

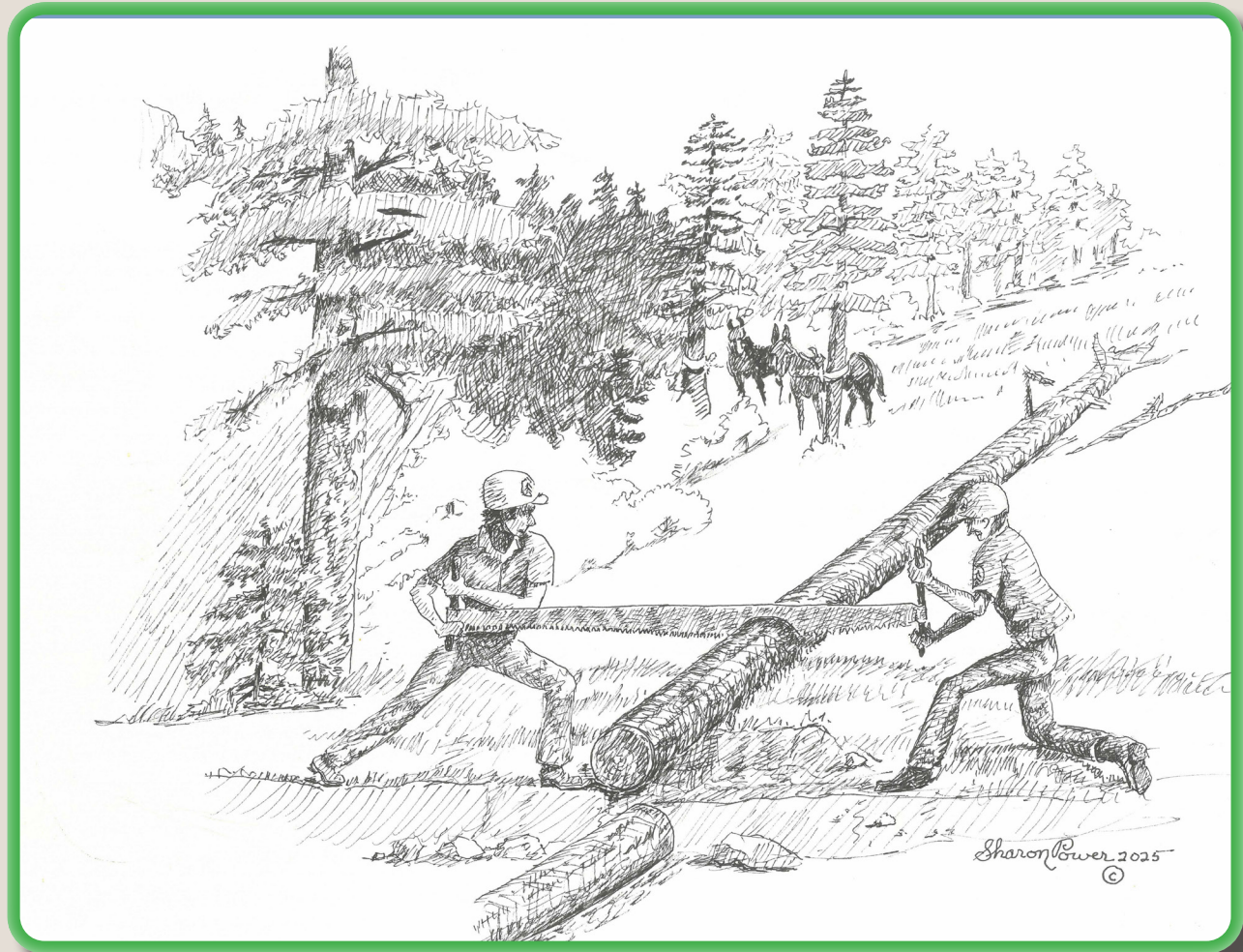
SALUTE TO VOLUNTEERISM

March 20-22, 2026

Diamond Bar Arena, Ceres, CA

*Sponsored by Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc.,
a family and youth oriented organization*

FREE ADMISSION | PUBLIC WELCOME



Talented 2026 Rendezvous artist, Sharon Power, is a longtime member of BCHC's Mid Valley Unit.

Sharon's Rendezvous artwork is an intricately cross-hatched sketch done with pen on watercolor paper. The sketch shows two men using a crosscut saw in the backcountry. The trees and mules in the background are detailed and shaded. *(BCHC recognizes that Sharon's sketch is representative of the activity and does not show all USFS-required Personal Protective Equipment to ensure sawyer safety.)*



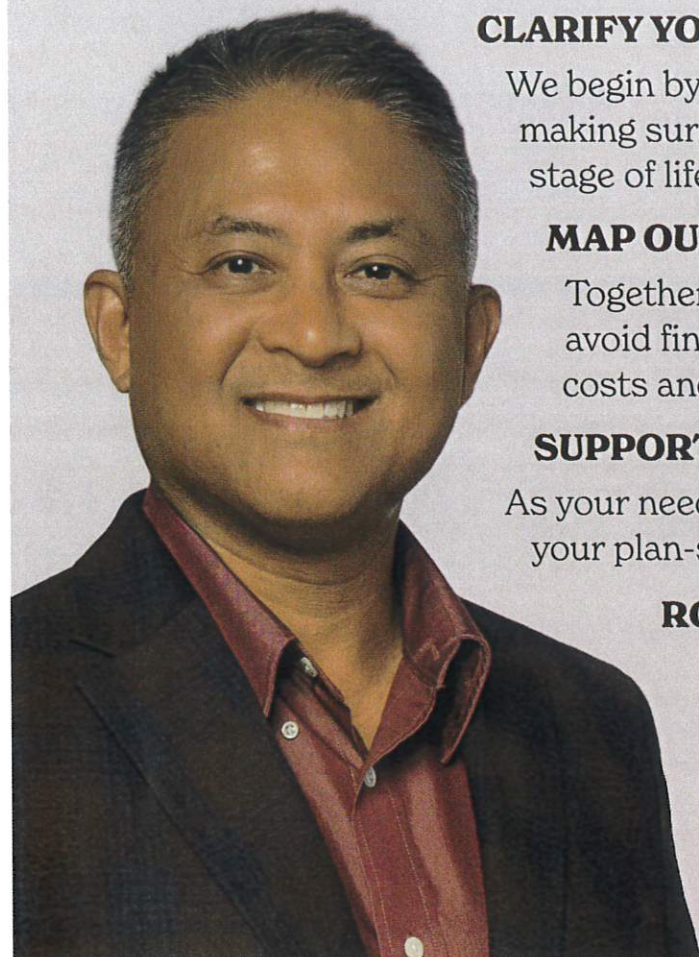


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BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN

OF CALIFORNIA

Leave No Trace Pin Program

The BCHC Leave No Trace Program is an important component of each year's Rendezvous. Our goal is to teach our members how to use pack and saddle stock in a responsible manner in the front and backcountry. In order to maintain our historic heritage of traveling and camping with stock, we must continue to improve our techniques for being gentle on the land. Everyone needs to improve their knowledge and practice wilderness ethics and principles. We hope you enjoy and learn from this year's presenters and share what you learn with others.

How To Earn Your Pins

To earn a pin, you accumulate points by taking classes listed on the LNT Sign Off Sheet. Be sure each presenter initials/signs your sheet at the end of the class. Before leaving the Rendezvous, turn the sheet in at the BCHC State Booth. Based on the number of points and core classes, you can earn a pin recognizing your acquired knowledge. The Pin Database Coordinator will be in the State Booth at certain posted times during the Rendezvous.

Pins Are Awarded as Follows:

50 points (5 classes) = *Green/Boot* pin

100 points (10 Core classes) = *Horseshoe* pin

250 points (10 Core classes and 15 additional) = *Star* pin

The LNT Pin Program is for BCHC members ONLY. You may attend the same class as often as you wish; however, points from only one of each class may be applied toward your pins.

Points are carried over from year to year, so any earned in the past will be added to points earned here and in the future. If you have enough points at this Rendezvous, you can pick up your pin before heading home. *Pins will not be mailed.*

Review the course descriptions in this program booklet to see which classes are Core Classes and which additional ones qualify for the LNT Pin Program. (The sign-off sheet is to the right.)

Name: _____

Unit: _____

Phone: _____

LNT SIGN-OFF SHEET

CORE CLASSES

These five classes are mandatory for the Horseshoe and Star pins
(10 points each)

CLASS #	TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	SIGNATURE or INITIALS
0	Plan Ahead & Prepare	K. Montanero	
2	Dispose of Waste Properly	P. Vallentyne	
4	Minimize Campfire Impacts	C. Gilmore	
6	Be Considerate of Others	M. Murphy	
8	Stock Care	T. Jorgensen	

ADDITIONAL CLASSES THAT QUALIFY TOWARD PINS

(10 points each)

CLASS TITLE	INSTRUCTOR	SIGNATURE or INITIALS
Veterinary First Aid	D.Sweet, DMV	
Packing 101	D.Serpa	
BCHC Pack Stock Intern Program	L.Roeser/ M.Barr	
Types of Pack Saddles & Styles of Packing	P. Goshgarian	
Beginning Packing Without Expensive Equipment	P. Goshgarian	
Topography & Compass Reading	R. Heuer	

Total Points Earned: _____

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Welcome to 2026 Rendezvous!

BCHC President, Doug Dollarhide



Howdy, BCHC Members and Outdoor Enthusiasts -

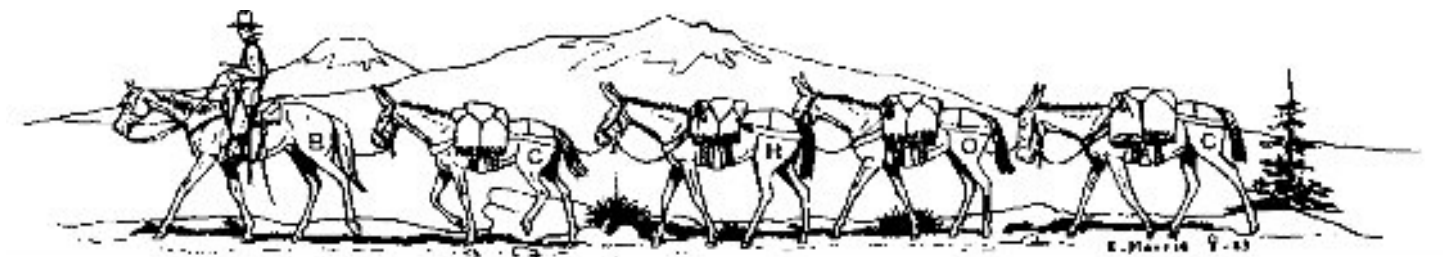
Welcome to the 2026 Rendezvous at Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres, California! Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) puts on this event one time per year, and it is our main fundraiser. When our country was young, the mountain men and other adventurers would meet at a selected place to tell stories and have competitions. They discussed the best places to trap, shared experiences and competed in different skill competitions to show off their abilities and talents. BCHC, in a lot of ways, continues to hold true to some of the traditions of those mountain men. BCHC's Rendezvous has mule packing demonstrations, packing competitions, trail challenges, Dutch oven cooking, music, dinners together, vendors and more. I believe there is fun for the whole family.

Through the Rendezvous, BCHC provides the opportunity to learn about our mission and purposes. We continue to learn about our equine friends with the help of different trainers and clinics. We, especially those trained as Wilderness Riders (a BCHC program), also teach others the principles of Leave No Trace, protecting the outdoors through science-based education to inspire responsible recreation.

The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will be present again with their Wild Horse & Burro Adoption program. The Forest Service is going through a reorganizing time and they, along with BLM and other government agencies, depend on our 20 California units to keep our public lands open. Location of BCHC units ranges from San Diego in the south to the Oregon border in the north. We provide Sawyer Certifications for members of all units as well as Forest Service personnel. So, as you can see, we are more than just a horse club, we are leaders in the state, keeping trails open for all outdoor adventurers.

The Rendezvous Committee and BCHC extend a personal invitation to come and share this special and important time together. The place is Diamond Bar Arena in Ceres, California, March 20 and 21. There will be Cowboy Church the morning of the March 22. You can get more information from our Backcountry Horsemen of California website (bchcalifornia.org) and the Diamond Bar Arena (diamondbararena.com) website.

Doug Dollarhide, BCHC President



Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc.

A family and youth oriented organization

Welcome to 2026 Rendezvous!

Rendezvous General Chairman, Lloyd Erlandson

It has been my pleasure to have, again, chaired this year's Rendezvous in Ceres, California. My team of VOLUNTEERS has been at work for the last few months to try and put together a weekend that is fun, educational, and relaxing. I'm not sure about the educational part but you should be able to relax and enjoy time spent with friends from all over the state. We will have the fire pits set up outside the main arena for everyone to gather around.

Two years ago, we were blessed with both sun and rain, so I can assume Mother Nature will bless us again with some of the same variety. So, come prepared for most anything. It's nice that we are able to put the vendors and dinner all under one roof so we can enjoy shopping and eating without having to go from building to building.

I hope everyone gets around to all our presenters and supports the educational part of our Rendezvous. The packing should be good with our college kids competing against each other. This will not only be a competition between them, but also will be a practice for them for the competition at Mule Days in Bishop over Memorial Day weekend.



I would like to thank my crew working on this event. Kathy Zumbrunn has been my right-hand gal and really kept me focused and moving in the right direction, and on time. I can't thank her enough. Also, to Stephanie Stott for organizing all the vendors, Carlena Kellogg for the Obstacle Challenge and Horsemanship 101 and Carl Perry for the packing contests and college kids. Additionally, I want to acknowledge the help of other units with this event: Mother Lode, in particular, for working the parking lot and Dutch Oven Cooking Competition.

Have a wonderful weekend,
Lloyd

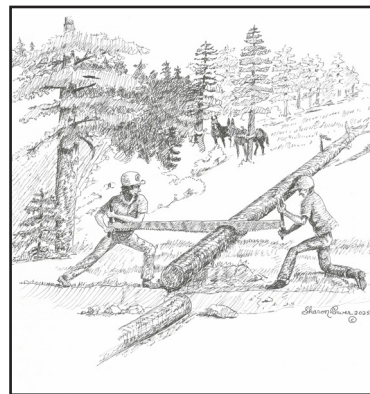
Cover Artist Sharon Power



It was a pleasure to create a drawing for the 2026 Rendezvous theme, Salute to Volunteerism. I appreciate the trail work and log clearing done by the BCHC to keep trails open.

I'm very thankful that at 86 years old I can still enjoy doing my drawings.

Each summer for over 15 years, my late husband and I made several pack trips in Yosemite National Park. Making these drawings brings back the memories of those trips. I like to work with micro line pens. I can show more action and depth with these pens in black and white. I made the piece for the Rendezvous on heavy watercolor paper.



RENDEZVOUS 2026 RAFFLE

\$500 BASS PRO SHOPS GIFT CARD

Tickets are \$5 each

You can find almost anything you'd want for outdoor recreation at this sporting goods retailer - hunting, fishing, and camping gear, clothing, shoes, boots.

Even boats!

In the 2025 Most Trusted Brands survey, Bass Pro Shops and Cabela's were ranked the most trusted U.S. retailers for hunting and fishing gear. They ranked second for both fishing lures and camping equipment. Later the same year, they were awarded 4½ out of 5 stars in Newsweek's "America's Most Admired Workplaces" list for 2025.



HENRY SILVER EAGLE .22 RIFLE

Tickets are \$20 each (only 500 to be sold)

The Silver Eagle pattern, like the Henry Rifle itself, is one piece of American history without rival. This model is built on the award winning Henry Golden Boy platform. The rifle features a traditional 20" octagonal barrel outfitted with buckhorn sights; a gunsmithing masterpiece that closely mirrors its legendary predecessors, the original Henrys when they were patented in 1860.



- Model Number H004SE2
- 20" octagon blued steel barrel
 - Lever action
- American walnut stock
- Engraved nickel-plated receiver
 - Brass bead front sight
- Fully adjustable semi-Buckhorn with diamond insert rear sight
 - Best used for target/hunting/collector

Stop by the BCHC State Booth to buy your tickets!
Drawings to be held Saturday, March 21 at the dinner event.
You do not need to be present to win.

RENDEZVOUS MERCHANDISE

Salute Volunteerism! Get your special souvenir Rendezvous T-shirt! Ash gray, short sleeve shirts are available in Adult sizes from Small to XXL (\$18 each; \$20 for XXL).

If you ordered in advance with your Rendezvous Registration, you may **pick up** your shirt at the BCHC Registration Trailer. Shirts may be **purchased (if in stock) OR ordered** at the State Booth no later than 3 p.m., Friday, March 20, and pick up Sunday by 10 a.m.



Proceeds benefit BCHC education programs.

DINNER HIGHLIGHTS

FRIDAY DINNER

Served buffet-style, we will enjoy barbecued tri tip, chicken, garlic potatoes, Blodgett Beans (some without bacon), salad with cucumber, tomatoes and croutons, your choice of dressings, rolls and butter, and dessert. (Limited number of vegan dishes available.) Beverages include: coffee, bottled water, iced tea and lemonade. Lance D. Kell, country music entertainer from Pioneer, California, will provide dinnertime background music. Following dinner, BCHC State Awards will be presented.

SATURDAY DINNER

Served buffet-style, we will enjoy prime rib with au jus and horseradish, limited number of servings of chicken, baked potatoes, vegetable medley, salad with cucumber, tomatoes and croutons, your choice of dressings, rolls and butter, and dessert. Beverages include: coffee, bottled water, iced tea and lemonade. Lance D. Kell, country music entertainer from Pioneer, California, will provide dinnertime background music. After dinner, Rendezvous contest awards will be presented, raffle winners announced, and live and silent auctions held.

LNT Pin Program

Leave No Trace (LNT) Core Classes are mandatory for the Pin Program. 10 points each. See sign-off sheet included in this program for full instructions on how to earn points for pins.

The category of Plan Ahead and Prepare is offered every year. In even numbered years (e.g., 2026), the even numbered LNT classes are provided; in odd numbered years, the odd numbered LNT classes are provided.

0 Plan Ahead and Prepare

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

2 Dispose of Waste Properly

Pack it in, pack it out. Inspect your campsite and rest areas for trash or spilled foods. Pack out all trash, leftover food, and litter. Deposit solid human waste in cat holes dug 6 to 8 inches deep at least 200 feet from water, camp, and trails. Cover and disguise the cat hole when finished. Pack out toilet paper and hygiene products. To wash yourself or your dishes, carry water 200 feet away from streams or lakes to clean. Scatter strained dishwater.

4 Minimize Campfire Impacts

Campfires can cause lasting impacts to the backcountry. Use light weight stove for cooking. Where fires are permitted, use established fire rings, fire pans, or mound fires. Keep fires small. Only use sticks from the ground that can be broken by hand. Burn all wood and coals to ash, put out campfires completely.

6 Be Considerate of Others

Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience. Be courteous to other users on the trail. Step to the downhill side of the trail when encountering pack stock. Take breaks and camp away from trails and other visitors. Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises.

8 Stock Care

What you should consider when confining stock in camp. Ideally stock should spend the shortest amount of time possible in camp. Highlines, this is the preferred low-impact method for restraining stock in camp because it prevents horses from tramping the tree root system. Grazing restraints, free roaming horses grazing on good grass cause little long term impact. Hobbles, this method of restraint causes very little environmental impact. Supplemental food, in some areas, forage is limited; in others, grazing may be restricted by regulation. The use of supplemental feed can reduce grazing time and amounts of live feed utilized. A small ration of supplemental feed can also be used as a "bribe" to remind stock that camp is Home. Water stock, choose established ford or low rocky spot in the bank where little damage will occur.



What is Leave No Trace?

Backcountry Horsemen of California joined in a valuable partnership with Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics in 2011. Leave No

Trace principles aligned well with Backcountry Horsemen's "Gentle Use" principles. In advancing Leave No Trace's mission and using its tools, BCHC can more effectively educate its members and the public, thus, achieve its purpose of promoting the conservation and utilization of our backcountry resources.

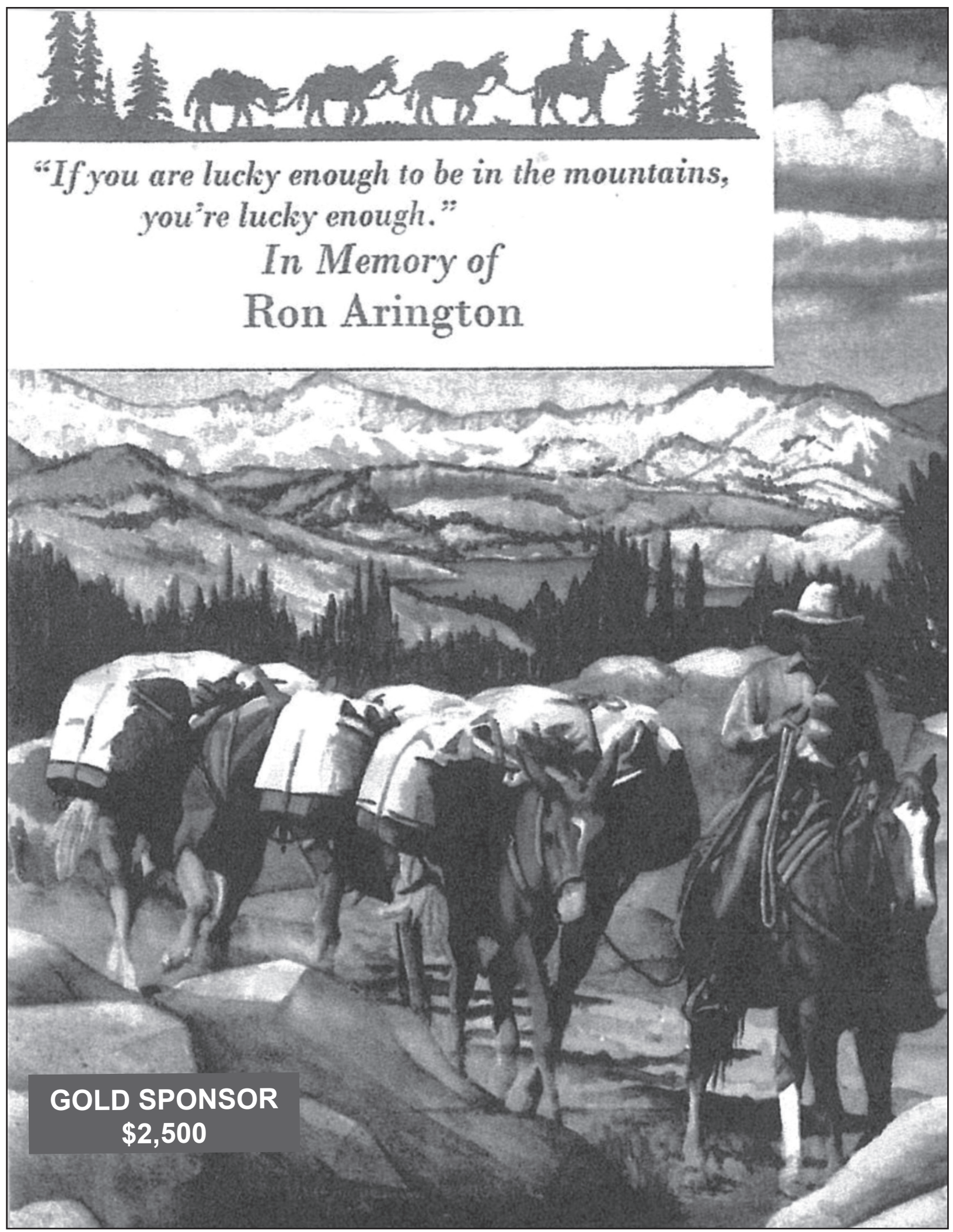
The seven Leave No Trace principles provide an easily understood framework of minimum impact practices for anyone visiting the outdoors and can be applied anywhere.

- Plan ahead and prepare**
- Dispose of waste properly**
- Travel and camp on durable surfaces**
- Minimize campfire impacts**
- Respect wildlife**
- Leave what you find**
- Be considerate of others**

BCHC is a leader in providing Leave No Trace education and training and is the only LNT stock trainer provider in the United States.

BCHC is the single provider of the Leave No Trace Master Educator Course in California. This is the most comprehensive course offered by Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics. In this five-day field-based course, participants learn Leave No Trace through a variety of techniques including discussions, scenarios, demonstrations, and hands-on activities. Graduates of the course are the most highly certified stewards and teachers of LNT principles.

To learn more about the Center for Outdoor Ethics and Leave No Trace, visit their website: lnt.org



"If you are lucky enough to be in the mountains, you're lucky enough."
In Memory of
Ron Arington

GOLD SPONSOR
\$2,500

LNT Core Class Instructors

Leave No Trace (LNT) Core Classes are mandatory for the LNT Pin Program.
10 points each.

Kammi Montanero | Plan Ahead & Prepare*

Wilderness Rider • Trail Steward • Dedicated Volunteer
Kammi is a proud member of the Manzanita Riders Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California. As a Wilderness Rider and unit board member, she is often out on the trail clearing paths, helping organize activities, and supporting the work that keeps our backcountry accessible and enjoyable for everyone.

When she's not in the saddle, she's balancing a full schedule, working full time as a case manager, part time as a suite attendant, and doing my best to keep everything moving forward with a positive attitude. She also helps administer the Backcountry Horsemen of California State Facebook page, connecting riders, packers, hikers, bikers, and outdoor enthusiasts across the state and country.

Kammi's favorite moments, though, are the ones spent on the trail with Domino, her trusted equine partner who approaches every adventure with enthusiasm - and a strong appreciation for snacks.

Whether she is working, volunteering, or riding into the backcountry, Kammi brings dedication, heart, and a commitment to supporting the outdoor community she loves.



Patricia Vallentyne | Dispose of Waste Properly*

Patricia is an active member of the Sierra Freepackers Unit and a frequent pooper in the woods. She recently earned BCHC's prestigious "Wilderness Rider of the Year" award.

Not only will Patricia teach you how to dig a cat hole through a hands-on digging experience, she will also help you understand the impacts created on other people, water and wildlife when waste is left in the outdoors.

The basic idea is "pack it in, pack it out." If you brought it with you, you have room to take it back home.



LNT Core Class Instructors

Leave No Trace (LNT) Core Classes are mandatory for the LNT Pin Program.
10 points each.

Carolyn Gilmore | Minimize Campfire Impacts*



Carolyn Gilmore is a member of the Mother Lode Unit. She has been a member of BCHC for around 30 years and a Wilderness Rider for at least 10 years. She still owns three cuddly Haflingers* which are great for packing because of their size and dispositions. She loves camping and spending time on the trails to help maintain trails for equestrians.

(*Note: The Haflinger was originally developed to work in the mountainous regions of its native land, Austria and northern Italy, where it was used as a packhorse and for forestry and agricultural work. Haflingers are always chestnut in color and occur in shades ranging from a light gold to a rich golden chestnut or liver hue. The mane and tail are white or flaxen.)

Michael Murphy | Be Considerate of Others*

Sonoma County realtor Michael Murphy is an equine and parks advocate. He patrols the Willow Creek Watershed of the Sonoma Coast State Park and Armstrong Woods State Park on horseback. He has been active in the community for many years as a public speaker and educator on land management issues. He teaches classes at Santa Rosa Junior College on "Horse Keeping for Clean Water" and has also taught at Horse Expo in Sacramento and various BCHC Rendezvous.

Michael served as one of BCHC's National Directors to the Back Country Horsemen of America for eight years and was president of BCHC's North Bay Unit for two years. He is the founder and past president of the Sonoma County Horse Council, which set a precedent of leadership in every state in the U.S. Presently, he serves in an advisory capacity to the Board.

Michael will share "What the Horse Sees" when a bicycle approaches as well as ways to respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.



Terry Jorgensen | Stock Care*

Terry is a Wilderness Rider from the class of 2007 and is currently serving as President of the Manzanita Riders Unit in Southern California. Manzanita Riders are very busy volunteering in various ways with trail maintenance and public education.

In the Stock Care class Terry plans to share how to manage your stock safely at the trailer, at the trail head, in a public campground, or out in the Wilderness. She will talk about where to highline, how to highline, and where not to highline, plus share lots of other ideas and techniques

Backcountry Horsemen of California Rendezvous 2026

HORSEMANSHIP 101

Friday . March 20, 2026

Unique Opportunities

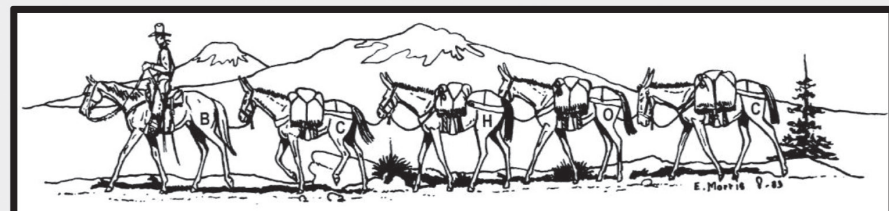
Choose 1 - 8 sessions
8am - 4pm
Work with *your* equine
Experienced clinicians
Affordable \$20/session
Paid reservation is required.
Session limited to 8 persons



*This is a hands-on
working clinic,
not a 'lecture demo'.
Bring your equine.*

Topics

Desensitizing
Send/Lunging
Garrocha Pole
Backing/Pulley
Highline/Picketline
Sidepass/Disengage
Hobbling/Ground Tie
Mounting/Rider Pick-Up
* Swag Bag *



Location: Diamond Bar Arena 6055 Central Ave Ceres, California

Contact: Carlena Kellogg 209-505-0122

Request an entry: Ladyroughrider1@yahoo.com

Dutch Oven Cooking Competition

Interested in Dutch oven cooking? It's a great way to cook delicious one-dish meals in the outdoor setting.

The Dutch Oven Cooking Competition will be held Friday, March 20. (Check the schedule for time and place.)

Sheila Bond, member of the Mother Lode Unit and Dutch Oven Cooking Competition winner, will be running the event.

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



Cooking starts at noon.

Samples of dishes and public voting begin at 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, MARCH 20

Cook at noon

Samples at 3 p.m.

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EQUINE TRAINERS

Steve Bauhr | Preparing Horses to Go Confidently to New Places



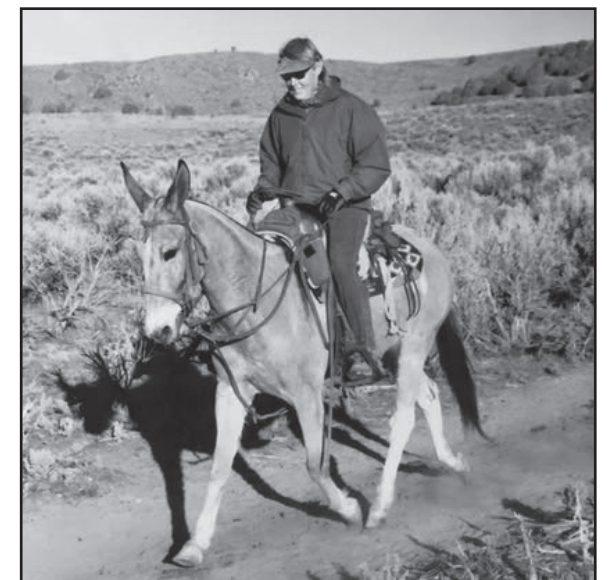
Steve Bauhr has been working with and riding horses since 1982. He has been a member of Mid Valley Unit BCHC since 2002. In 2005, he started Bauhr Ranch Horsemanship and has been working with horses for the public since. Also in 2005, Steve started writing horsemanship articles for Ride Magazine and has continued to write for numerous publications. As a trainer, Steve's main focus is young horses. He has started more than 150 colts and fillies. In 2007 and 2008, Steve volunteered at the Brentwood BLM Mustang Adoptions. From connecting at those events, he

was soon working almost exclusively with Mustangs, starting many under saddle; also helping older horses with issues. In 2009, Steve competed in the Extreme 100 Day Mustang Makeover held at the Sacramento Horse Expo. Steve and his wife, Brenda, recently started a Horsemanship channel on the platform "Rumble.com," titled "Bauhrranchstuff," where they have posted 60 videos on many useful equine-related topics.

JoDe Collins | Create a Better Rein and Cooperative Performance (SATURDAY ONLY)

JoDe Collins, from Lincoln, California, has spent a lifetime training horses, mules, and donkeys for multiple disciplines. She competes regularly at recognized mule and donkey shows and is an avid donkey trail rider.

She will be sharing knowledge and techniques that will help create a better rein and cooperative performance from our equines. "I think no matter what we're doing with them we all want a safe, enjoyable ride."



OBSTACLE CHALLENGE

BCHC Rendezvous March 20–21, 2026
Salute to our Volunteers!



Open to Public . Prizes to 6th

Friday
Packer Class @ 1pm

Saturday @ 10am
Youth . Novice . Open

Saturday
Sign In @ 8am Rider Meeting @ 9am



Camping & Stalls
40 Rider Maximum
Photographer

Contact: Carlena Kellogg 209-505-0122
Ladyroughrider1@yahoo.com

EQUINE CARE CLINICIANS

*Class qualifies for 10 points toward LNT Pin Program

Daniel L. Sweet, DVM | Veterinary First Aid*

Trail Emergencies and First Aid

Dr. Sweet grew up in Valyermo, California, on a ranch that grew deciduous fruit and alfalfa, and raised cattle, draft horses and mules. He did his undergrad at Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, where he graduated with degrees in Animal Science and in Biochemistry. He graduated from veterinary school at UC Davis in 1986.

Dr. Sweet first worked at a mixed large animal practice in the Fresno area for 1-1/2 years, where he met his wife, Carole. This practice worked on horses and food animals, including the Harris Farms Feedlot and Thoroughbred Farm. He then worked in an equine ambulatory practice in the Peninsula Bay Area, for one year, before joining Pioneer Equine Hospital in Oakdale. Dr. Sweet worked at Pioneer Equine Hospital for six years.



In 1995, he started his own practice, Sweet River Equine Clinic, Inc., in the Modesto area, which just celebrated its 30-year anniversary. Dr. Sweet has the pleasure of working with his wife Carole, and daughter Brianna, at Sweet River Equine Clinic, Inc. When Dr. Sweet is not working on horses he enjoys riding his cutting horse, trail riding, Alpine skiing, and nose work with his Border Collie.

Tracy Wheelock | Equine Physical Therapy

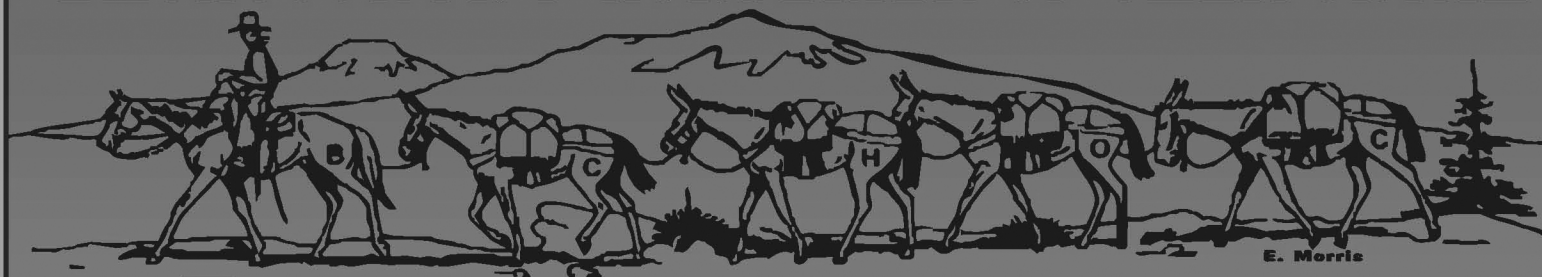


Tracy Wheelock is certified in: Equine Sports Massage; Fascia Movement Taping; Thermal Saddle Evaluation; Pulse Electro Magnetic Field Therapy, and holds a bachelor's degree in liberal studies.

With a variety of professional experience ranging from working at top notch equine rehabilitation centers on both coasts, to studying under some of California's most elite trainers, Tracy is dedicated to promoting the well-being of horses and their riders. She believes in fostering a community that aims to strengthen horse and human partnerships through education and support. Tracy's goal is to provide accessibility and affordability for all.

Trails do not maintain themselves. Using hand tools, sawyer skills, and teamwork, Backcountry Horsemen volunteers clear and maintain miles of trail each year to keep trails safe and passable for everyone.

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA



VENDOR APPRECIATION BEER, WINE & CHEESE TASTING!

When: Saturday, March 21, 3 to 5
Where: Vendor Area

Donation: \$25
for
souvenir
glass
and
tasting is
free



**Invite your friends,
family &
future members**

open to the public, must be 21 years or older to participate

This fundraiser helps support BCHC (c)4

RENDEZVOUS VENDORS

While you're at Rendezvous, please shop from these unique vendors who support BCHC with their time, variety of merchandise and advertising.

1. Bag Lady 2 - Handcrafted Tote Bags, Crossbody Bags, Cosmetic Bags and Coin Purses, many in Custom Printed Fabrics.
2. Barn Again - Renae Rosa - Western Boutique
3. BCHC State Booth - BCHC information, Membership Forms, Newsletters, Rendezvous T-shirts
4. Boot Hill Saddlery - Jim Kiss - Saddle Maker
5. Buckaroo Leather Products - John Brand - Beautiful Leather Goods (in a trailer)
6. California Gold Olive Oil Company - Olive Oil Products and Gift Items
7. CERT - First Aid and restored ambulance to view
8. Dumolts Foothill Ranch - Western Art, Crafts, Home Decor, Picture Frames and Furniture from reclaimed wood
9. El Guero Boots - Western Attire, Boot, Belts, Leather Purses and Wallets (in a trailer)
10. Garry Stauber - Knives and On-Site Knife Sharpening
11. Honey's Habit -Kathie Ratto - Hand sewn kitchen items
12. Hope's Chance - Horse Rescue Information and Merchandise
13. Jon's Creations - Jon Caudill - Metal and Horseshoe Yard Art, Repurposed items and Fun Things
14. Journey Wealth Management - Roy Gagaza - Financial Planning
15. Mid Valley Unit Booth - BCHC information, Merchandise, Newsletters, Membership Forms and a video
16. Mother Lode Unit Booth - BCHC Information
17. Stable Mix- Elk Grove Milling - Samples and Nutrition Information
18. Trinity Alps Crosscut Saw Works - Crosscut Saws, Axes, Crosscut Handles, Crosscut Saw Sharpening Services
19. Under A Prairie Moon - Jean White - Decorated Hats, Leather Bags, Knife Sheaths, Earrings, Acrylic Paintings & Prints, Dog Collars, Leashes, Celtic Belt Bags, Horn Bags, Cell Phone Bags and Shaving Kits
20. Vet Med Trail Packs, LLC - Evacuation Safety, Camping and First Aid Items
21. Loraine Waite - Wellspring Animal Therapies
22. Tracy Wheelock - Equine Therapy
23. Winton, Ireland, Strom and Green - Insurance

ADDITIONAL CLASSES

**Class qualifies for 10 points toward LNT Pin Program*

PACKING

Dennis Serpa | Packing 101*



Dennis Serpa has been a member of the Mid Valley Unit since 1989, the unit president, 1997, BCHC state president, 2011, and a Wilderness Rider since 1997. He has also done volunteer packing and trail work for the U.S. Forest Service and the Pacific Crest Trail Association.

In the Packing 101 class, iron mules will be available to demonstrate the various hitches commonly used to pack various loads into the backcountry. These will be hands-on demonstrations where you can learn at your own pace.

Peggy Goshgarian | (1) Types of pack saddles and styles of packing* and (2) Beginning packing without expensive equipment*



Peggy Goshgarian has been living and packing in rural northern California near the Oregon border for 50+ years. She moved to the area to teach, knowing she would have vast mountain areas to explore. Her property is adjacent to the Pacific Crest Trail which called her to ride north until she crossed the Canadian border using the Salmon River style of packing.

Peggy will teach two classes:

1) Types of pack saddles and styles of packing: A look at similarities and differences among sawbuck saddles, decker saddles, and Salmon River saddles and how that might change the hitches used.

2) Beginning packing without expensive equipment: The use of containers, a riding saddle, and a rope as a first step to explore packing before purchasing expensive equipment.

Lee Roeser & Mathilda Barr | BCHC Pack Stock Intern Program*



Lee Roeser, representing Region 5's Center for Excellence (COE), and Mathilda Barr, BCHC's 2025 Pack Stock Intern, will describe both programs and their missions.

According to the USDA website, Lee Roeser "was born to be a mule packer." At a very early age, he learned the craft from his parents who ran a mule pack station in Mammoth Lakes, California.

Mathilda Barr Los Angeles, California, was selected to train with the U.S. Forest Service Region 5 COE during summer 2025. When she was eight, she decided her favorite way to experience the wilderness was looking down at a trail through a pair of horse (or mule) ears - and that hasn't changed!

REGION 5 PACK STOCK CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

Background

While pack stock use boasts a long history within the Forest Service, it is becoming a vanishing skill. In the early 1900s, the USFS Pacific Southwest Region (Region 5) had a flourishing stock program. At that time, approximately 2,000 head of stock and more than 100 packers comprised a program that regularly supported crews in both front and backcountry settings. The Region 5 program today includes approximately 120 animals and seven permanent packers — a sharp drop from historical levels when several hundred animals and many more packers were used. While pack stock resources have declined, the amount of designated wilderness areas in California managed by USFS has grown substantially since the Wilderness Act of 1964 - from about 1.2 million acres in 1964 to about 5.5 million acres at present.

The Pacific SW Region established the Pack Stock Center of Excellence (COE) in 2013, recognizing that pack stock is a valuable traditional tool for wilderness management and that skills and resources in the Region were diminishing.

Pack Stock Center of Excellence Mission Statement: Provide regional coordination for the efficient utilization of pack stock program resources to support the efforts of wilderness managers in preserving wilderness character, and to ensure ongoing capability for use of primitive skills and tools, by offering high quality, hands-on pack stock and primitive skills education, practical experience, community outreach, and field-going services in support of fire, ecosystem, and wilderness management.

Speaker: Lee Roeser

Lee Roeser "was born to be a mule packer" according to the USDA website. At a very early age, he learned the craft from his parents who ran a mule pack station in Mammoth Lakes, California. At age 6, he was already helping with the family business. By age 13, he began working as a packer; and at 16, he was hauling explosives, gear and tools for the public, the USFS and other government agencies, as well as for mining and movie production companies.

"You must be passionate for the well-being of the animals," said Roeser, a packer for the U.S. Forest Service on Inyo National Forest, home of one of the Pack Stock Centers of Excellence. "I do it for that and my love of the mountains and opportunity to continue to learn."

BCHC Pack Stock Internship Program

Backcountry Horsemen of California and the U.S. Forest Service partnered in 2018 to develop a packing internship program. The program's mission was "To develop young adults to carry on the skills, attitude and fundamentals of packing, partnerships and LNT for the future of BCH." Under the supervision of Forest Service Packers Lee Roeser and Michael Morse, the first training took place at Region 5 Pack Stock Center of Excellence in Bishop, California. Funding to support the program came from various BCHC units combined with a grant from Back Country Horsemen of America. A donation was made to Eastern Sierra Conservation Corps who, in turn, paid the intern.

The mission of the BCHC Intern Program is to recruit and train apprentices that may become the new generation of highly skilled packers, trail workers, wilderness managers and volunteers that have a strong desire to protect our public lands, while preserving traditional wilderness skills and maintaining accessibility.

This is an all-inclusive training program in the use of pack stock as a traditional tool, humane stock handling and packing procedures. Mule and horsemanship, as well as safety, are the cornerstones this training is based on. Also included in the program are Leave No Trace practices for stock users, wilderness management, trail maintenance and all the details that go into creating a safe, productive and efficient packing operation.



ADDITIONAL CLASSES & ACTIVITIES

**Class qualifies for 10 points toward LNT Pin Program*

Ruthie Heuer | Topography & Compass Reading*

Back when she was a boy scout in high school (yes, that is correct) Ruthie was taught how to read and scale a map for a trek in the Sierra. It helped tremendously to know the grades and terrain before the trip ever began. After having four boys and a few more years, she decided a mule would be much better to ride than her older body to walk. So here she is 40+ years with BCHC and more years than she wants to count in the mountains.

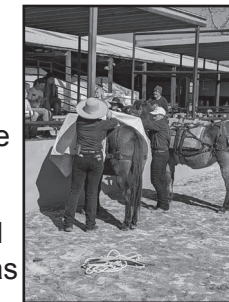
Ruthie attended the first Wilderness Rider class in 1996, became a Master of LNT at Ninemile Remount Station in Montana in 1997, and became an instructor there. She has taught Wilderness Rider courses as well as Master of LNT courses. Years ago she served many years as VP of Education and State Education Chair and, after a many-year break, is currently serving as one of BCHC's Co-Vice Presidents of Education.



In this class, Ruthie will teach how to read a topographic map and use a compass. You will learn what all those lines, dots, dashes, etc., on the map mean. Figure out which way is north, south, east, west. Understand what a legend is. Find out how to tell if the trail climbs or drops and how far it is to your destination. Also, she will cover how a compass helps you and why you need that old fashioned map even though you have a smart phone. Come and be prepared for wherever you wish to travel.

Watch the Action-Packed Packing Competition Saturday, Main Arena at Noon

Odd Load Packing: A two-packer team will pack one mule with items of unusual shapes and sizes, mantee (cover) the load, tie the load on with a diamond hitch, then lead the mule at a trot around a cone to the finish line to verify the load is stable and balanced.

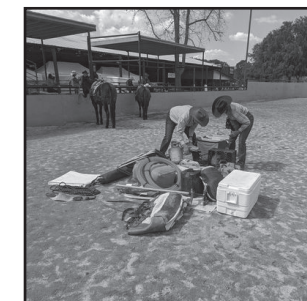


Adult/Interscholastic Box Hitch: This is a speed tying competition where one packer will fill the boxes on a pack mule with the provided load, mantee the load, then tie a box hitch as quickly as possible to secure the load.



Adult/Interscholastic Diamond Hitch: This is a speed tying competition where one packer will fill the boxes on a pack mule with the provided load, mantee the load and use a diamond hitch to tie the load down as quickly as possible.

Youth Box Hitch, a speed tying competition for youth 17 and under and not on an Interscholastic Team. (See above.)



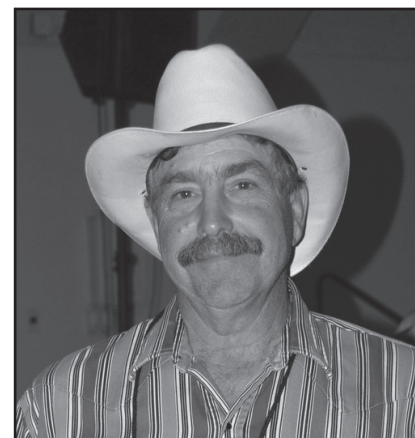
Youth Diamond Hitch, a speed tying competition for youth 17 and under and not on an Interscholastic Team. (See above.)

Silver belt buckles will be awarded to 1st and 2nd places in all three events.

American Mule Association (AMA) rules apply to all classes. A clean load beats a penalized load.

CARL PERRY Packing Competition Organizer

Carl Perry is the organizer for the Packing Competition at Rendezvous. He has been packing mules since the early '90s. He won his first Pack Scramble competition in 1996 at Oakdale, California. Pack Scrambles were the highlight of all the events. Carl joined Backcountry Horsemen in 1997. He was on the World Champion Pack Team in 2005 and won the Individual Pack Scramble the same year.



Now Carl co-coaches with Doug Dollarhide to prepare the Modesto Junior College pack team for Bishop Mule Days' Interscholastic Competition.

BCHC thanks Dennis Wetherington, Mid Valley Unit member, for his \$200 Rendezvous sponsorship

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Club members can also enjoy our beautiful club grounds in Twain Harte which includes a large arena set among towering pine trees, where members can beat the summer heat and practice their horsemanship skills.

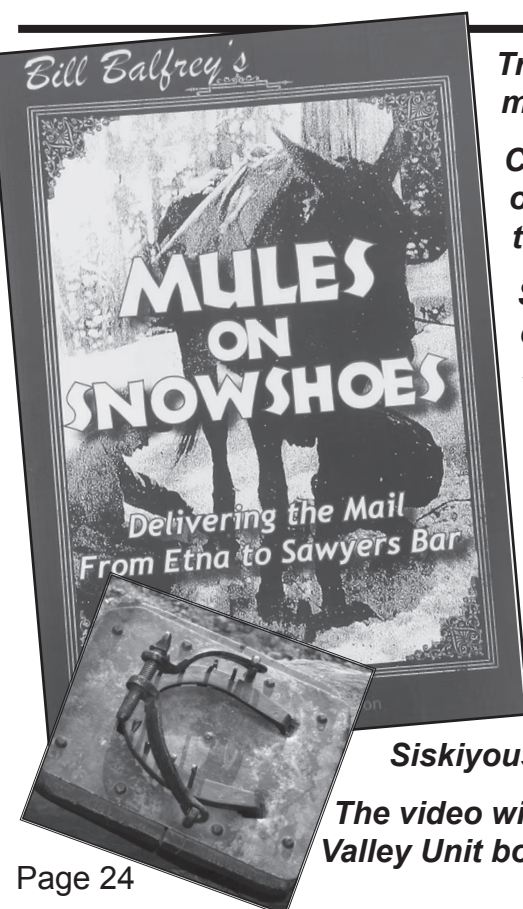


TwainHarteHorsemen.org

Our five-night High Ride Campout at Eagle Meadows sells out every year. Catered by the talented, gourmet chef, Mike Garman, this is a "Must Go" event. Email for more information.

TC2H

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Travel back to a time when mules wearing snowshoes carried mail to remote mountain villages in northwest California.

Check out this video, produced by Video Mike [Kerson], based on a popular lecture delivered by the late Bill Balfrey, Top of the State Unit, to Backcountry Horsemen.

Snowshoes made of wood treated with beeswax and linseed oil made it possible for mules carrying mail to walk in the snow and deliver mail for 12 to 14 years, only missing 2 days of mail delivery!

William Roger "Bill" Balfrey, born July 14, 1937, died March 18, 2017 at the age of 79. Bill took tremendous pride in his Scott Valley heritage and his family home town of Etna. He came from a pioneering family who traveled by covered wagon to the community of Etna in the 1850's.

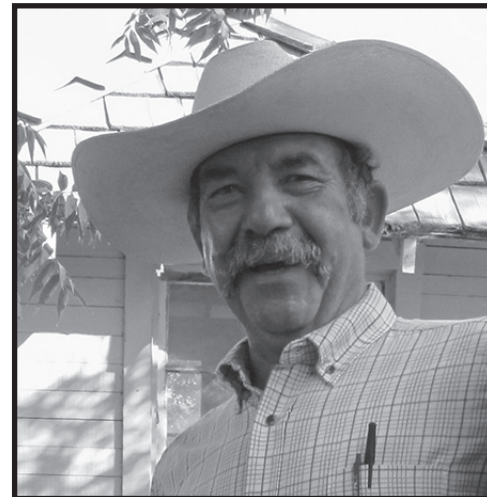
Bill taught Psychology, Speech, Cross Country Skiing, Winter Survival and People Tracking at the College of the Siskiyous for 36 years.

The video will run on a loop for convenient viewing. Stop by the Mid Valley Unit booth and watch!

LOAD BALANCING CONTEST

Packers learn that it is vitally important to distribute weight evenly between their two panniers/boxes/bags. A load *must* be well-balanced to keep the pack from slipping or shifting while traveling and to avoid making the pack animal sore.

Mid Valley Unit member Rudy Dezzani will offer a chance to see who can load two pack boxes with even weight. Rudy will be standing by with two pack boxes, all the supplies for the



load, and a scale. The contestant who comes closest to a perfect balance will win a handmade knife.



DEMONSTRATE YOUR SKILL
\$10 A TRY
WIN A HANDMADE KNIFE!

Find Rudy in the Packing Corral area
Friday - 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The contest winner will be announced at 3 p.m., Saturday.

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Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) is a family and youth oriented nonprofit 501(c)3 organization with 20 units located across California. All units are members of the parent organization, Back Country Horsemen of America (bcha.org), that has members and affiliates in 32 states.

BCH units focus on Education, Public Lands and Volunteer Service to reach the goal of keeping public lands open to pack and saddle stock. We work together and have fun together.

If you are interested in joining BCHC, go to the Membership page at bchcalifornia.org to find online and mail-in application forms.

Join a unit near you and make a difference! Or make a contribution to support BCHC. Donations are tax deductible.



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BCHC'S SAW PROGRAM



The BCHC Saw Program was implemented in 2016. The first group of Instructors were trained and certified and served as the basis for training early on. In 2023, the U.S. Forest Service Saw Program underwent a sweeping overhaul and, ultimately, BCHC now uses the Forest Service training and curriculum.

The purpose of BCHC's Saw Program is to create a safe and knowledgeable cadre of sawyers and instructors that can assist public agencies like the USFS, Bureau of Land Management, and national, state, and county parks in their efforts to keep trails open for stock use.

Any BCHC member 18 years or older may be certified as a chainsaw sawyer. To become a crosscut sawyer, one must be at least 16 years old. Any BCHC member who has the ability and drive to both train and evaluate prospective sawyers may become an Instructor.

Dan Chartier is BCHC's Saw Program Manager (photo at left). From a logging and heavy fire equipment operator background, Dan was Lead Chainsaw Instructor and State Cadre Lead for CAL-FIRE's Chainsaw Program from 2005 to 2019. He has been part of BCHC's Saw Program from its start. Dan is a CALFIRE Certifier along with a USFS Chainsaw /Crosscut Evaluator. He was appointed BCHC Saw Program Manager in October 2024 and reappointed in December 2025.

SAW INSTRUCTION

Dave Moser | Crosscut Saw Maintenance and Sharpening

Dave Moser has been a member of Mid Valley Unit for over 30 years. He was an Ag Mechanics and Metal Shop instructor at Turlock High School for 33 years. Dave has been sharpening saws for 15+ years after being trained and mentored by Dolly Chapman. Since his retirement from teaching, Dave has been supporting the development of BCHC Sawyer Training. He is currently a C Certifier Instructor for crosscut and chain saw. Dave continues to facilitate collaboration between BCHC and the Forest Service.

Dave will teach Crosscut Saw Maintenance and Sharpening, including saw evaluation, cleaning, sharpening, transportion, and storage. A question and answer session will follow.



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2026 BCHC Rendezvous Western Art Show

March 20-21 @ Diamond Bar Arena

Backcountry Horsemen of California members are diverse and

talented. Be sure to check out the display of paintings, photography, sewing, knitting, quilting, carving, leatherwork, crafts, etc., in the Western Art Show.



If you see something you like, contact the artist directly to purchase it, or attend the Saturday dinner and auction to bid on artwork donated from the show.

ENTERTAINMENT

EVENING CAMPFIRE SOCIALS

Hey, everyone! Bring your camp chairs, a jacket and your favorite beverage and join us for after-dinner campfire socials Friday and Saturday evenings.

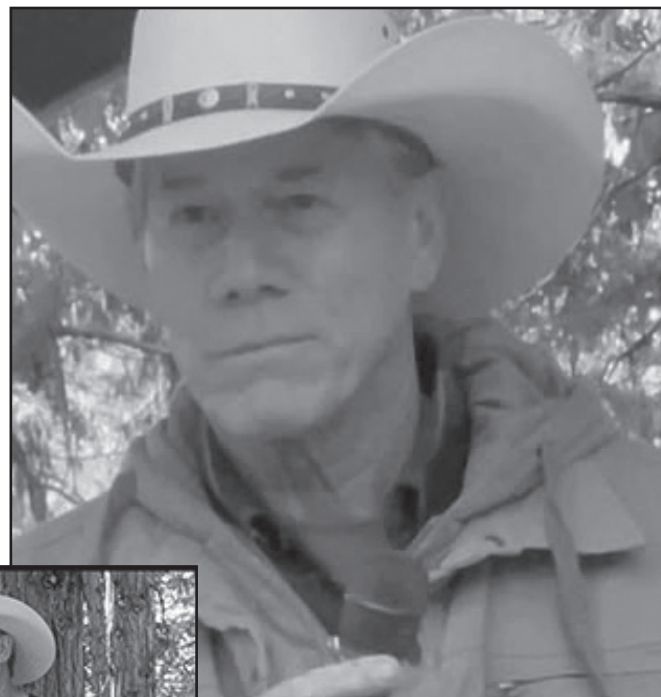


The campfire social is designed to allow quiet time for visiting, renewing old friendships, and creating new ones, too!

There will be fire pits with plenty of firewood to pitch in for fuel. If you would like, bring your camp chair and stash it in the campfire area before dinner for later retrieval.

Lance D. Kell

country music entertainer from Pioneer, California, will provide background music for Friday and Saturday dinners. Lance is a loyal supporter of Backcountry Horsemen.



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OTHER PARTICIPANTS



Hope's Chance Horse Sanctuary is a 501(c)3 nonprofit horse rescue and sanctuary located in East Modesto, California. Our mission is to rescue horses from perilous situations, help them to recover and get them to a point when they can be adopted into a much better situation. Many of our intakes come from animal control, feedlots, and veterinary referral.

Save the date August 1, 2026 for our annual Education Day. Public invited.

Our mission is to expose and educate our community to the world of mini horses, mini donkeys, and ponies. Our mission through hands on sharing our mini's is to show these sweet animals are full of love and kindness and deserve the same in return.



Cowboy Church



Join us for Cowboy Church, Sunday, March 22, 9 to 10 a.m., in the PowerPoint Patio.

Come as you are and enjoy a relaxed time of fellowship, music, and encouragement. Bring your musical instrument, sing and play along as we gather for worship.

We'll share a brief message from the Bible focused on faith, hope and everyday living.

Everyone is invited. We'd love to see you there!

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Wild Horse & Burro Adoption at BCH Rendezvous

MARCH 20 & 21

Diamond Bar Arena, 6055 Central Avenue, Ceres, CA

EVENT DETAILS

Featuring an adoption of untouched horses and burros



FRIDAY, MARCH 20
9 AM – 5 PM

SATURDAY, MARCH 21
9 AM – 5 PM

Up to 20 wild horses and 10 burros will be available for adoption. The horses are from northern California herds like Twin Peaks, Fox Hog, and High Rock. The burros are from Twin Peaks.

Adoptions will be first come, first served.

For more information contact the Litchfield Corrals at 530-254-6575.



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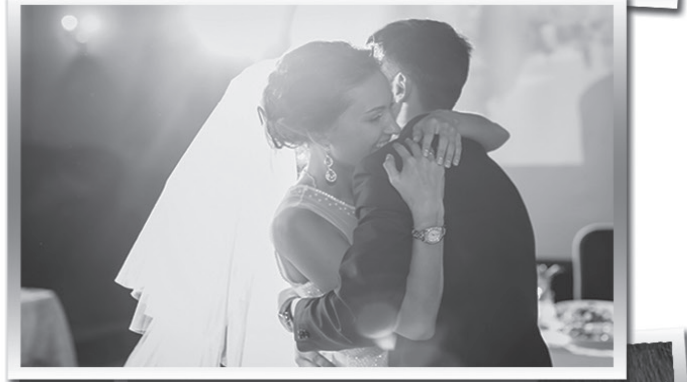
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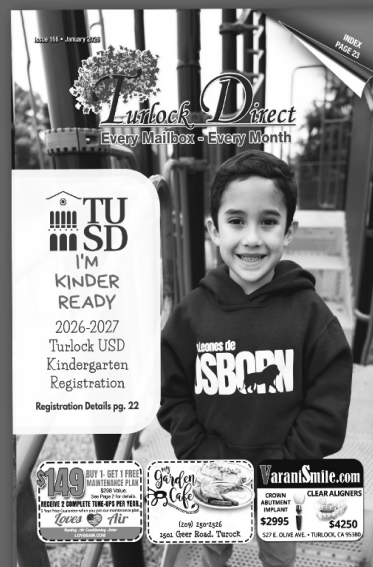


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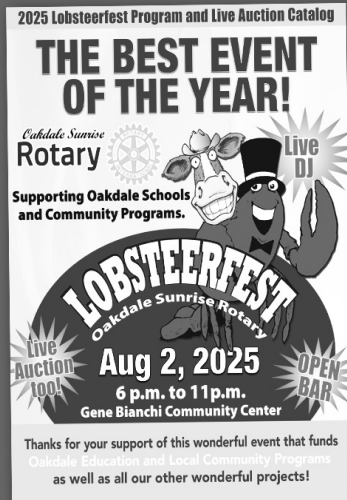
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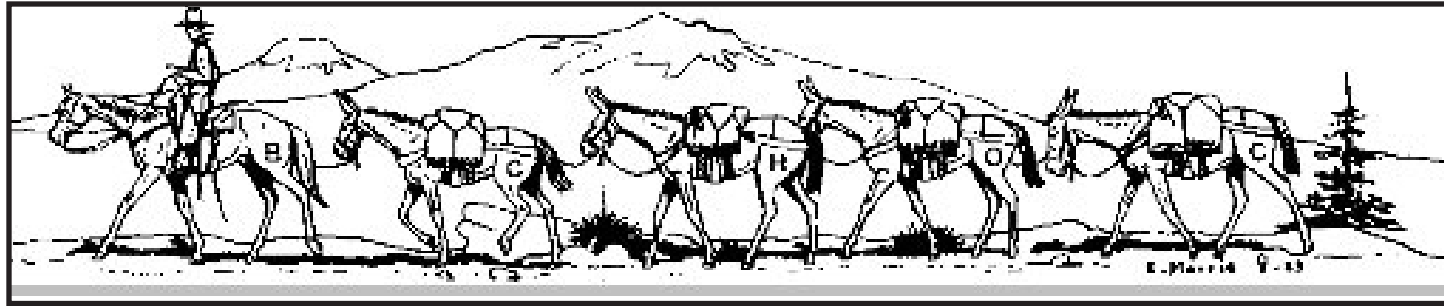
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BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE

- 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
- To help educate backcountry users on ways to use the trail and forage in a manner that conserves 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 local, state and federal officials.
- To assist in the formation and continuation of local units to carry out these purposes.

WHY JOIN BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

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 and training, insurances and you will help support our efforts to keep trails open to equestrians, hikers and more!

As a member you will...

- Get to participate in state and unit activities and events
- Learn valuable backcountry skills and outdoor ethics
- Contribute to the appropriate use of public lands in California
- Make connections, friends, and network with members from all over the state
- Receive the BCHC newsletter
- Be kept up to date on public lands issues
- And more! (ASK FOR A BCHC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AT THE STATE BOOTH or go to bchcalifornia.org/Membership)

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