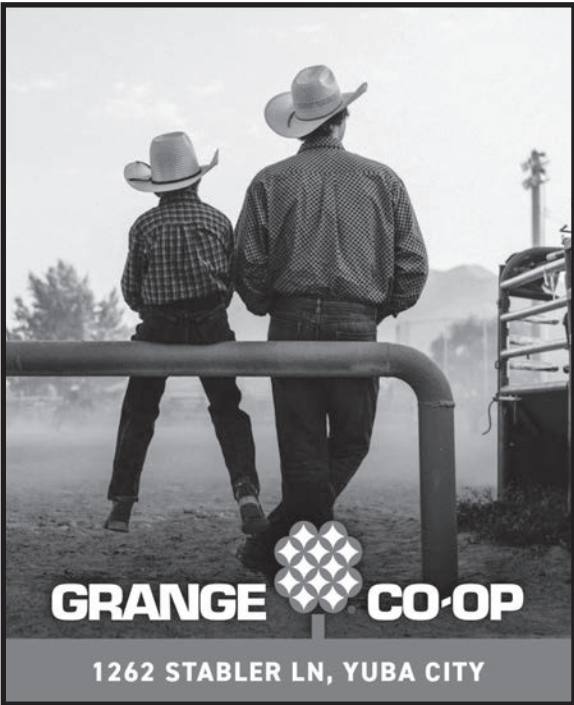
\$1,000 Silver Sponsors

Thank you for \$1,000 sponsorship from Terri Arington in memory of her late husband, Ron Arington. Ron was a longtime Ag teacher at Sonora High School. He was passionate about the back country, his horses and mules, his students and his wife.

*“If you’re lucky enough to
be in the mountains, you’re
lucky enough.”*



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Mid Valley Unit

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WINNING PACKERS

Competition is lively at Bishop Mule Days as two Intercollegiate Pack Teams step into the arena with a mix of dedication, exhilaration—and the inevitable brush with disappointment. These young teams, backed by hours of preparation and a deep love for the backcountry tradition, bring fresh energy to the time-honored skills of packing. Their performances are a blend of innovation and discipline, showcasing not just their ability to handle equines and gear, but their resilience in the face of unpredictable challenges.

MID VALLEY UNIT SPONSORS RESERVE WORLD CHAMPION INTERSCHOLASTIC PACK TEAM AT BISHOP MULE DAYS

By Carl Perry

This story begins with Ashley Dollarhide reaching out on Facebook to any students interested in packing mules at Bishop Mule Days. There were nine responses with only four finishing the task. The last of the Mohicans were Alana Black, Hunter Blacksmith, Ann Sleight, and Jesse Freitas. All four of these kids had never packed a mule in their lives. We only had eight practices before the big event. They progressed quickly at learning how to tie the box hitch knot.

Our first event was the Comedy load. We decided to be lumber jacks. Throwing axes at a target placed on the back of Hunter's shirt was a monster hit with the Bishop Clown. He went wild throwing the axe and hitting Hunter. We placed third out of nine teams.

The next day was the annual Bishop Mule Days Parade. We packed up our trusty mule, Magic, with branded MJC logs and a 7-foot whipsaw bowed over the boxes. We had two axes on both sides tied on with our extra long lash rope. When the judging results came in, we were third out of nine teams again.

The first competition was a Pack and Load of different items. I'm sure the butterflies were in their bellies. When the buzzer sounded, they charged at the mules. Things weren't going as smooth as practice. Matter of fact, things were going south. The horse got away and ran into the middle of the arena. Alana ran out and got him and rode him back to the mules. The team kept packing the mules on the move and doing their job. When Alana returned to the camp, she decided to get off the horse. Much to her surprise he got away again. Alana ran up to him and jumped on the horse again. By that time the team had the load secured tightly. They handed the lead rope to her, and she galloped to the finish line. With all the turmoil in that event, we placed fourth. We felt blessed with that placing.

Our next event was the Pack Scramble. We got the students all set up at the staging area and then Doug [Dollarhide] and I went to the end of the arena to film. MJC was to be on the left end of the arena which means they were to come in the arena first. The gate opened and our team did not come in. We were wondering what happened. They finally walked in last with no horse. We didn't see that they switched horses. Alana had a new horse that was a giant. The buzzer went off and they were running to the end to get

the animals. They were all packing in sync. Alana had to deal with adjusting the saddle latigo and heaving the saddle over the top. The horse's head was the size of an elephant. Jesse had to come over and adjust the bridal size as Alana could not even reach his head. Jesse then boosted her up and they were off. The good Lord was watching over us as we placed third.

We were sitting in a strong third place for the finals. The top two teams were tied for first. We anticipated that both top teams were going to try for the win. Sometimes that is a curse because their speed is their enemy. I told our students that slow is fast. Do it right and blow for home. That's exactly what happened. They were exhilarated when they heard they were crowned Reserve World Champions of the 2025 Bishop Mule Days. They are Rookies no more. Congratulations from all your coaches: Garrett Dollarhide, Kaitlyn Rumsey, Dave Rumsey, Doug and Cathy Dollarhide, Carl Perry and special thanks to Ashley Dollarhide for making this happen.



FROM THE SIERRAS TO THE SCRAMBLE:

CAL POLY IN BISHOP MULE DAYS 2025

By: Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo Mule Packing Team

Each year, Bishop Mule Days brings together the best in packing, pageantry, and mulemanship — and 2025 was no exception. Cal Poly's intercollegiate Mule Packing Team saddled up and showed up in full force, bringing not only competitive grit but creative flair and deep-rooted appreciation for the mule packing tradition.

Kicking Off with Costume Creativity

The festivities began Friday night with the ever-entertaining Costume Contest, where Cal Poly showed up with three creative interpretations of this year's theme, *Mules-American Pioneers*. Team 1 took First Place with their hilarious and clever play on words for a "*Pine-Ears*" concept — dressed as pine trees, complete with mule ears, and packing pinecones and fake evergreens. The puns were plentiful, and the presentation? Unforgettable.

Teams 2 and 3 opted for a more nostalgic twist, transforming their mules into covered wagons and donning period-authentic pioneer garb. These teams may have been chasing shady spots and dodging stubborn mules, but they brought real heart to the ring.

Parading Down Bishop's Main Street

As the sun rose over the Eastern Sierras, Cal Poly's string was brushed, polished, and parade ready. Proudly wearing green and gold, our teams made their way through downtown Bishop in the beloved Mule Days Parade — a time-honored tradition that draws crowds from all over the West.

Packing for the Win

Throughout the weekend, Cal Poly's three teams competed in various packing events including the Team Scramble, Packing Load and Pack-Off — going head-to-head with college programs like University of California Davis, Modesto Junior College, California State University, Fresno, Reedley Junior College, and Siskiyou YME.

Faced with the challenge of packing everything from trash cans to boot bags, our teams rose to the occasion — cinches flew, dust billowed, and every member worked in synchrony, demonstrating Cal Poly's grit, spirit, and dedication to the art of packing. Team 1 brought home impressive World Champion buckles winning 1st Overall, earning top marks in both the Team Scramble and Team Pack-Off, and placing 2nd in Team Packing. Team 2 finished strong with 5th Overall, including a solid 3rd in the Team Pack-Off. Team 3 earned 9th Overall, showcasing dedication and great sportsmanship.

Individual competitors also shined:

In addition to their strong teamwork, Cal Poly packers had the chance to showcase their individual skills in the box hitch, diamond hitch, and load

competitions. Maddison Martinich cinched 1st Place finish in the Diamond Hitch, while Claire Saydah packed her way to 2nd Place in Individual Load. These standout performances highlight not only personal dedication, but the high level of craftsmanship Cal Poly continues to cultivate in its student packers.

Gratitude from the Trail

This year's success would not have been possible without the dedication of many supporters:

Lou Moore-Jacobsen, our inspiring coach, who guided us through every hitch and hang-up. Graduating seniors Maddison Martinich and Claire Saydah, who pioneered the revival of Cal Poly's Mule Packing Team, breathing life and leadership into our group. Kruse Feed & Supply — thank you for sponsoring our team shirts and keeping us looking the best dressed in the arena. A heartfelt thank you to Rock Creek Pack Station and Craig London for lending incredible stock throughout the year and for Mule Days, whose support made all the difference. And a sincere thank you to the Los Padres Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen, longtime supporters of our team who ensure we make it to Bishop year after year — we are beyond grateful for your continued belief in our team and inspiring the next generation of packers.



BCHC NEWS TO USE

THE BCHC WEBSITE (bchcalifornia.org) What You'll Find and Where to Look First

By Carol Jo Hargreaves

If you've ever wondered what the Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) website is really for, here's the scoop: it's designed first and foremost to serve you - our members and units across the state. Whether you're looking for official forms, policies, how-to guides, or just trying to stay in the loop, the website is where all that information lives.

One page in particular deserves a shoutout: the **Documents & Forms page**. It's the most information-packed section of the site and is your go-to spot when you need anything *created by BCHC* itself. Think membership forms, insurance documents, educational flyers, bylaws, policies, Packer's Manual, unit officer tools - if it came from within the organization, you'll likely find it there.

Everything on the page is organized by topic, and you might see the same item show up in more than one category. That's on purpose! The idea is to make things easier to find, no matter how you go about searching. So whether you're browsing by event planning or unit administration, you'll land on what you need. For example, the latest revision of the BCHC Membership Application is found under the headings of 501(c)4, Membership, and Units (Established and New).

There's also a **Resources page** that's worth checking out. This section is for materials and links that come *from outside the BCHC world* - things like government agency info, trail construction and maintenance, California pack station contacts, public lands access tools, and links to other agencies and organizations including other Back Country Horsemen groups and their Facebook pages. It's a great place to find context or support for the work BCHC does, even if the materials didn't originate from us directly.

Next time you're gearing up for an event, helping with a unit project, or just want to make sure you've got the latest forms on hand, head over to the BCHC website. The Documents & Forms page should be your first stop—and the Resources page isn't far behind.



Here's BCHC's **QR Code** for ease in going directly to the website. Just focus your cell phone or tablet camera on the black and white box. Tap the banner that appears and you'll be taken to bchcalifornia.org.

Check it out!



HIGH COUNTRY MANNERS - A COMMON SENSE GUIDE FOR GENTLE USE OF THE BACKCOUNTRY

Excerpted selection from an educational flyer approved for distribution by Backcountry Horsemen of California, 4/11

TRAIL MANNERS

- Be polite and helpful when meeting livestock, backpackers, hikers, and other users of the wilderness.
- Always yield the trail to faster hikers or riders. Move aside as soon as you can and let them go on ahead.
- Common sense and courtesy should prevail in matters of right-of-way on the trail. In most cases, riders and pack animals do have the right-of-way. Those traveling uphill have the right-of-way over those going downhill.
- To ease possible congestion, avoid stopping in the trail at a creek or trail junction. Move to the next available place to pull out and get completely off the trail.
- Loose herded livestock are difficult to control and, in many places, illegal. It is wise to lead all your animals to minimize the chance for trail conflicts.
- Remove obstacles from trails whenever possible rather than riding around them, as this creates a secondary trail.
- Stay on the trail. Cutting switchbacks creates erosion.
- Explain to those not accustomed to stock that a hiker can control his/her movements on and off the trail easier than a rider can control the movements of a string of pack animals.
- Some horses and mules can be skittish while on the trail, therefore, it is wise to give them some room.
- Explain to those not accustomed to stock, that it is safer for you, them and the resource, to step to the down-hill side of the trail and to stay in sight. Be sure the person feels safe before you start to pass.
- Explain to hikers that it would be helpful to speak in a calm voice to the animals as they pass, thus assuring the stock that the colorful hiker is not a bear. Remind them not to touch the animals as they go by and to please wait a few seconds before starting along the trail.
- Leaving any equipment in the middle of the trail, near a water crossing or bridge is like leaving your suitcase in the middle of the highway. Your equipment may get run over.
- Dogs can be good companions where permitted on the trail. Dogs not familiar with livestock can be intimidated and scare the stock. Remember to keep dogs under control at all times so they are not a threat to the safety of other visitors or to wildlife.
- An "encounter" session with local llamas and their handlers before you enter the backcountry might be worthwhile.

BCHC NEWS TO USE



*Reprinted from Trailmeister.com, a BCHA business partner
June 17, 2024*

It’s going to be warm today. A temperature of 92 degrees, 89% humidity, and a dew point of 68 degrees. We’re in for a hot and sticky day. Tomorrow will be worse. It’s summer in the Midwest.

Summer is a great season. The long hours of daylight are perfect for enjoying long rides. However, it’s important to be aware of the potential dangers associated with riding in hot weather. Heat stress, exhaustion, and stroke are serious risks that can affect horses, mules, and us! If not identified and managed properly, these maladies can be debilitating or life-threatening.

Understanding Heat Stress

The hallmark of summer is its heat and humidity. These conditions can significantly impact the health and performance of your horse. A simple and effective method to gauge whether environmental conditions are likely to cause heat-related illnesses is the Effective Temperature or Heat Stress Index test. This test involves adding the ambient temperature (in degrees Fahrenheit) to the relative humidity. Veterinary professionals recommend caution when this combined figure is around 150. If it approaches 180, it’s advised to postpone most riding activities that involve long or intense exercise to prevent dangerous heat build-up.

Importance of Conditioning

The adage “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure,” attributed to Benjamin Franklin, is particularly relevant for horse owners. Preventing heat-related issues is largely about proper conditioning. Preparing your horse through the winter and spring will help it adapt more easily to summer’s higher temperatures and increased physical demands.

You may not know (I certainly didn’t!) that only about 25% of the energy used by a horse’s working muscles is converted into movement. The remaining 75% is lost as waste heat, which becomes particularly challenging for the horse to disperse in hot and humid conditions. A conditioning program will make your horse more efficient at dissipating this excess heat.

Sweating and Electrolyte Management

Horses and humans primarily lose excess heat through sweating. However, out-of-shape horses tend to sweat a foamy lather that doesn’t evaporate easily, reducing its cooling effect. Overweight horses face additional challenges due to their thick fat layer that traps heat, making it even harder for them to cool down.

As a horse becomes fitter, it places less demand on its working muscles. This results in less exertion, meaning less heat generated by the muscles, which in turn means less sweating and reduced fluid and electrolyte loss. A fit horse’s body becomes better at conserving and utilizing electrolytes and minerals, altering the sweat’s consistency. The sweat becomes thinner and evaporates more easily, thereby cooling the horse more effectively.

Impact of Breed on Heat Retention

The breed of horse also plays a significant role in heat retention. Heavily muscled breeds, such as Quarter Horses, have a greater challenge in dissipating internal body heat compared to lighter breeds like Arabians. This is due to their larger muscle mass, which generates more heat during physical activity.

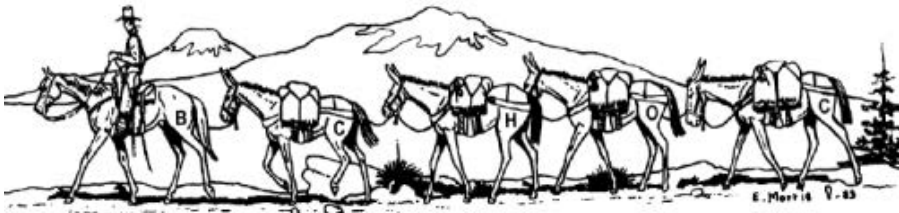
Recognizing Heat Stress

Common sense and a sensible conditioning schedule are key to preventing heat-related issues. It’s essential to recognize the warning signs of heat stress in horses, which include heavy breathing, rapid heart rate, lethargy, excessive sweating, and a high body temperature. If any of these signs are present, it’s crucial to take immediate action to cool the horse down. This can involve moving the horse to a shaded area, providing cool water, and using fans or water to help lower its body temperature.

Practical Tips for Safe Summer Riding

To ensure safe summer riding, it’s a good idea to ride during the cooler parts of the day, such as early morning or late evening. Providing ample water and electrolytes is essential, especially after exercise. It’s also important to allow your horse to acclimate gradually to the heat, increasing the intensity and duration of rides slowly over time.

By understanding the risks associated with summer’s heat, implementing a proper conditioning program, and being vigilant about recognizing signs of heat stress, we can help our animals have a better summer riding season. A proactive approach ensures that we can make the most of the warm weather while minimizing the risks of heat-related illnesses. For more information about trail riding and camping with horses, as well as the world’s largest and most comprehensive guide to horse trails and camps, please visit us at www.TrailMeister.com.



UNIT NEWS

MID VALLEY UNIT:



A SUCCESSFUL PLAY DAY!

By Kathy Zumbrunn

Hats off to the Rumsey family for arranging a wonderful and fun event for Mid Valley members and guests! It was a day chock-full of things to do for every age. The day started off in the arena with interesting horseback games - easy for novice and advanced riders alike, such as a ball and spoon race, fill the cup, and a Dolly Parton race. Everyone seemed to enjoy trying their hands at these.

There was also a cornhole area set up, a huge bounce house

with a water slide for the kids, and a piñata, too!

To top off the day there was food - lots of food! We had everything from David Rumsey's famous BBQ ribs to pulled pork, fried chicken, beans, salads, fruit, and yummy desserts! Cathy Dollarhide (our only Dutch oven cook that day) made a delicious, fresh peach cobbler. To the delight of kids young and old, we even had a soft serve ice cream machine!

The weather was perfect and the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Posse Grounds

was a great place for our event. Thanks again, Rumsey family, for this great idea!



MOTHER LODGE UNIT:

MLU COORDINATES FUNDING FOR EQUESTRIAN CAMPGROUND PROJECT

By Lucy Badenhoop

In June 2025, five sets of highline posts were installed at the Tells Creek Equestrian Campground in the Eldorado National Forest. These posts were needed to replace the many trees that fell in recent winters due to high winds.

In the back country, highlines are an alternative to corrals for securing equine.

The term "high" refers to the 7-foot height of the line strung between two trees (or posts) which then acts as an overhead hitching rail for several equine. When tied to the tight line above their heads, the animals can move around without getting tangled up.

The work plan and placement of the highlines were coordinated with the U.S. Forest Service who temporarily closed the campground for four days during construction. Four local equestrian clubs and their volunteers coordinated efforts over several years to improve this trailhead in the Eldorado National Forest. Three donated cash and one did the work.

The effort started in 2020 with a cash donation from the Gold Country Horsemen's Association of San Andreas. In 2021, another donation came from the Consumnes River Horsemen's Association. In 2025, the final donation came from the Mother Lode Unit of Backcountry



UNIT NEWS

MOTHER LODE, continued from Page 16



Horsemen of California who had been acting as the piggy bank for donations. At that point, there were enough funds to purchase the steel pipe, fittings, and concrete.

The Elegant Ears Mule Association organized a volunteer work party to manufacture and install the highline posts using the heavy equipment and hand tools provided by their volunteers.

While some volunteers worked on the highline project, others focused on additional tasks needing attention: cutting many downed trees into movable rounds, hauling the rounds to a U.S. Forest Service burn site, and repairing or replacing damaged picnic tables.

REDWOOD UNIT:

REDWOOD UNIT IS BUSY!

Submitted by Kim Chamberlain

Carter Meadows Trail Restoration:

Heading out on an epic adventure - some people traveling 6 to 8 hours to get there - Redwood Unit members engaged in trail restoration work, collaborating with Top of the State and Shasta Trinity Units at Carter Medows in Klamath National Forest near Forks of the Salmon. Eight members from Redwood Unit worked on clearing portions of the Pacific Crest Trail and other trails in the Trinity Alps.

A good time was had the previous year, resulting in more participants coming to this work party for another round of cooperative trail clearing. The other units had raved about our meals last time, so Redwood Unit members cooked two dinners and breakfast for the whole crew.

Humboldt Bay Beach Clean-Up:

Seven Redwood Unit members packed four tires, garbage and steel piping off the South spit beach of Humboldt Bay. As we were loading trash into the dumpster, people at the beach wanted to know who we were. Explaining we were cleaning off the beach, we were thanked for our service. Upon completion of the clean-up, the crew enjoyed a lunch of hot dogs and chili beans.

Half Ass Flat Catered Ride:

To prepare for the 32nd Annual Half Ass Flat Ride, 30 Redwood Unit members worked for 10 days on trail and poison oak clearing. Although attendance at the ride was down, there was good food, fun, and a beautiful ride. Whether you took the short, medium, or long ride, lunch camp on the ridge traversing the Lost Coast was a spectacular sight. You can relax and tie up your stock while you enjoy cold drinks, burgers, salad, and chips in the middle of the ride, then head off back down the hill to the raffles, auction, and wonderful dinner. The bonfire and music to dance to were a hit as usual. Sunday morning was either a short mountain trail ride, or you could follow the Bear River to ride on the beach. We are so fortunate to have this gem in our back yard!

Ferndale 4th of July Parade:

The unit was asked to lead the Ferndale 4th of July Parade. Ten members took up the honor, leading out with the American flag, the California state flag and the Backcountry Horsemen of California flag.

Siskiyou National Forest Work Party:

Our scheduled work trip to Stanshaw and Ten Bear camps in the Siskiyou National Forest was postponed due to fire activity in the area. We will revisit the viability of our work party gathering out there in September.



UNIT NEWS

SHASTA TRINITY UNIT: 40,000 FINGERLINGS PLANTED

Submitted by Albert Estrada

During the week of June 16–20, the Shasta-Trinity Unit conducted trail clearing and fish planting in the Caribou Wilderness. In partnership with members from High Country and Top of the State units, 11 lakes were successfully planted. A total of 19 members helped stock over 40,000 fingerling trout into those lakes.



UNIT NEWS

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT:

MILES OF TRAILS CLEARED DURING MULTI-UNIT WORK WEEKEND

Article by Michele Machado Woods

Each year since 2023, our BCHC multi-unit work party weekend at Carter Meadows has grown. This year, from June 4 to 8, we had more than 25 volunteers, young and young at heart, from Top of the State Unit, Redwood Unit and Shasta Trinity Unit working to clear trails, repair wooden stock corrals, tidy up the campgrounds and prepare amazing food for the group.

We were thrilled to have the Top of the State Unit-sponsored Youth Packers at camp on Friday, June 6, to help with log out work on the Trail Gulch Trail. Shasta Trinity Unit packer/sawyer, Sam Burrows, mentored the youth on cutting and clearing logs with a crosscut saw. These Youth Packers are the same ones who won First *and* Second Places at the 2025 Rendezvous in Corning.

On June 5 and 7, our sawyers and swampers cleared 40 - 45 deadfall logs and debris from the Pacific Crest Trail from Carter Meadows Summit (Mile 1581.5) northbound to approximately Mile 1586.5 near the Siphon Lake Trail cutoff. Snow drifts blocking the trail stopped the crew from reaching Siphon Lake.

During our stay we also logged out the feeder trails from the campgrounds to the Trail Gulch and Long Gulch trailheads. The Klamath CCC crews were working on clearing the Long Gulch Trail while we were there and we very much appreciate their work.

To round out our work weekend, our members helped repair two wooden stock corrals at Hidden Horse Campground. This work included removing large rocks from the corrals to make the footing easier for horses and mules. All of this work was coordinated with the Klamath National Forest.



Alan Woods clears a large downed tree on a trail that connects the Carter Meadows equestrian campgrounds to the Long Gulch Trailhead. Photo by Michele Machado Woods.



BCHC youth packers joined the work party on June 6 and helped log out the Trail Gulch trail in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Photo by Jamie Essex.

WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

**We look forward
to meeting you!**

**The following 46 new members joined BCHC from
4/22/2025 through 7/16/2025**

Antelope Valley	Rob and Catherine Dixon Vickie Marshall and Kat Ferrell Renaë Rosa Marcus Wright
Eastern Sierra	Russell E. Mote
High Sierra	Michelle Haby Heidi Roberts and Corey Dolman
Mid Valley	Alana Black Hunter Blacksmith Jesse Freitas Amanda Peters-Foiles Ann Sleight Donovan Walker
Mother Lode	Cerise and Kai Flores Suzan Hughes Sally Shanks
North Bay	Tom Anderson Kelly and Cody Strode Denise Wallis
Redshank Riders	Morgan and Jupiter Bentley Christopher Estorga Brad Moss
Redwood	Sydney and Eric Najduch Amanda Enriquez Joseph Huynh Rachel Rosen Edward Sher
San Joaquin Sierra	Jani and Boyd Goins Brenda and Brad Morgan Lisa and Ness Sanli Debra Zavatto and Dean Hendrickson
Santa Ana River	William Disselhorst
Sequoia	Hannah Anderson Justin McPhetridge
Shasta Trinity	Gerry and Carrie Hendrick Liz Kinoshita Lori Sheehy Kathleen Wilkesmith
Sutter Buttes	Chris Burkart Tara Douglas Brandy Kristiansen Amanda Taylor
Top of the State	Kathy Graves Jamie, Vose, Kimber & Kassidy Hayden Christine Nahmens Amanda and Jose Ortiz

WHY JOIN BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

As a member, you'll:

- Get to participate in state and unit activities
- Learn valuable backcountry skills and outdoor ethics
- Gain new friends from among our wonderful members
- Receive the BCHC newsletter
- Be kept up to date on public lands issues

...and more!

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

TO JOIN OR RENEW BY MAIL

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

2. Mail the completed form(s) and check* to:

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

*Please make checks payable to
Backcountry Horsemen of California

TO JOIN OR RENEW ONLINE

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

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

3. Pay with your Paypal

Recognition of Special Individuals

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

SPECIAL MEMBERSHIPS

4/22/2025 through 7/16/2025

BENEFACTOR (\$100)

Antelope Valley	Marge Biehl
Eastern Sierra	Rayen Richmond
	Greg Allen
	Craig London
	Troy Patton
High Country	Lorene Guffey
High Sierra	Ruth Gerson
	Nancy Hamill
	Trish Pendegraft
Kern Sierra	Mylon Filkins DVM
	Lynn Joiner
	Larry Mumford
	Roger Whitaker
Los Padres	Kaye Bruns
	Robin Cederlof
	William Chaides
	Eve Devine
	Laurie Henry
Manzanita Riders	Patricia Achilly
Mid Valley	Tony Alamo
	Jay Barnes
	Gary A. Cain
	Carol Jo Hargreaves
	Rian Hudson
	Debra Lewis
	John V. Marshall
	Jennifer Marshall
	MID VALLEY UNIT
	John Schaapman
Mother Lode	Tom Cooper
	Hetty Dutra
	Donna Jones Furlow
	Annabelle Toothaker
	Stephanie Williams
North Bay	Lynn Cominsky
	Tim Holliday
Redshank Riders	Kathy A. Burleson
Redwood	Gary Alves
	Carole & Darrel Polasek

BENEFACTOR (\$100)

San Joaquin Sierra	John Cunningham
	Larry Nishma, Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta
	James Laber
	Stephen Naylor
Santa Ana River	Doris Bartholomew
	Pat Wolff
Shasta Trinity	Lori Henderson
	Levi Solada
Sierra Freepackers	Ann Bates

PATRON (\$250)

Eastern Sierra	Bill Carter
	Andrea Walker
High Country	Lynn Saunders
High Sierra	Richard Cochran
	Jacob Hamstra
	Karl Pendegraft
	Sonia Shepard
Kern Sierra	Willi Coeler
Manzanita Riders	Lynda & Michael Sterns
Mid Valley	Karen Barindelli
	Lloyd Erlandson
	Dennis M. Serpa
	John Young
Sequoia	Kathryn C. Bennett
	Jan Walker
	Jamie Wilson DVM
Shasta Trinity	Doug Maxfield
	Bruce McGowan
Sutter Buttes	Kay Walters

MT. WHITNEY (\$500)

Eastern Sierra	Sarah C. Sheehan
Los Padres	Otis Calef
Mid Valley	Terri Arington
Mother Lode	Catherine McArthur
Redshank Riders	Allison Renck
Shasta Trinity	Dean Angelides

THANK YOU!

BCHC Units Around the State

ANTELOPE VALLEY

PO Box 84
Valyermo, CA 93563
www.bchc-avunit.org
Mike Gillett
(661) 373-3378
ghorsecrazy@gmail.com

EASTERN SIERRA

17 Unit B Sunny Slope Rd
Crawley Lake, CA 93546
Anna Baglione
(209) 918-1210
easternsierrabch@gmail.com

HIGH COUNTRY

PO Box 161
Milford, CA 96104
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/170146466736818>
Cindy McMurry
(530) 640-0429
mcmurricindy@gmail.com

HIGH SIERRA

PO Box 6632
Visalia, CA 93290
www.highsierraunit.org
Dan Baumgardner
(559) 334-7731
danbdraffhorse@yahoo.com

KERN RIVER VALLEY

PO Box 9507
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
Steve Horst
(661) 867-2777
horststephenc@yahoo.com

KERN SIERRA

16347 Stephenie Rd
Bakersfield, CA 93314-9669
Curtis Harms
(661) 817-5452
mulerider2020@icloud.com

LOS PADRES

PO Box 472
Atascadero, CA 93422
www.bchc-lpunit.org
Greg Feinberg
(805) 458-2879
Feinberg.greg@gmail.com

MANZANITA RIDERS

PO Box 3130
Ramona, CA 92065-0954
Terry Jorgensen
(760) 789-5185
tlh9749@yahoo.com

MID VALLEY

PO Box 1709
Modesto, CA 95353
www.bchcmidvalley.org
Barbara Baglione-Riner
(209) 402-4473
bbaglione@gmail.com

MOTHER LODGE

PO Box 702
North Highlands, CA 95660
www.bchcmdu.org
Randy Hackbarth
(530) 626-0571
trlryder@pacbell.net

NORTH BAY

PO Box 9435
Santa Rosa, CA 95405
www.northbayunit.com
Dan Horn
(707) 953-4903
bearstrap@msn.com

REDSHANK RIDERS

PO Box 383
Aguanga, CA 92536-0383
www.redshankriders.com
Tabatha Nuner
(760) 315-6931
president@redshankriders.com
norwesgirl@gmail.com

REDWOOD

PO Box 6023
Eureka, CA 95502-6023
www.redwoodunit.com
David Pritchard
(760) 791-2016
dfredpl969@yahoo.com

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

PO Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693
www.bchcsjsu.org
Jim Laber
(559) 250-7906
jim@visaliaidea.com

SANTA ANA RIVER

PO Box 306
Norco, CA 92860
www.sarubchc.org
Carol Kelly
(951) 288-0394
theckcorral@gmail.com

SEQUOIA

PO Box 1298
Lindsay CA 93247.
Jamie Wilson, DVM
(559) 202-7216
drjamie91@gmail.com

SHASTA TRINITY

18870 Oakwood Heights Dr
Cottonwood, CA 96022
www.bchcshastatrinity.org
Mike LaRue
(530) 227-4940
rudebear64@gmail.com

SIERRA FREEPACKERS

PO Box 64
Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064
www.sierrafreepackers.com
Denise Robinson
(559) 877-3532
robnden@netptc.net

SUTTER BUTTES

2568 Lake Hills Dr
Butte Valley, CA 95965
Facebook.com/people/Backcountry-Horsemen-of-California-Sutter-Buttes-Unit/61567898064171/
Gary Paul
(530) 693-0420
muleguy54@gmail.com

TOP OF THE STATE

PO Box 461
Etna, CA 96027-0461
www.bchc-tos.com
Facebook.com/2273753019542490/posts/d41d8cd9/2686922421558879/
Michele Machado Woods
(817) 308-0258
meechele418@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTE:

The unit names and addresses listed here are taken directly from the 2025 Directory of State and Unit Officers. If your unit's information is incorrect, please contact this Newsletter Editor as soon as possible to report changes.

REMEMBER!

The BCHC Executive Committee no longer sends out membership renewal verification "green slips" via regular mail. Each unit president and membership chair will get their unit's data AND it will be put on the BCHC web page in the password protected section.

Questions? Membership Matters

BCHC VP of Membership is

Chip Herzig.

He will be happy to address your questions or concerns. Chip may be reached Monday through Friday.

By mail: BCHC Membership

1280 State Rt 208

Yerington, NV 89447

Email: BCHC_Membership@

bchcalifornia.org

Phone: (775)463-3634

Membership

Backcountry Horsemen of California



MAIL TO: BCHC
MEMBERSHIP
1280 State Rt. 208
Yerington, NV 89447

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

A Family & Youth
Oriented Organization
Release 4 2025 (11 Feb 25)

☐ New ☐ Change
☐ Renewal

PARENT UNIT AFFILIATION: (Select and CHECK a Unit as your Affiliation)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antelope Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Los Padres | <input type="checkbox"/> Redshank Riders | <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Freepackers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Sierra | <input type="checkbox"/> Manzanita Riders | <input type="checkbox"/> Redwood | <input type="checkbox"/> Sutter Buttes |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Country | <input type="checkbox"/> Mid Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquín Sierra | <input type="checkbox"/> Top of the State |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Sierra | <input type="checkbox"/> Mother Lode | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Ana River | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kern River Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> North Bay | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequoia | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kern Sierra | | <input type="checkbox"/> Shasta Trinity | |

DCTR (Your Membership Number): _____

MEMBER'S NAME - No Business Names, Print Clearly SPOUSE/CO-MEMBER'S NAME - MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address/PO Box

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

Email Address: _____

Email Address: _____

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (Tax deductible) \$ _____ Enclosed: Check No.

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family \$75 | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual \$110 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family \$140 | Include Date of Birth / / | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual \$160 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family \$205 | | <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney \$500 |

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

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

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

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

Parent BCHC Membership Types

Individual, Family, (Shared**), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt. Whitney
A Parent Membership is with a single Local Unit.

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

Associate Memberships

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

Young Adult Memberships MUST include date of birth on application. The year you turn 24 is the last year you may renew under this membership.

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

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a -

- | | |
|--|-------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual | \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual | \$110 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual | \$160 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family | \$75 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family | \$140 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family | \$205 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney | \$500 |

☐ On that form, I also requested:
_____ Associate Memberships
My Total Remittance:-----
My Check Number: _____
Date Mailed: _____

Verifying BCHC Membership by

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

Redshank Unit Wins at Anza Days



By Amanda Tell

On the glorious Saturday of June 28, 2025, the Redshank Riders Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California brought home a trophy for Best Group Entry in the 93rd annual Anza Days Parade. The parade is part of a whole weekend of activities celebrating the community and nation's birthday such as a Friday night dance, Saturday morning pancake breakfast and Saturday afternoon picnic and vendor fair in the historic downtown park.

This was Redshank Rider's 25th consecutive year having the pleasure of participating in our community's Anza Days. Hats on to Greg Bruce for putting out the call for participants and being our confident wrangler. Fifteen equines and 13 equestrians participated in the group. Horses, mules, riders, and walkers were dressed up in patriotic red, white, and blue while visiting with the crowd. There is an adage, "It takes a village..." and this couldn't be truer. Thanks to several community members for remembering last minute details and doing some heavy equipment work. Redshank Riders has become a wonderful hub of knowledge, stewards, cheerleaders, and confidants to help keep the equestrian and backcountry community alive.

