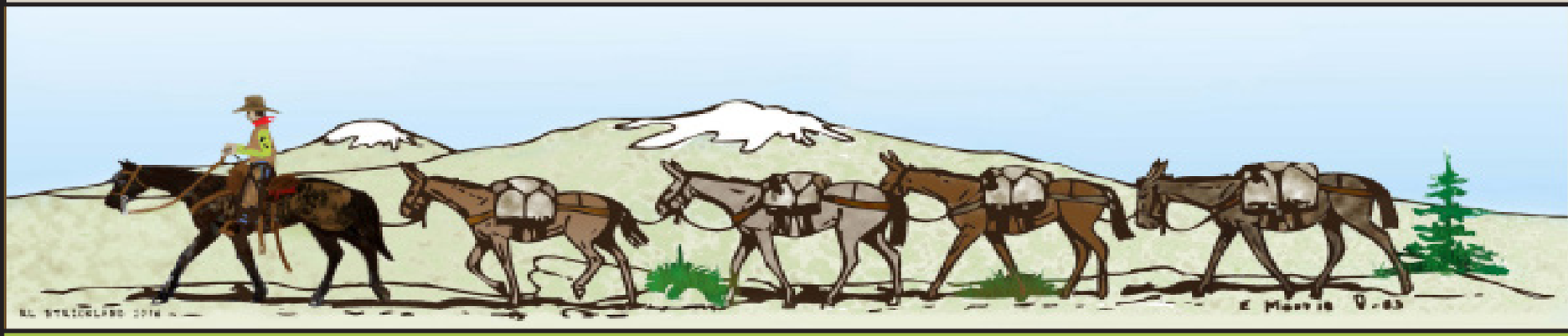
BCHC
BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA
13061 Rosedale Hwy
Suite G, Box 217
Bakersfield, CA 93314
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

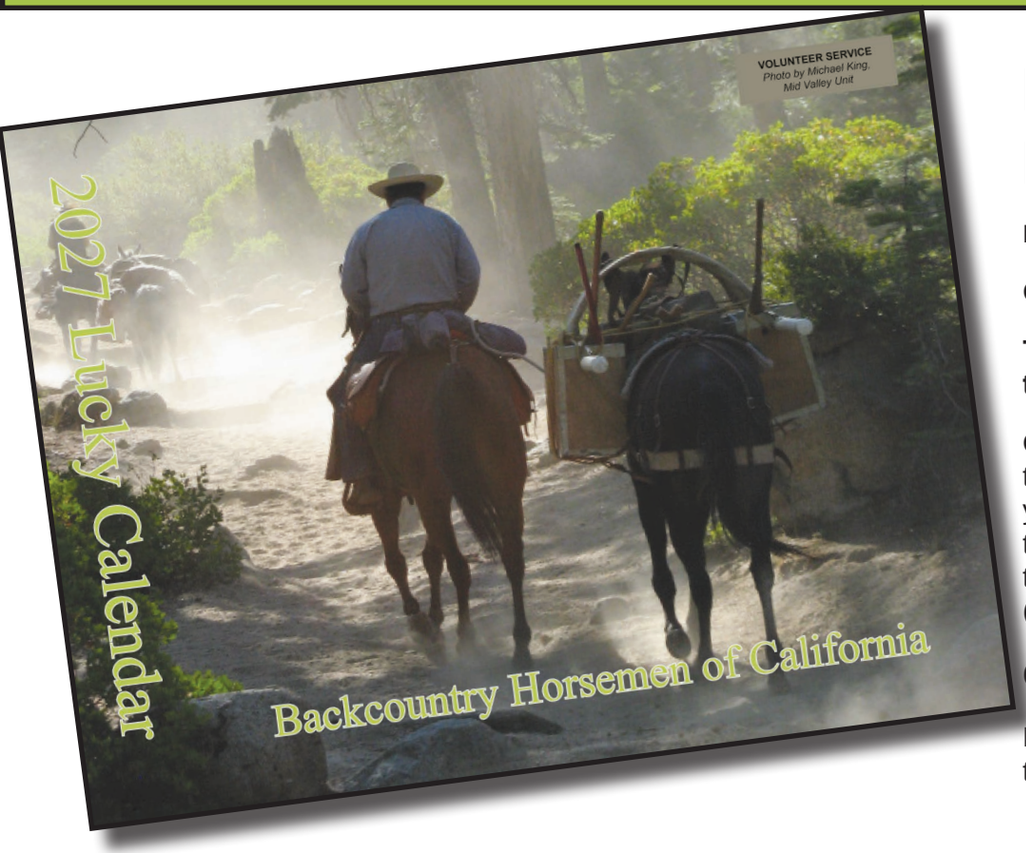
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
PRESORTED
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
SACRAMENTO, CA
PERMIT #328360

The Backcountry News

Volume 38, Issue 4 **The Official Publication of Backcountry Horsemen of California** **FALL 2026**



2027 BCHC FUNDRAISER



LUCKY CALENDARS ARE HERE!

By Kathy Zumbrunn, Michael King and Carol Jo Hargreaves

Greetings, BCHC Members!

The Lucky Calendar Raffle Fundraiser is BACK—and it's time to get excited, spread the word, and start selling!

Our 2027 Lucky Calendars have arrived and have been delivered to your units. That means the fun can begin right now! Whether you purchase a calendar for yourself, give one as a gift, or sell tickets to friends, family, and fellow outdoor enthusiasts, every ticket sold helps support Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) and the units that make our organization strong.

One Ticket. 101* Chances to Win!

For just **$25, you get a raffle ticket AND a 2027 calendar!** And the opportunities to win continue all year long!

See FUNDRAISER, Page 5

The Backcountry News

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

Editor Carol Jo Hargreaves

BCHC_Newsletter@bchcalifornia.org

BCHC Official Website: www.bchcalifornia.org

Printed by The Manteca Bulletin

Publication Information: The Backcountry News is the official journal of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, Inc., published four times per year. All rights reserved. It is an independent publication with news and information of interest to Backcountry Horsemen members, with an average circulation of approximately 2,000 per issue. Annual digital and print subscriptions are $15 for non-members. One free digital issue may be provided, upon request. Nonprofit postage paid at Manteca, CA.

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.

Edition	Deadline
Winter 2027 Edition	**January 15, 2027**
Spring 2026 Edition	April 15, 2027
Summer 2026 Edition	July 15, 2027
Fall 2027 Edition	October 15, 2027

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

Number of Issues:	1	2	3	4
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

Cost per Issue

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.

2026 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Doug Dollarhide, President · (209) 605-2403 · bootsandspur@att.net
Jamie Wilson, Vice President (Insurance) · (559) 202-7216 · drjamie91@gmail.com
Anna Baglione, Co-Secretary · (209) 918-1210 · easternsierrabch@gmail.com
Cathy Dollarhide, Co-Secretary · (209) 602-1489 · bootsandspur@att.net
Lynn Joiner, Treasurer, Chaplain · (661) 747-6347 · lynnjoiner7@gmail.com
Ruthie Heuer, Co-VP of Education · (559) 560-6161 · rmheuer@gmail.com
Denise Robinson, Co-VP of Education · (559) 877-3532 · robnden76@gmail.com
Chip Herzig, VP of Membership · (775) 463-3634 · chipherzig@gmail.com
Dick Cochran, VP of Public Lands · (559) 737-1606 · richardcochran003@gmail.com
Mike Hughes, Immediate Past President · (760) 223-0608 · 4hranch@earthlink.net
Randy Hackbarth, BCHA Nat'l Director · (530) 626-0571 · trlryder@pacbell.net
Terry Jorgensen, BCHA Nat'l Director · (760) 789-5185 · tlh9749@yahoo.com
BCHA Alternate Nat'l Director ·VACANT

2026 COORDINATORS

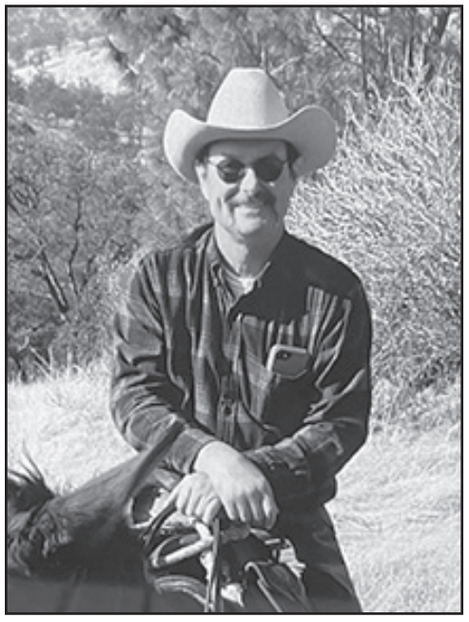
Accounting - Hardaway, Axume, Weir, CPAs
State Board Meetings - Cathy Dollarhide · (209) 602-1489 · bootsandspur@att.net
Membership Communication Coordinator - Chip Herzig · (775) 463-3634 · chipherzig@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor - Carol Jo Hargreaves · (209) 988-5831 · cjohargreaves@gmail.com
Rendezvous Gen'l Chair, Sgt. at Arms - Lloyd Erlandson - (209) 761-3942 · Lloyd.Erlandson0@gmail.com
Rendezvous Secretary - Susie Patton - (760) 764-2850 · bludog46@gmail.com
Saw Program Manager - Dan Chartier · (530) 356-0256 · dr.outfittin53@gmail.com
Temporary Webmaster - Carol Jo Hargreaves · (209) 988-5831 · cjohargreaves@gmail.com
Volunteer Service Hours Coordinator - Bailey Woods · (559) 387-9403 · bwalker.dboranch@hotmail.com
Grant Coordinator, Intern Program - Lucy Badenhoop · ((916) 216-704 · badenhoop@comcast.net

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



In April 2026, BCHC Executive Committee members, Coordinators and Committee Chairs voted to return to using their personal email addresses to conduct BCHC business. Please refer to the list above for current email addresses.

PRESIDENT'S PAGE



BCHC President
Doug Dollarhide

Howdy, members,

On Saturday October 10, we had our State Board Meeting at the Perry's in Hilmar. There were 17 BCHC units present and that was encouraging. I believe that it is important for the Directors of our units to be present as we discuss ideas and receive important information to make informed decisions. We have a lot to talk about to keep our organization operating and running efficiently.

2027 Rendezvous will not happen next year. It is the responsibility of the units to put this annual fundraiser together that we have each March. Rendezvous is in need of new ideas on how to attract new members. So, because Rendezvous helps raise money for our organization, and we are not having one, the Executive Committee has decided that we will sell RAFFLE TICKETS that come with a free Lucky Calendar. All units that participate in the ticket/calendar sales, will get a 50/50 share prorated on the amount of tickets that unit sells. This is a fantastic way to increase your unit's bank account. If a unit doesn't sell tickets, no 50/50 monies will be given. Keep in mind that all units are required to sell tickets as this is the one fundraiser in place of Rendezvous. This is actually A LOT LESS work than putting on a Rendezvous, so please encourage your members to sell them. Then, moving forward, rest up to help put on the 2028 Rendezvous which will be back in Ceres, California, at Diamond Bar Arena.

We need to involve our communities and introduce them to how BCHC uses our stock for more than just a horse ride. Town folks have a difficult time understanding this concept. Anna (Baglione) Vaughan is working on a flyer to post on our state website about Stock Grazing - people need to be educated! Not long ago Anna had a person take the lead grazing animal's bell off because it was too noisy. We know this can mess up the whole herd. In September, Mid Valley Unit attended Denair Farm and Family Event. They had all kinds of vendors, a vintage tractor parade, and so on. Our group provided a kids' activity, Dutch oven samples, and an education table. I brought my two mules and was ready to show folks how to tie a hitch or answer their questions about packing. I had gravel bags, a crosscut saw, elk antlers, you get the picture. But instead of asking the questions I thought they might have for me, they were wondering if I was having a yard sale! Unfortunately, this is where we are in society today. The folks from farming and ranching families are not common anymore.

In March of each year my unit's public lands people try to get together with our assigned ranger from the Stanislaus National Forest. We listen to the needs of the Forest Service and give them some suggestions of we would like to accomplish. Even our Forest Service is lacking knowledge about the trails and what our unit has done in the past. Part of this could be all of the rearranging that has been done in the USFS structure and that rangers seem to come and go.

So, when we think about our future Rendezvous, we need to think about how we can draw in the public to inform and teach and, of course, add in some fun. Education is power on both sides. My hope is that units will take our organization and its mission statement more seriously than they have in the past. If we continue to be stagnant, and don't think outside the box, we will not be effective in our fight to keep our public lands open. How much does it matter to you to have open places to ride and enjoy one of your favorite pastimes? Anna Baglione spoke about an idea to pay a woman who has expertise in communication with social media and marketing to train some of our members. I believe this is a direction we may need to pursue as it will expose BCHC more and connect us to the younger generation that is our future.

In closing, I am encouraged by State Directors showing interest in some of the board vacancies. They are also stepping up and asking if there are other ways they can help out. I would like to thank our Executive Committee and the Unit Directors for giving of their time and money to attend our State Meeting. You are appreciated!

Doug Dollarhide, BCHC President

Proverbs 16:3



DEADLINE
FOR WINTER 2027 EDITION
of the Backcountry News is:

JANUARY 15, 2027

Send submissions to:
BCHC Editor at
cjohargreaves@gmail.com
Remember to request extra copies for your unit's events and activities!

BCHC NEWS



BCHC Editor
Carol Jo Hargreaves

MANY THANKS!

Thank you to the following units for their submissions to this edition of the Backcountry News! I sincerely appreciate your willingness to share your great events and ideas with all BCHC members. **Antelope Valley, High Country, High Sierra, Kern River Valley, Los Padres, Mother Lode, Redshank Riders, Redwood, Santa Ana River, Sierra Freepackers, and Top of the State.**

Heartfelt appreciation to **Cindy McMurry** of High Country Unit for her service as BCHC's 2nd VP/ Volunteer Service Hours Coordinator. We value the time and effort Cindy spent in computing hours and dollar amounts for BCHC's annual report to BCHA. Also, thank you to **Bailey Woods** from Sequoia Unit who volunteered to pick up the reins from Cindy. (Remember, your units' Volunteer Hours Reports are due to Bailey by January 1. Send them in before Christmas if you can.)

Speaking of deadlines, there are many more important end-of-year **deadlines** coming up. See the article on Page 11 and be sure your materials are submitted timely.

The Lucky Calendar **fundraiser** replacing Rendezvous in 2027 is the easiest thing you will do for BCHC this year! All you have to do is BUY ONE raffle ticket/calendar for yourself or as a gift or SELL ONE to a neighbor, friend, or local businessperson. Proceeds will be split 50/50 between state BCHC and its units. (Units will receive a prorated share based on number of tickets/calendars each unit sells.). Our goal is to get all tickets/calendars sold by December 31, so all ticket holders are included in the $500 first drawing, to be held Friday, January 15.

There are several excellent **YouTube** videos mentioned in this newsletter. We can't link directly to them in print media, so here are the links to copy and paste into your browser. Read the articles on Pages 22 and 23 and then watch the videos.

Fish Plant - youtube.com/watch?v=gbdFFDNoA3A

Casa Vieja - youtu.be/9_XaECO-kDs

Check out Center Pages 16 and 17 for Audrey Champlin's journal of her summer experience with Ascend Wilderness. Audrey is a valued Young Adult member from Top of the State Unit.

As the holiday season approaches, relax and enjoy each day. We never know how much time we have. Make the best of it!

BCHC FACEBOOK PAGE

By Kammi Montanero and Carol Jo Hargreaves

What an amazing year of growth for the Backcountry Horsemen of California! In just one year, BCHC's Facebook community grew from **7,382 followers to 7,760 followers.** This growth reflects the dedication of our members, volunteers, supporters, and everyone who believes in protecting access to California's trails and backcountry.

Thank you for following BCHC's journey, sharing our mission, and supporting the work we do to keep trails open, promote responsible horsemanship, and preserve our public lands. Every like, share, comment, and volunteer hour helps expand our reach and strengthen our ability to advocate for equestrians throughout California. We are grateful for your support and excited for what lies ahead!

Here is some statistical evidence of how BCHC's social media reach is growing through Facebook:

September 8, 2025, to September 8, 2026 (366 days)

Followers: From 7,382 to 7,760 (up 378)

Views: 545,330

High-engagement with content - photos drive the most reach (47%)

10 posts with over 5,000 views in the past year. (How do we get all those people to join BCHC?)

Audience Demographics as of September 8, 2026:

- 65+: 35.6%
- 55–64: 23.0%
- 35–44: 16.7%
- 45–54: 14.4%
- 25–34: 8.9% (this age group had the largest percentage increase)
- 18–24: 1.4%

Sincere thanks to Kammi Montanero of Manzanita Riders Unit, BCHC Facebook Administrator, for her excellent promotion efforts (she is out-publishing BCHA and many other state BCH organizations!). Kammi posts something colorful, interesting, informative, inspiring, or funny almost every day of the week.

If you're not already following BCHC on Facebook, copy and paste this link in your browser: facebook.com/BackcountryHorsemenofCalifornia. Thank you!

THANK YOU FOR READING THE BACKCOUNTRY NEWS!

2027 BCHC FUNDRAISER

FUNDRAISER, *continued from Page 1*

Here's what makes the Lucky Calendar so exciting:

- 101 chances to win! There are drawings throughout the year, giving ticket holders plenty of opportunities to get lucky.
- Kick off the year with $500! The first drawing is January 15, 2027.
- Weekly cash prizes! Every Monday, one lucky ticket wins $50, and every Friday, another wins $75.
- A grand finale worth celebrating! The final drawing on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2027, awards a fantastic $1,000 prize!
- You can win more than once! If your ticket wins, it goes right back into the drawing tumbler. That means your ticket stays eligible for future drawings all year long!

Now that's a reason to get excited!

Everyone Can Help Make This a Winning Year

This fundraiser is an easy, practical way for every BCHC member to make a difference. Every individual member is asked to purchase at least one Lucky Calendar, and family memberships are asked to purchase two.

And don't stop there! Think about how many people you know who would enjoy a chance to win cash prizes while supporting a worthwhile cause.

Here are a few easy ways to get involved:

- Buy one for yourself. Enjoy your calendar and look forward to the drawings all year.
- Give one as a gift. A Lucky Calendar makes a fun, useful gift with the added excitement of 101 chances to win!
- Sell to friends and family. Ask your riding buddies, neighbors, coworkers, and other outdoor enthusiasts to join the fun.
- Spread the word. Tell people about the weekly prizes and the chance to win repeatedly. You might be surprised how quickly those tickets sell!

If you give a calendar as a gift, remember that the $25 ticket must be paid for and registered with the recipient's contact information.

Every Ticket Helps Keep BCHC Strong!

The money raised benefits both BCHC and the individual units participating in the fundraiser. Those proceeds help support the work of our organization and the programs and services that benefit our members and the equestrian community.

BCHC exists because members like you care about our trails, our riding opportunities, and the future of recreational stock. When we all pitch in, even a small effort can add up to a big result.

Imagine what we can accomplish when every member buys a calendar and helps sell just a few more! One conversation, one gift, or one ticket sale at a time, we can make this fundraiser a tremendous success.

Ready to Get Lucky?

Your 2027 Lucky Calendars are waiting! Contact your Unit President to purchase calendars or pick up tickets/calendars to sell. Units already have their supplies on hand, so there's no reason to wait.

Let's turn our enthusiasm for BCHC into ticket sales, cash prizes for lucky winners, and valuable support for our organization and local units. Get your calendars, tell your friends, and help make the 2027 Lucky Calendar Raffle Fundraiser our best one yet!

Questions? Contact Kathy Zumbrunn by text at (209) 765-4923 or email runningzranch@gmail.com.

Thank you for supporting BCHC and for helping make this fundraiser a winning proposition for everyone!

Let's sell those tickets, support our organization, and make 2027 a lucky year for BCHC!

** Please note that two extra drawings were inadvertently added in blank spaces for the months of February and September. There will NOT be drawings those days. This does not change the number of drawings advertised or the monetary distribution.*

ANN LANGE PUBLIC LANDS AWARD NOMINATIONS DUE FEBRUARY 1

The nomination by your unit of a person to receive the Ann Lange Award for services rendered on public land matters in 2026 (or cumulatively over a number of years before 2026) may be accomplished by accessing the Ann Lange Public Lands Award Nomination form on the BCHC website under Documents and Forms/Public Lands as well as on the Public Lands page of the website (scroll down to "BCHC Ann Lange Public Lands Award" section).

The deadline for furnishing the nomination is February 1, 2027, and the nomination form, together with attachments which describe the accomplishments of the nominee, should be emailed to Richard Cochran at richardcochran003@gmail.com.

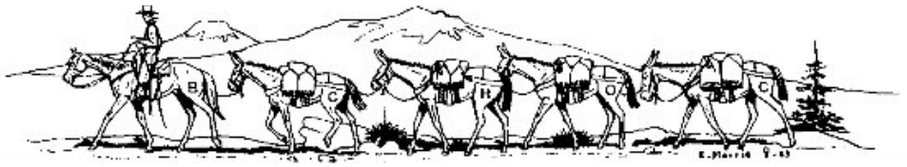
MICHAEL MURPHY
EQUINE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT CONSULTING

michaelmurphyhomesandland.com
PO Box 2705
Sebastopol, CA 95473
m_murphy@sonic.net
ph 707 332-1195
fax 707 823-8311

MEMBERSHIP



BCHC VP of Membership
Chip Herzig



MEMBERSHIP

We're making progress and recovering from our three-month losses at the start of this year. The Excel file shows where we are doing good and also points out areas we could improve on.

So, take a look and think about what to do to improve our numbers.

Thanks!
Chip

Unit	Members	Associate	Benefactor	Club	Family	Individual	Lifetime	Mt Whitney	Patron	Young Adult
Antelope Valley	65	2	2		21	17		1		
Eastern Sierra	53		3		16	11		1	1	
High Country	37	1	1		9	12			2	1
High Sierra	79	10	2		19	22	1		5	4
Kern River Valley	26	2			9	7				1
Kern Sierra	50	3	5		10	18			1	
Los Padres	124	5	4		31	48		1		4
Manzanita Riders	42	1	1		9	20			1	
Mid Valley	318	18	8		97	91	1	1	6	2
Mother Lode	189	17	4	1	50	67			1	12
North Bay	74	2	2		21	28				
Redshank Riders	70	3			23	22		1		
Redwood	103	2	3		28	41				
San Joaquin Sierra	129	11	4		38	33				12
Santa Ana River	53	4			20	13				
Sequoia	35	6			10	8			3	1
Shasta Trinity	134	8	1		38	47	1	1	2	2
Sierra Freepackers	37	6			15	7				
Sutter Buttes	42	1	2		8	20			1	
Top of the State	81		1		26	26				1
Totals	**1741**	**102**	**43**	**1**	**498**	**558**	**3**	**6**	**23**	**40**

GOOD NEWS!

Our new Stripe payment system accepts all major debit and credit cards. Find it on the BCHC website Membership page.

The Auto Renew function makes renewing your BCHC membership easy! Once you turn it on, your credit card will be charged automatically when your membership is due for renewal. (You may turn it off at any time.)

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

The booklet titled "Membership Development" produced by BCHWashington is an excellent resource. You can find this document on the Back Country Horsemen of America website at bcha.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/BCHWA-Membership-Development-handbook.pdf. Other valuable resources may be found at bchcalifornia.org/documents-forms/Membership.

PUBLIC LANDS



VP of Public Lands
Richard (Dick) Cochran

STATE LEVEL PUBLIC LANDS ISSUES IN 2026

I participated in two video conferences in which BCHA Director of Public Lands and Recreation, Randy Rasmussen, elaborated upon the written objections he had submitted on behalf of BCHA and BCHC regarding Tahoe National Forest's (TNF) continuing efforts to expand E-bike use on an additional 143 miles of trails in TNF. The hearing officer has not yet made a decision about the objections that Randy Rasmussen filed in writing.

I also participated in efforts, along with Gary Paul of the Sutter Buttes Unit, to realign the Colby Mountain Recreation Project in Lassen National Forest (LNF) which had been commandeered in its early stages by a local mountain biking group, to make the future improvements for the project, truly safe and inviting for equestrians. The multi-use description of the overall project was misleading and needs to be re-thought and realigned. Kristin Cooper, the owner of a local riding stable and a BCHC member, is the formidable advocate for making the project truly equestrian friendly.

The matter which has consumed an enormous amount of time is the Little Whitney Meadow tourist pasture fence matter in Inyo National Forest (INF) and, more specifically, in the Golden Trout Wilderness (GTW). BCHC members started calling me in the spring of 2026 to alert me to a potential removal or modification of the tourist pasture fence beginning on July 23, 2026. An interest group was soliciting for volunteers on its website, and it stated the project was supported by INF.

In the course of our investigation, we learned that INF was on a campaign to remove fencing in the GTW, having removed fencing, with the help of the interest group, at about five different meadows over the previous five years.

BCHC and Tulare County Supervisor Dennis Townsend asked that the fence removal or modification project be postponed so we could understand the legal basis for the project, but we were rebuffed.

With the approval of the BCHC Executive Committee, I asked for authority to engage legal counsel which was granted. Legal counsel prepared a lawsuit which requested a restraining order, along with other remedies, to stop the project and legal counsel notified the United States Forest Service (USFS) of our intent to file suit, if it did not agree to postpone the project. On the same day that legal counsel sent the email to all levels of the USFS which threatened legal action, our legal counsel received a reply from the Regional Forester of the USFS in which she said the project would be "paused" and she invited legal counsel and BCHC members to engage in discussions about what had gotten us to this point in our relations. That discussion, in a video conference, took place on July 22, 2026, the day before work on the project was to have commenced.

I also participated in a planning meeting for the upcoming California Trails and Greenways Conference in Santa Barbara scheduled to take place from April 19 through April 22, 2027. Michael Murphy from North Bay Unit and current BCHC President Doug Dollarhide had participated in this event in 2025 when it was held in San Ramon, California, and Michael Murphy expects to participate in the Santa Barbara event with help from the Los Padres Unit.

I also forwarded to BCHC units materials received from BCHA about the efforts of the current administration in Washington, D.C., to rewrite the current roadless rule as well as the current travel management plan used by the United States Forest Service. BCHA did a masterful job of putting together a Quick Reference Guide to enable BCHA member states and local units/chapters for making comments on both matters.



"HIKE THE HILL"

is a reference to an effort by BCHA, together with like-minded organizations, to lobby the federal government and elected federal officials, regarding matters of importance to BCHA and to the member states of BCHA.

Each year, Randy Rasmussen, the BCHA Director of Public Lands and Recreation, usually in the company of the Chair of BCHA, travel to Washington, D.C., to engage in the effort to persuade federal government officials and elected representatives and their staff to consider our viewpoints on a variety of public lands related matters.

The BCHC Board of Directors has decided to defray most of the expenses of a BCHC member who is selected to participate in 2027. The desirable qualifications of the person who is selected to participate together with an application form and a cover page which gives the deadline of December 31, 2026, as well as the email address to which the application form must be sent can be found on the BCHC website under Documents and Forms.

The chosen applicant need not be nominated by his or her unit. An interested applicant should carefully review the required qualifications and desirable qualifications and the expense reimbursement policy before making application.

The completed application should be emailed to richardcochran003@gmail.com by December 31, 2026.

PUBLIC LANDS

PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM ANNOUNCES PROJECTS FUNDED BY REI'S DONATION OF $1 MILLION

Submitted by Lucy Badenhoop. Article by Nora Kline, Communications Manager, Partnership for the National Trails System

ABOUT PARTNERSHIP FOR THE NATIONAL TRAILS SYSTEM

For nearly three decades, the Partnership for the National Trails System (PNTS) has been a collective voice, a resource provider, a convener and a hub for exchange, learning, and action for the National Trails System. As the only 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization focused on the 32 National Scenic and Historic Trails (NSHT), PNTS brings together professionals, leaders and trail and hiking enthusiasts to promote a thriving and accessible National Trails System for all. *Find out more at pnts.org*

ABOUT THE REI CO-OP

REI is a specialty outdoor retailer, headquartered near Seattle, Washington. The nation's largest consumer co-op, REI is a growing community of 26 million members who expect and love the best quality gear and outstanding customer service. In addition to the co-op's many stores across the country, outdoor enthusiasts can shop at REI.com, REI Outlet or the REI shopping app. Everyone is welcome to shop REI, but members who join the co-op enjoy a range of benefits. REI is a purpose-driven and values-led company dedicated to enabling life outside for all.

WASHINGTON, D.C., October 16, 2026 – REI's historic donation of $1 million invested in 29 of the 32 National Historic and Scenic Trails. $500,000 of this donation will be distributed across three project categories: stewardship, advocacy, and education. REI members and consumers voted on which projects categories they preferred. The percentage of votes represents the percentage of total funding that the projects in these categories will receive based on the vote.

Stewardship – 65%

Anza Trail Foundation, Juan Bautista de Anza NHT - Interpretive signage projects along the Upper Salinas watershed

Appalachian Trail Conservancy, Appalachian NST - Upgrade of the educational exhibit at the Appalachian Trail Visitor Center in Harper's Ferry

Back Country Horsemen of America, Continental Divide NST and Arizona NST - Clearing of downed trees on 25 miles of the Continental Divide NST. Transport of supplies for volunteer work on the Arizona NST

Connecticut Forest and Park Association, New England NST - Development of a new primitive campsite featuring raised tent platforms and a moldering privy

El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT Association, El Camino Real de los Tejas NHT - Stewardship work at Lobanillo Swales, Floresville, and Racheria Grande

Ice Age Trail Alliance, Ice Age NST - Trailblazers youth program will perform trail stewardship duties to remove debris and prep the trail for the summer season

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, Iditarod NHT - Mapping the Iditarod Trail in Knik

Lewis & Clark Trail Alliance, Lewis and Clark NHT and Nez Perce NHT - Lolo Reconnected - two trail efforts to restore and reconnect 100 miles of the Lolo Trail between Weippe, Idaho and Traveler's Rest, Montana.

Lewis & Clark Trust, Lewis and Clark NHT - Katy Trail (248 miles) will be captured in 360 degree camera systems mounted on bicycles.

North Country Trail Association, North Country NST - Essential trail repairs that will mitigate the snowball effect of extreme weather & heavy use.

Oregon-California Trail Association, Oregon NHT and California NHT - Creation of a Donner Party in Mexico Kiosk at the Lake Point Emigrant Trails Park. Improvements to Alcove Spring Park in Northwest Kansas.

Pacific Northwest Trail Association, Pacific Northwest NST - Conservation Corps program for essential trail maintenance.

Advocacy – 26%

American Hiking Society - Training for organizations and volunteers on trail advocacy.

Appalachian Mountain Club, New England NST - Advocacy to protect the Land and Water Conservation Fund

Arizona Trail Association, Arizona NST - Training for trail advocates and volunteers.

Continental Divide Trail Coalition, Continental Divide NST - Tribal Fellowship Program that cultivates the next generation of trail leaders.

Florida Trail Association, Florida NST - Stateside advocacy campaign to bring awareness of the trail to the public.

Pacific Crest Trail Association, Pacific Crest NST - Trail Runner program that offers support to hikers on the trail; educates them about the trail and policies.

Washington Trail Association - Sending staff and volunteers to DC to advocate for trail issues.

National Mormon Trails Association, Mormon Pioneer NHT - Sending interns to DC for Hike the Hill® to learn how to advocate for trails and public lands

Trail of Tears Association, Trail of Tears NHT - Youth bike ride with stops for education and advocacy opportunities along the route

Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route Association, Washington Rochambeau Revolutionary Route NHT - Victory Towns map with recreational opportunity links to trail assets.

For the Education and Trail Apprenticeship awards, see https://pnts.org/news/partnership-national-trails-system-announces-projects-funded-reis-donation-1-million

EDUCATION



BCHC Co-VP of Education
Ruthie Heuer



BCHC Co-VP of Education
Denise Robinson

STATE EDUCATION MEETING MINUTES

October 10, 2026

Call to Order: Denise
Time: 0945
Meeting Minutes – approved as posted
1st: Anna B. 2nd: Sherry J.

Old Business

Rendezvous: skipping 2027 and will be at Diamond Bar in Ceres, CA, in 2028

Pin Program: What can we do for 2027? Brainstorm some ideas and let Ruthie and Denise know

Sawyer Program: A lot of people throughout the state are becoming certified, and more to come

Grants/Intern Program: Lucy is now receiving checks for the intern program; get your 2027 pledges now; the application was updated to meet the needs of the USFS and BCHC. The app will be available on our website when we start accepting applications. We are looking into a new payroll system, so please let us know if you have any thoughts. The 2026 intern has been doing well and is currently very busy.

Mule Days: Outreach table next to the state booth. The booth was successful; we gave away 175 items. We gave them to kids and adults who participated in questions and other learning activities.

Master/Wilderness Riders: The class was held in April for 5 days; turnout was very good. Next class will be in 2028. Also need a sub-committee for Wilderness Riders, so if anyone is interested, let Ruthie and Denise know. SJ and Anna have both volunteered for the subcommittee.

Wanted Posters: Submit one for review if you would like; Denise has a great one she made using ChatGPT.

New Business

Volunteer Hours Coordinator: Bailey Woods has volunteered to take over for Cindy McMurry

Stock Grazing Flyer: Anna made a great flyer to present to the BOD for a vote at the February meeting; if you would like a copy, please let Anna know.

Vehicle Safety Flyer: Kammi has made a checklist that will be presented at the February meeting for a vote; email her for a copy to present to your units.

Ed. Video Clips: Several videos were sent in; Bailey won 1st place. Would anyone like to take over this? If anyone is interested, let Ruthie and Denise know.

Separate Committee for Master/WR & State Ed. Chair: If anyone would like to be on this alongside Anna and SJ, please let Denise and Ruthie know.

Announcements:

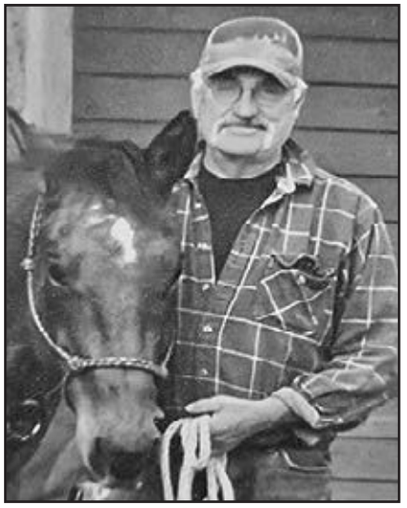
Education Grant Fund: Michelle M. asked for guidelines; do's and don't, when submitting an application to the Education Grant Fund.. We will look into posting tips on the website.

Ed. Awards are due Feb 1st

Updated Flyers on the website

Retirement: Dec 2027 for Ruthie & Denise

Assistance: Mike K and SJ Term ends 2028 (Steering Committee)



Dan Chartier
BCHC Saw Program Manager

BCHC SAW PROGRAM MADE HUGE LEAP FORWARD IN 2026

The BCHC Saw Program made a huge leap forward in 2026. There has been a lot of good trail work done by our BCHC members this year. Several saw certified members have put together trail work parties with their stock packing their equipment, clearing trails with crosscut and chainsaws. Other members who are not certified have fit into these groups to tend to stock and help with trail clearing. The best part is there have been no reported injuries (that I have heard of).

In 2026, we were able to certify through USFS Jason Murieen, Region 5 Saw Program Lead, four of our members to Chainsaw Evaluators. We now have over 100 current saw certified members at all levels, crosscut and chainsaw, but more importantly four sawyers were upgraded from the "C Bucker" to the "Evaluator Bucker" level. We now have six Chainsaw Evaluators and four Crosscut Evaluators for BCHC. Under the R-5 saw training, Evaluators are a level above "C" Bucker for training purposes and can conduct sawyer classes.

USFS Region-5 is still going through reorganization, still not knowing exactly what the outcome will be. It is pretty sure there will be no changes at our level - the required training will remain the same. "The Thinking Sawyer" is the mandated sawyer curriculum required by the USDA/USFS for both crosscut and chainsaw training for BCHC. BCHC members who attend these classes will receive a USDA Sawyer Certification card signed by the R-5 lead and are entered into the USDA/USFS database, which makes that certification good anywhere in the US on USFS/USDA land. The card is good for three years and is for "Bucking Only". If any member chooses not to go through the required saw training, and works without a Volunteer Agreement, and unfortunately has a saw accident while on USDA/USFS land, it is totally their responsibility for any injury to themselves or another member.

With Saw Evaluators spread throughout the state, each BCHC unit should be in close travel proximity for saw training. Each Evaluator will be offering saw classes in the spring of 2027. Please contact me via email for more information on these upcoming classes.

Thanks!

EDUCATION



AMPLIFYING THE MISSION: WHY SOCIAL MEDIA REACH MATTERS FOR BCHC

By Anna Baglione

For modern nonprofit organizations, fulfilling a core mission requires more than just dedicated boots on the ground—it requires a continuous fight for awareness, and getting the word out there. While direct volunteer service delivery remains the beating heart of nonprofit work, social media has become its primary voice.

Expanding the Supporter and Donor Pipeline

Every donor, monthly sustainer, or active volunteer begins as someone who simply learned that an organization exists. Social media reach expands this.

- **Discoverability Beyond Local Boundaries:** Natural and shared reach allows regional or specialized nonprofits like BCHC to find passionate advocates up and down the state of California—or across the country—who align with their cause. (See PCTA, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers or AQHA social media for reference!)
- **Diversifying Donor Demographics:** Younger demographics (Gen Z and Millennials) overwhelmingly discover charitable causes through social feeds rather than traditional mailers or email newsletters. Maximizing reach on platforms like Instagram, LinkedIn, and video platforms ensures nonprofits stay relevant to future philanthropic generations.

Driving Cost-Effective Advocacy and Mobilization

Traditional public awareness campaigns such as billboards, print media, or television ads carry significant financial barriers. Social media offers unprecedented efficiency in reaching thousands of targeted community members at a fraction of the cost. Think about the idea of thousands of people a day seeing what your unit is up to.

- **Rapid Event & Urgent Alert Mobilization:** Whether recruiting volunteers for a trail restoration project or gathering public comments for public lands policy, high social reach enables rapid mobilization when timing is critical.
- **Educational Impact:** For organizations focused on public lands, environmental stewardship, or education, social media reach is part of the mission fulfillment. Delivering clear, actionable information to tens of thousands of feeds directly achieves educational goals.

Building Credibility for Grants

Institutional funders, donors, and grant makers increasingly look at a nonprofit's public presence before awarding capital. As we have seen with BCHC's Intern Program, the grant makers want to know how the interns are doing and where they end up! They have even asked the Grant Committee to put together stories about all of our past interns. They use this information to justify giving us grants.

A robust digital presence provides tangible proof of community trust and influence for younger generations. When an organization's statistics show consistent, wide-reaching engagement, sponsors see a partnership opportunity that delivers mutual visibility, making grant or sponsorship requests significantly more compelling.

Key Strategies to Safely Expand Reach

To increase social media reach without inflated advertising budgets, nonprofits can apply targeted strategies:

- **Short-Form Video:** Social media algorithms prioritize short, authentic video updates showing on-the-ground action, behind-the-scenes work, or quick impact stories. Last summer, I recorded one of our days of packing up our commercial stock camp. That video was viewed thousands of times!
- **Encourage Member & Volunteer Sharing:** When members tag BCHC in their personal posts, your reach naturally leaks into authentic, trusted networks that algorithms favor over pure brand posts (aka the people you know!)
- **Cross-Sector Collaboration:** Partnering with complementary organizations, local businesses, or public agencies for co-branded posts exposes your mission directly to established, sympathetic audiences. We already partner with so many agencies in the real world. Social media is another way to show our current partners and possible future partners what we are up to.
- **Consistent Storytelling over Sales Pitches:** Content focused on tangible outcomes like clearing a trail or opening a new horse camp, and showcasing the educational value a clinic may offer garner higher shareability than constant, direct donation asks. Even just posting a few pictures every time your unit does something fun can reach a large audience.

I know that at the state level and the local unit level, we have struggled with social media when the "administrator" leaves the organization and doesn't hand over the credentials and login for the social media accounts to the continuing active members of their units. This can seem like an unavoidable pitfall which is something I am figuring out in my own unit. We created a unique email address for the unit, and we have tied our social media accounts to that email. The credentials and login for the email are stored in our unit files to be passed on to anyone who needs them. Good recordkeeping and follow up is key here. How do you think large companies like Ariat, Justin Boots or Cowgirl Magazine maintain their social media with folks cycling in and out of their marketing offices? It can be done!

Social media reach should not be pursued as an end in itself but should be recognized as an indispensable catalyst. By treating digital reach through social media as the entry point for real-world relationship building, nonprofit organizations can amplify their mission, build lasting financial resilience, and create measurable, lasting change in the communities they serve.

BCHC NEWS



MEET BAILEY WOODS, BCHC'S NEW VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS COORDINATOR

Horses, mules, and the backcountry have been a part of my life for as long as I can remember. I grew up in a family deeply involved with Backcountry Horsemen of California. With my mom, stepdad, grandmother, brother, and aunt all being members, you could say BCHC runs in the family! I've been an official member since 2002, but my roots in the organization go back to my earliest childhood memories.

I started going on backcountry pack trips when I was just 7 or 8 years old, and some of my favorite memories were made in the saddle, miles from civilization. Growing up around horses, mules, and packing, along with my involvement in 4-H and FFA, taught me the importance of hard work, responsibility, good horsemanship, and preserving the traditions that have been passed down through generations. I also learned pretty early that a mule usually has an opinion about everything, whether you asked for it or not!

Today, I proudly serve my BCHC unit as State Director, Co-Education Chair, and Newsletter Editor. After more than two decades of membership, I enjoy giving back to an organization that has played such a big role in my life. I'm especially passionate about education, getting younger generations involved, and keeping the knowledge and traditions of backcountry packing alive.

Now that I'm a mom, those traditions mean even more to me. I'm raising my daughter around the same horses, mules, dusty trails, and packing adventures that shaped my own childhood. I hope she grows up with the same love for the outdoors, appreciation for our public lands, and sense of adventure that my family instilled in me.

As for me, I'm a little bit of everything. I can be quiet and reserved, but I'm also not afraid to speak my mind, throw in a sarcastic comment, or laugh at myself. I believe in working hard, helping others, and enjoying the little things in life.

To me, Backcountry Horsemen is more than just an organization. It's family, lifelong friendships, unforgettable adventures, and a way of life worth preserving. I'm proud to carry on my family's traditions and hope to help create those same opportunities for future generations.

After all, some of life's best stories start with a dusty trail, a stubborn mule, and someone saying, "Well, this ought to be interesting!"



THANK YOU, CINDY!

BCHC sincerely thanks Cindy McMurry for her years as 1st Vice President (Volunteer Service). We appreciate Cindy's dedication to collecting hours, compiling accurate reports and encouraging increasing participation in BCHC.

Our best regards to Cindy as she continues her very active participation in High Country Unit and works alongside Shasta Trinity and Top of the State members to keep trails open for all.

UPCOMING DEADLINES

January 1 - Volunteer Service Hours Reports due to Bailey Woods, Volunteer Service Hours Coordinator. Email to: Bwalker.dboranch@hotmail.com

February 1 - Ann Lange Public Lands Award and Ben York Trailblazer Award nominations due to VP of Public Lands Dick Cochran. Email to: richardcochran003@gmail.com.

February 1 - Education Awards, both Unit and Individual, nominations due to Co-VPs of Education. Email to: Denise Robinson @ robnden76@gmail.com and rmheuer@gmail.com

February 1 –Max & Irene Cochran Journalism Award entries due to CJ Hargreaves. Mail paper copies of all 2026 unit newsletters to: 2526 Carpenter Rd SE, Olympia, WA 98503

February 1 – Unit Presidents, email your choice for Top Hand Award to BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner @ lynnjoiner7@gmail.com

February 28* – Unit Financial Statement for the past year due to BCHC Treasurer Lynn Joiner Email to: lynnjoiner7@gmail.com

February 28* – Annual Unit Report that includes all events the unit participated in during the previous year. Email to Co-Secretary Anna Baglione: easternsierrabch@gmail.com

(See the BCHC Leadership Training and Resource Manual for more details)

BCHA: DEDICATED TO KEEPING TRAILS OPEN FOR EVERYONE

Submitted by Randy Hackbarth, BCHA National Director plus some an excerpt from BCHA's October 2026 Update.

The National BOD Conference will be held in Kansas City, Missouri, again this year. Dates are April 11-14, 2027. Embassy Suites International Airport, Kansas City, MO.

For room discounts, reservation deadline is March 19, 2027.

.....

The BCHA Education Committee is working on getting **educational videos** on the BCHA website.

.....

BCHA has a new orange Trails tab at the center top of the its Home page. Click and you will discover TRAILS NEAR YOU, horseback riding trails, public lands resources, and state unit/chapter trail guides across America. Scroll down and you will find an interactive U.S. map. Click on any state to view local horseback riding trails, unit/chapter resources, and riding guides. States highlighted in green feature active BCHA trail information. Beyond that are several popular equestrian trail directories, mobile applications, and state-by-state riding guides curated by BCHA's partners and fellow equestrian trail organizations. If you know of an app, interactive map, or website in your state that offers information on horse trails, let you can let BCHA know so members can connect.

America the Beautiful Foundation

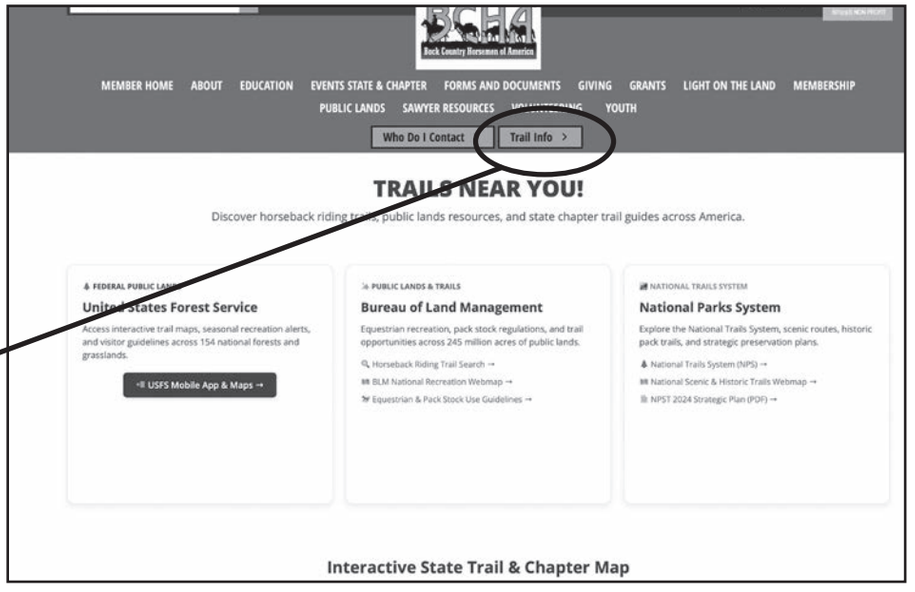
New Grant Opportunity for BCHA States and Chapters!

No Partner Match Required, Partner Leveraging Encouraged

A new national foundation recently was stood up, the America the Beautiful Foundation (ATBF). They will soon offer grants for partners willing to restore trails throughout the National Forest System, with Trail Restoration grants ranging from $5,000 to $250,000 for eligible non-profits, with an expected average of $50,000 per trail.

ATBF has secured $12.5 million in private funding for the current grant cycle and expects more funding in future years. They would like to award grant funding for project implementation this summer with a completion date of December 31, 2027.

According to the ABF website (americathebeautifulfoundation.org/grants), they have paused accepting applications while working to process the 100+ grant applications received before the July 26, 2026, initial deadline. ABF anticipates opening a subsequent round of funding after they have addressed the first round of applications.



BCHA Partners:

THANK YOU, 2026 RENDEZVOUS SPONSORS!

$2,500 Gold Sponsor

Jamie & Kevin
Cimoli
Owners/Publishers

(209) 675-7636

LOCALLY OWNED & FAMILY OPERATED

City Direct, Inc.

TURLOCK DIRECT • MODESTO DIRECT • OAKDALE-RIVERBANK DIRECT

OVER 94,000 MAILBOXES - EVERY MONTH







ALSO SUPPORTING NON-PROFITS WITH PROGRAM DESIGN AND PUBLISHING.







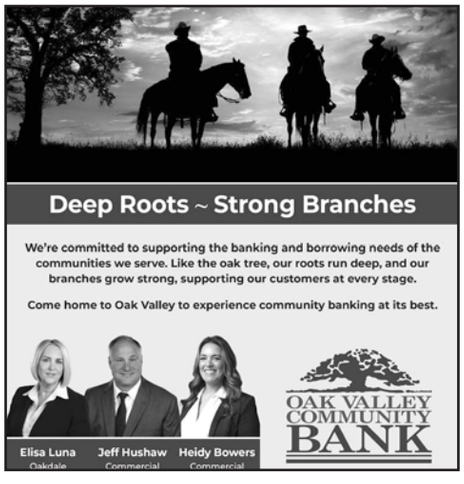
Graphic design and layout for this program by Jamie Cimoli of City Direct, Inc.
c: 209.613.7352 CityDirectInc.com

$200 Sponsor

Dennis Wetherington, Mid Valley Unit

$250 Aluminum Sponsors







THANK YOU, 2026 RENDEZVOUS SPONSORS!

$1,500 Silver Sponsor



$1,000 Silver Sponsor



$2,500 Gold Sponsor

From Terri Arington in memory of her late husband, Ron Arington.

If you're lucky enough to be in the mountains, you're lucky enough."



THANK YOU, 2026 RENDEZVOUS SPONSORS!

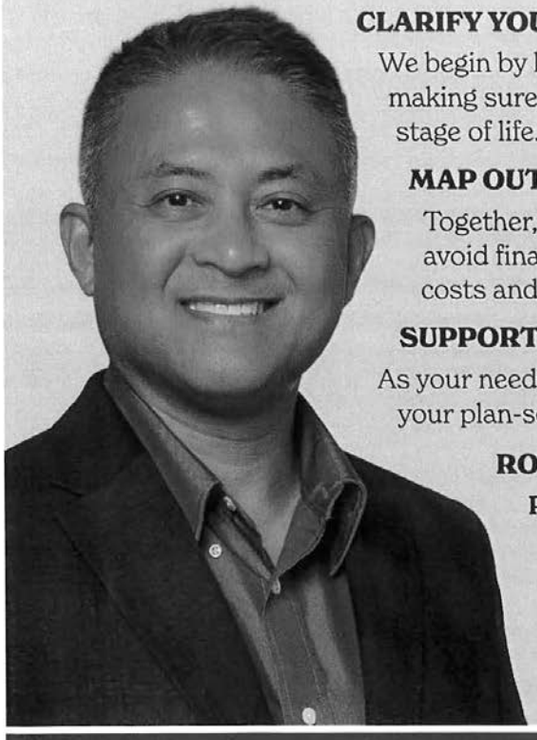
BCHC sincerely thanks the 2026 Rendezvous sponsors for their generous support.
Please visit and support these businesses when you have the opportunity.

$2,500 Gold Sponsor

Journey
WEALTH MANAGEMENT, LLC

WealthWize Way
Confidence for Life's Next Chapter

The journey to financial confidence continues as you are in or transitioning to a senior living community. Our WealthWize Way process helps you plan for key areas like income, healthcare, and legacy with clarity and care.



CLARIFY YOUR VISION
We begin by learning about your goals and concerns, making sure we're the right fit to support this new stage of life.

MAP OUT YOUR PLAN
Together, we build a personalized strategy to help you avoid financial missteps and prepare for the unique costs and opportunities of senior living.

SUPPORT YOUR JOURNEY
As your needs evolve, we're here to adjust and support your plan-so you can move forward with peace of mind.

ROY GAGAZA, CEP®, RFC™
President, CEO, Financial Professional
Manteca, CA Office
Phone: 209-825-8888
Fax: 209-825-9955
903 W. Center St., Suite 7,
Manteca, CA 95337

JOURNEYWLTHMANAGEMENT.COM

Roy Gagaza,CEP, RFC, President, CEO, Financial Prof'l
Phone: 209-825-8888
903 W. Center St., Suite 7, Manteca CA 95337

$500 Copper Sponsor

Del Rio
DEL RIO NUT COMPANY
Grower Processor Shipper
California Almonds
Livingston, California
www.delrionut.com
PROUD SUPPORTER OF
Backcountry Horsemen of California

$100 Stainless Steel Sponsors



F&M BANK

Ken R. Olds
Senior Vice President
Hilmar Market Manager

o 209-664-5438
c 209-251-3532
f 209-632-0200
kolds@fmbonline.com

19925 W. First Street
P.O. Box 759
Hilmar, CA 95324

UNFORGETTABLE EXPERIENCE IN THE TRINITY ALPS WILDERNESS

WHO IS AUDREY CHAMPLIN?

This journal-type article was written by Audrey Champlin, one of Top of the State Unit's young teen members, about her experience participating in the Ascend Wilderness Experience Stewardship & Stockmanship Teen Internship in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. In August 2026, AWE partnered with BCHC packer Sam Burrows (Shasta Trinity Unit) for this trip. Aubrey was one of Top of the State's youth packers who competed in the Youth Packing Competition at 2025 Rendezvous. She has continued her packing education since then. Audrey is pictured standing with the mule and with the crosscut saw on the far side of the log. Thanks to Sam Burrows for the photographs.

My name is **Aubrey Champlin**, and I had the pleasure of attending a week of stockmanship/stewardship in the Trinity Alps Wilderness with Ascend Wilderness Experience.

Ascend is a program to get teens out of the house, off of technology, and into the beautiful nature that surrounds us. Ascend offers many camps, including field science, teen trail crew, stewardship weekend, and stockman/stewardship. They also offer backpacking trips for adults and youth.

Ascend is a great program for any kid. It is a great opportunity to learn, meet new people, grow as an independent and a leader, and enjoy the outdoors. I'm glad we were able to partner up with Backcountry Horsemen to pack in tools and camp. To me, BCH is a great organization to keep the wilderness open to the public and keep our beautiful high mountain lakes accessible. I want to recognize Sam Burrows for staying the whole time up there, teaching us, working with us, and keeping up with all our craziness.

On my trip with Ascend, we cleared trail to Doe Lake. Our routine every day was: wake up at 7 a.m., get dressed, eat breakfast, make lunch, fill water filters, bottles, and bladders, gather tools, stretch, and head out at 8. From there, we would work till 4 p.m. Every day we would go to Stoddard; Stoddard was a closer lake to camp than Doe Lake. After the lake, we would go back to camp at 6, get changed into our pajamas, start a fire and eat dinner. While all the kids were at the lake, our guides Matt and Mar would start dinner.

On our first day of work, we cleared brush and had lunch at 12-ish. On our second day of work, we started crosscutting. That day we cut about 15 trees. On the third day, we had no work; it was our rest day. That morning, we were able to sleep in; it was a slow morning, after everyone had breakfast, we got ready for the lake and made lunch. We rode Sam's mule, Immajean, then hiked up to Stoddard and hung out there all day and came back to camp at 6 to have dinner. At the lake, everyone had fun. Travis tried fishing - no bites; Matt was trying to teach Jack how to properly butterfly swim; Evalynn found a log to read on and lay out in the sun; Mika, Fiona, and Arturo hung out on the other side of the lake, and Jack, Roman, and I were throwing rocks in the lake and having fun.

On our third day of work, we cleared about 46 trees. Two of those trees were "trouble" logs. The first tree was almost 4-feet in diameter, give or take. On that log, it took about three hours to prep it to make it safe to cut, including cribbing (supporting the log so it doesn't bind), delimbing, and debarking. After that, we had lunch and got back to work. We finally started cutting it. The cutting probably took another hour. After we were done with that, we continued and cleared many more trees. After we got to a dry



meadow, we decided to call it a day.

Although some of us did decide to hike all the way up to Doe. We used that hike to scout to see what we had to do the next day; unfortunately, we would've needed another week to clear the rest. On our last day of work, we decided to go to the stock camp on the far side of Stoddard and clear out the campground and trail to the camp.

At camp, every night we would have a campfire. At that campfire we would play games, whether that be a card game or a game as a group. I taught Roman how to play golf (a card game) and Spite and Malice (also card games). As a group, we played Mafia. A couple of nights we had hot cocoa, and others we had Oreos, and on our last night we had s'mores. My favorite part of the day was always the campfire.

On the very last day we woke up, broke down camp, ate breakfast, packed up, and started hiking out. On the way out, we were all tired, but you could tell we all had fun. After we got into town, we dropped off all our stuff at the office in Weaverville, put back all our tools, and ordered pizza at Brick's Pizza. After pizza, we went to Northstar to get ice cream, then walked back to the office and hung out till our parents picked us up one by one.

That week was such a great experience that I hope any kid who gets the chance can enjoy it as I did. I definitely want to go again next year. A special thanks to Ascend Wilderness Experience and Backcountry Horsemen.

ABOUT ASCEND WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE

Mission:
Ascend is a non-profit dedicated to providing experiences that empower youth, adults, families and organizations to move toward personal growth, development, overcoming limitations and deep appreciation of humanity and the natural environment.

Vision Statement:
We provide opportunities for enhanced awareness of and connection to self, others, community and environment through wilderness adventures, environmental education programs and stewardship.



OTHER NEWS

CALIFORNIA TRAILS AND GREENWAYS CONFERENCE

By Michael Murphy

Recently a BCHC member asked me, “Why should BCHC get involved in this event?” I told him to think about it and get back to me. Well, I haven’t heard back from him so I will explain why it is so important for OUR organization not only to get involved but to be an educator and an information expert at the conference.

California Trails and Greenways represents a singular opportunity to reach decision makers from the trails profession which include federal, state, local and regional recreation providers, non-profits, public and private land managers, policy makers, design and architectural firms, maintenance supervisors, builders, interpreters and environmental educators, software developers, equipment operators and manufacturers, and many more.

Remember that one must go through the front country first to be able to get to the back country. As equestrians we are in a minority when it comes to outdoor recreation. If we isolate ourselves from the rest of the outdoor community, then we cannot expect to get the benefits we require to enjoy being in the backcountry on an animal and experience the exhilaration of being directly part of nature.

The California Trails and Greenways Conference, celebrating 42 consecutive years in 2027, is an opportunity to attend and participate in one of the longest running and most successful trails trainings in the country. Over 350 trail professionals and stewards gather to participate in workshops, gain knowledge from over 80 session presenters, and learn about the latest trail products, trends, and technology.



Michael Murphy
CENTURY 21 EPIC
Realtor®
DRE #01299702

M: 707-332-1195 O: 707-824-3012
michaelmurphyhomesandland.com
m_murphy@sonic.net

7345 Healdsburg Ave
Sebastopol CA, 95472

The 2027 Conference will be held April 19-23, 2027, at the Hilton Santa Barbara Beachfront Resort in Santa Barbara, California. The workshops and presentations will be Tuesday and Wednesday. Last year now-BCHC President Doug Dollarhide did a packing demonstration with two live mules, then let the students practice on iron mules. The mules were LOVED! I did a “Leave No Trace” talk about the seventh principle, “Getting along with fellow park users through a horse’s eyes.” This information needs to be spread throughout the outdoor recreation community. I do not know any other group capable of doing this task.

UNIT NEWS

LOS PADRES UNIT:

MEMBERS TURN SUMMER INTO A SEASON OF ACTION AND ADVENTURE

By Jennifer Best, Los Padres Unit President

Member wishes are leadership’s commands at BCHC-Los Padres where we filled the summer with activities, action, even a tour of Cal Poly’s Oppenheimer Family Equine Center. Members showed up in person and in writing regarding a variety of issues including: the Roadless Rule, the future of Diablo Canyon lands, Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo counties’ future Recreation Master Plans, proposed rental fees imposed by Earl Warren Showgrounds on Santa Barbara (County) Equine Evac, and they showed up for a packing clinic, camp trips, trail reconnaissance and trail work from the Central Coast to the west side of the Central Sierra.

In August, Los Padres member and Live Oak Trail Committee Chair, Kathy Rosenthal provided a history of the Live Oak Trail in Santa Barbara County, its current situation, needs, and possible reestablishment of camping facilities at the trailhead. Together with Santa Ynez Valley Riders Equestrian Trails Alliance, we’re seeking fence installers who may offer a discount or donate their services (materials are already secured for oil pipe fencing). If you have a prospect, please email Kathy at info@santaynezvalleyriders.org.

In September, long-time BCHC member Lou Moore Jacobsen led the unit on a tour of Cal Poly’s Oppenheimer Family Equine Center. Members enjoyed a potluck and lively meeting before Lou walked and talked us through the breeding lab, foaling barn, stallion barn, student horse barn, with a nod to the campus’s more than 150 acres of pastureland specifically designated for the unit.

Volunteers continued work on the Sapwi Trail under construction in Santa Margarita Lake County Park, took part in the Atascadero River & Creek Cleanup, and the Montaña de Oro State Park trail work efforts in advance of the October 8-12 Coast Mounted Assistance Annual Fundraiser Poker Ride.

Some members traveled clear to BCHC-San Joaquin/Sierra Unit-managed facilities Shaver Lake Horse Camp in August for pack clinic and trail rides, and Sequoia National Forest Big Meadow Horse Camp to close out September.

Everyone’s welcome to join Los Padres Unit, December 16 at 5:30 p.m., in Nipomo for our Holiday Shindig. $25/person gets you dinner, dancing and access to a silent auction. Contact marianne.lospadresbchc@gmail.com for tickets, details or to sponsor/donate auction items.

To keep up with our unit, visit us on Facebook @BCHCLP where Social Media Director Samantha Huston is doing a fabulously artful job keeping the community informed and welcomed.

UNIT NEWS

SANTA ANA RIVER UNIT:

BEACH MEADOWS GETS HELPING HAND

By Carol Kelly

Santa Ana River Unit spent some time at Beach Meadows again this year. In early July we spent a week riding the trails and enjoying the great company of many of our members. We met with Ranger Bob and discussed the needs of the campground and pasture. It was very evident that Beach Meadows was on his radar! While we were there, he had people oiling the cabin, weed eating, and clearing trees that had come down or been felled. We were able to assist by rebuilding a hitching post that had rotted out and cleaning up a bunch of the wood that was scattered about. We were so encouraged that we planned a second trip to come back up and work.

Late August, we returned to Beach Meadows with a couple of projects in mind. The first task was to make more corrals available for those who do not want to turn their horses out to pasture. We brought up eight more corral panels and reconfigured two of the large corrals into five good-sized corrals. Now there are a total of eight corrals available for horses.

There is still the issue of having to transport water from the spigot at the pasture up to the corrals. We found that if we used a very long hose, we had enough pressure to get water close by. (Just keep in mind if you use the corrals instead of the pasture, a bucket dolly would come in handy.)

Our second project accomplished on our return trip was moving the back catch pen fence up out of the soggy mud to higher ground. The fencing had become quite dilapidated, and horses could escape if they put forth any effort to do so. We removed the old wire and what posts we could. (A later group came and finished removing the posts and filling in the holes.) Then we reset the posts and strung new wire. We are so thankful to Bob and his crew who helped make this happen! It was such a pleasure working with them! We are hoping to come back up next year to finish the front section of the fence.







DEADLINE

FOR WINTER 2027 EDITION

of the Backcountry News is:

JANUARY 15, 2027

Send submissions to: BCHC Editor at

cjohargreaves@gmail.com

UNIT NEWS

HIGH SIERRA UNIT:

CEDAR GROVE STOCK CAMP OPEN FOR USE

Submitted by Bob Herrick

Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks invite stock users to enjoy the park by staying at the recently opened Cedar Grove Stock Camp.

The Cedar Stock Camp, which opened to the public on August 1, 2026, is the third of six facilities to be implemented as part of the Wilderness Stewardship Plan, approved in 2015, which will enhance recreational opportunities for visitors who wish to use horses, mules, llamas, or burros as part of their park experience. The first site to be opened under the plan was the Wolverton Stock Camp in August 2018. “Horseback riding in the mountains is a great way to enjoy the outdoors,” said Woody Smeck, Superintendent of Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in 2018 when Wolverton opened. “We are pleased to provide facilities to accommodate this longstanding and traditional use of the park.”

The High Sierra Unit and the National Park Service had a grand opening for the new facility on August 1, 2026, to introduce the equestrian public to the new camp and all that the area has to offer.

The Cedar Grove Stock Camp is located off Highway180 next to the Cedar Grove Pack Station, on Cedar Lane. From this location trails can be accessed which take you to the Horse Creek Trail, the Deer Cove Trail, Roads End, Granite Basin and beyond along the Rae Lakes Loop.



The camp includes one campsite and one corral. Horses or stock must be present to camp in this site*. The campsite costs $40 per night and reservations are required. Each site holds a maximum of six people and 10 stock, with a maximum of two vehicles per site. The sites each have a picnic table, grill and food storage locker. There are a shared water trough and a porta potty. No trash service is available - all trash and manure must be packed out. You can stay up to seven nights per stay, and 14 nights per season.

Visit the Recreation.gov website and type in Cedar Grove Stock Campsite in the search bar to check available dates. Complete your reservation request, and you are good to go. Come and enjoy Kings Canyon National Park. You will not regret it!

**You are required to have stock animals to camp here. If you reserve a site and do not have stock your reservation will be cancelled with full cancellation fees.*



UNIT NEWS

REDWOOD UNIT:

By Dennis Halligan, Redwood Unit President

The Redwood Unit and individual members took part in a number of events during the last quarter.

Members attended general unit meetings in August and September. Members of the unit were the flagbearers and led the town of Ferndale's 4th of July parade. Our participation in the parade is an annual event and this was the second year where we were asked to lead the parade.

In mid-July, I was asked to participate in a several-day trail clearing project on the Swift Creek trail in the Trinity Alps. The trip was led by Eric Rademacher, the USFS Region 5 Crosscut Saw Supervisor. The Shasta Trinity Unit packed the equipment and supplies for the entire crew 6 miles up the trail to the base camp location. The trail crew then carried their assorted equipment (axes, loppers, silky saws, crosscut saws, etc.) for up to 5 miles from basecamp to the different work areas and back at the end of the day. The Shasta Trinity Unit packed the crew's equipment and supplies out at the end of the week. Thanks to the Shasta Trinity Unit for their support.

Later in July, the Redwood Unit participated in the City of Fortuna's annual Rodeo Parade. Parades include a lot of clamor and commotion from sirens, bells, bands, running and yelling kids, motorcycles, souped-up cars, etc. Although it may seem corny to some folks, participating in parades provides excellent desensitization training for equines and their riders. The Redwood Unit's riders and equines had a fun time with no issues.

In mid-August, the Redwood Unit had a booth at the Humboldt County Fair. The booth included a slideshow, Leave No Trace materials, and several informational pamphlets. Susan Coombs spearheaded this effort. Susan, David Pritchard, and I conducted the set-up and tear down.

In late August, three Redwood Unit members (Mary Moore, Rochelle Halligan, and I) were asked to be safety riders for a North American Trail Riding Conference competition event that was held at Jackson Demonstration State Forest, Mendocino County. The weather was perfect and the scenery beautiful. All equines and riders finished the two-day competition safely.

In mid-September, the Redwood Unit held its annual weekend Camp and Ride at the French Ranch near Ettersburg, Humboldt County. This working ranch is located in the beautiful North Fork Mattole River watershed. Thank you to Marty and Marnie Hobbs for once again hosting this event on their beautiful ranch.

The Redwood Unit held its annual membership campout at the Cuneo Horse Camp in the Humboldt Redwoods State Park during the last week of September. Thirty-five people attended, many of whom competed in the trail poker, horseshoe, corn hole, and/or Dutch oven competitions. There were demonstrations for knot tying, highlining, packing, and equine pulse and respiration. Ten people renewed their memberships and two signed up as new members.

The Redwood Unit is currently soliciting nominations for officers and one-year term Board members. The elections will be held at the November meeting.

Future events include general meetings, officer and Board elections, December Christmas party, and participation in the Ferndale lighted tractor parade.

Best wishes to all.



French Ranch looking north between the ears.



Dutch oven

UNIT NEWS

HIGH COUNTRY, SHASTA TRINITY, SUTTER BUTTES & TOP OF THE STATE UNITS:



Olivia Smutz releases Eagle Lake Trout into Snake Lake, from a past fish plant in the South Warner Wilderness. Photo by Cindy McMurry.

BCHC UNITS' FISH PLANTS IN CARIBOU WILDERNESS RESULT IN HIGHER SUCCESS RATE OF FISH SURVIVING

Article by Robert Karam, CDFW videographer

Creating backcountry fishing opportunities is an important part of California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) mission to support the public's enjoyment of California's natural resources. In CDFW's Northern Region, fisheries staff - including hatchery teams - work together to make this possible. Hatchery teams raise the fish, and biologists identify suitable waters where they can be released to optimize angling opportunities.

Developing these remote fishing destinations is no easy task. For more than 30 years, the Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC), a nonprofit organization, has supported fish planting efforts in the Northern Region. BCHC coordinates volunteer riders and their horse and mule pack teams, which can reach remote waters in difficult terrain and provide a safe, reliable method of transporting fish.

Volunteers also spend days clearing trails ahead of planting trips, ensuring safe access for both people and pack animals. Going above and beyond, chapters from BCHC - including the High Country, Shasta Trinity, Sutter Buttes and Top of the State units - along with the Outfitter's Legacy Project, collaborated with CDFW hatcheries to plant Eagle Lake rainbow trout in lakes across the Caribou, Thousand Lakes and South Warner wilderness areas.

Watch CDFW's informative 13.5-minute YouTube video about the fish plant titled, "Above and Beyond: Supporting Fishing Opportunities in California's Northern Wilderness Areas." There are interviews with BCHC members Sam Burrows (Shasta Trinity) and Cindy McMurry, (High Country). Simply copy and paste the following link in your browser: youtube.com/watch?v=gbdFFDNoA3A

Special thanks also to the Outfitter's Legacy Project (outfitterslegacyproject.org), the Modoc County Fish and Game Commission, Lassen County Fish and Game Commission and the U.S. Forest Service, including staff from the Modoc National Forest. To learn more about CDFW hatcheries, visit wildlife.ca.gov/Hatcheries.

ANTELOPE VALLEY UNIT:



It is with a heavy heart that I pass on to all BCHC units that one of our unit's founding members has passed away. June Frisbey, the wife of Paul Frisbey who passed February 2025, passed September 8, 2026, from cancer. June had a zest for life and participated in many backcountry adventures with her husband Paul. She always reminded the cook that she was a vegetarian and that we needed to make sure we could have something for her other than steak, chicken, or pork chops. This makes me laugh as I had been the cook many times. I could stress "I know!" but June would still remind me.

While her loss is deeply felt, there is comfort in knowing June has been reunited with Paul. We imagine them now together again - perhaps riding through the mountains or dancing cheek-to-cheek.

UNIT NEWS

HIGH SIERRA UNIT:

THE CASA VIEJA STORY – PARTNERSHIPS BENEFICIAL TO ALL TRAIL USERS

By Bob Olin

I have been a member of BCHC since the mid '90s. I worked for the Forest Service for 30 years. Ten of my best years were working in the Golden Trout Wilderness with my wife, Patty, and Joe Bellas. Six of those years I was the Golden Trout Wilderness Manager and the last four I helped Patty care for the wilderness. We kept 300 miles of trails open to the public for stock users and all others who enjoy the backcountry. The wilderness is for all users, after all it belongs to the people of the United States of America. Along with trail maintenance, we maintained three cabins to work out of, all having adjoining pastures to house and care for our stock. Casa Vieja was one of these stations. We met Ann and Dud (Detlev) Lange and began a wonderful relationship with them and other Backcountry Horsemen. We had many years of fun and hard work opening and maintaining those 300 miles of trails and three backcountry cabins.

Unfortunately, Patty left her temporary position as Wilderness Ranger and took a permanent position elsewhere in 1996. The Golden Trout Wilderness was not maintained well after she left. Most trails are impassable and unsafe for stock users. The cabin has not been maintained or allowed to be occupied since 1996.

Patty and I are passionate about Forest Service history. We are bound and determined to refurbish cabins and maintain trails again. We are trying to form a partnership with the Forest Service as a group called "The Friends of the Kern Plateau."

We built a PowerPoint presentation to explain what we are trying to accomplish. Jim Wilkens, a longtime friend and volunteer, narrated the PowerPoint. He did wonderful job. You may view the 9.5-minute "Casa Proposal" presentation on YouTube by copying and pasting the following link in your browser: https://youtu.be/9_XaECO-kDs

At this point our group includes several Backcountry Horsemen, the Kern Valley Historical Society and youth from Reid Hopkins' One Spade Youth Packers. There are many other individuals we have met that expressed interest in our endeavor during our 15 years of volunteering for the Sequoia National Forest, keeping their trails open and rebuilding and maintaining cabins.

Please take some time to watch our PowerPoint to understand our compassion for the country and what we are trying to accomplish. We would love your company and help to open this country back up. We wish to maintain Forest Service history for years to come so that our children and grandchildren see the legacy we left behind.

Sincerely,
Bob and Patty Olin
bob.olin67@aol.com

REDSHANK RIDERS UNIT:

WAGON DRIVE REQUIRED PATIENCE, TEAMWORK AND CONFIDENCE IN ONE ANOTHER



By Elle Robertson

Three members of Redshank Riders unit of Backcountry Horsemen - Mike Lewis, Stacy Kuhns, and Elle Robertson - spent a full week participating in Corral 14's wagon drive from Lone Pine to Bishop. Mike brought his two mules, Cora and Casey, who worked steadily throughout the journey as the group traveled the route by wagon. Each day brought the responsibilities of handling and driving the mules, preparing delicious meals, navigating the route, and working together as a team.

One of the most memorable moments came when Cora and Casey calmly led the wagon through a full river crossing. Crossing the river was a reminder that the journey required patience, teamwork, and confidence in the animals and one another. The experience offered an opportunity to spend extended time on the trail, appreciate the country from a slower and more traditional perspective, and take part in the practical skills that made the wagon drive so rewarding.

Founded in 1967, Corral 14 is a covered wagon train and equestrian organization dedicated to carrying these traditions forward. Corral 14 values a meaningful way to carry forward the traditions of horse- and mule-drawn travel. The drive was a memorable opportunity to experience the backcountry while supporting the skills and traditions that Corral 14 works to preserve.

UNIT NEWS

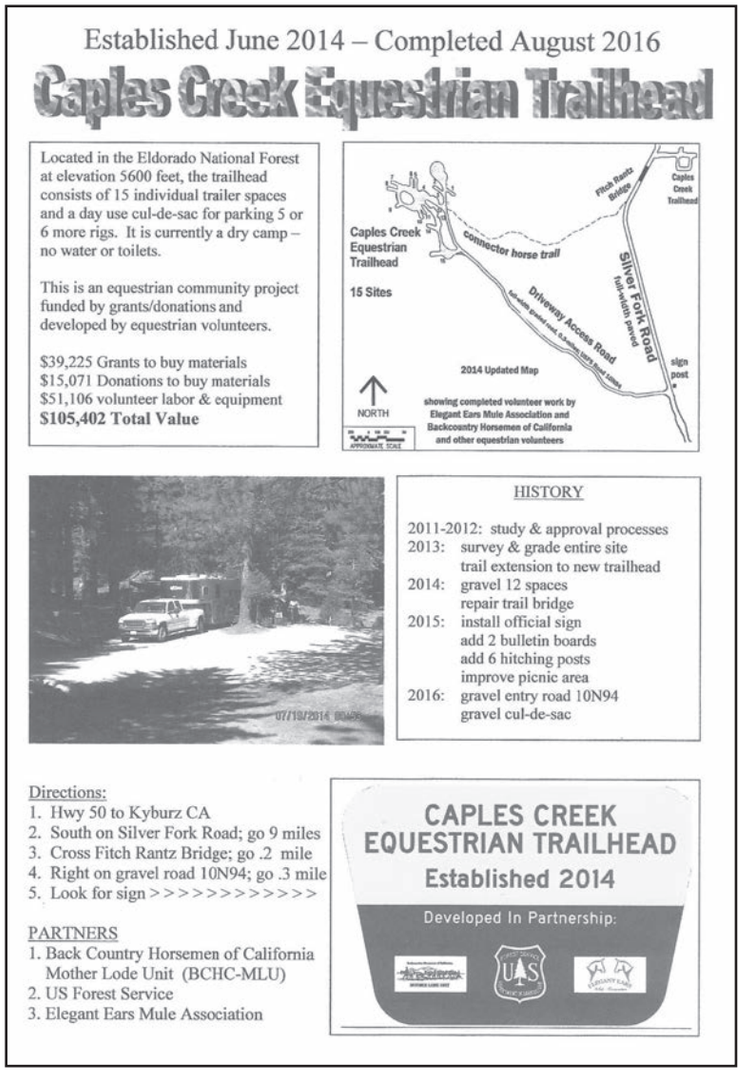
MOTHER LODE UNIT:

PARTNERS REPAIR CAPLES CREEK TRAILHEAD

By Lucy Badenhoop

Support of the Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead is a long-term partnership commitment between two regional volunteer groups: Elegant Ears Mule Association (EEMA) and Backcountry Horsemen of California - Mother Lode Unit (BCHC-MLU). These volunteers have supported many trail projects within the Eldorado National Forest in conjunction with the US Forest Service.

In 2014, the partners began a phased plan to build and improve an equestrian trailhead by converting an abandoned logging road and turn around near the existing campground and trails in the Caples Creek basin. The US Forest Service supported the concept because it provided for trailer parking which allowed BCHC-MLU and EEMA sawyers/packers access to maintain the Caples Creek basin trails.



The fourth and final phase of the Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead was recently completed with about $26k of improvements to the drainage system and gravel parking pads. The bulk of the funding was an Eldorado County Resource Advisory Committee (RAC) grant for $24,960 with MLU covering another $1,203 for cost overruns caused by schedule delays.



This is really an understatement of the value of the work accomplished because the contractor (Doug Veerkamp General Engineering, Inc.) did the work for direct costs only (gravel, equipment rental, and fuel). There was no charge for overhead or profit, and all the labor was by volunteers of EEMA and BCHC-MLU. In addition, the crew/equipment performed extra tasks at no charge that were not specified in the contract.

For example, a wildfire passed through the area a few years earlier. EEMA volunteers had protected the trees by creating defensible space before the fire, but the surrounding ground cover was burned. Since then, white thorn was encroaching on the entrance road, so about 200 yards of this nuisance brush was removed to keep the access road open.

Previous trail crew(s) had downed hazard trees but left them visible on site. The heavy equipment made quick work of relocating them without charge. Also, a damaged stone barrier that prevented vehicle access to the creek was repaired. Veerkamp's heavy equipment (operated by the MLU and EEMA volunteers) did the work at no charge.



UNIT NEWS

MOTHER LODE UNIT:

STONE CELLAR "FUN RIDE" A SUCCESS!

By Kelly Rowell

Our annual "Fun Ride" fundraiser horse camping weekend at Stone Cellar was an absolute blast!

A massive thank you to all the riders and friends who traveled out to join us on the trails. Because of your support and generosity, all proceeds from this year's ride are going directly to the Backcountry Horsemen of California, Mother Lode Unit.

These vital funds keep our volunteer crews equipped, ensuring we can continue preserving public land access and keeping our beautiful backcountry open for everyone.

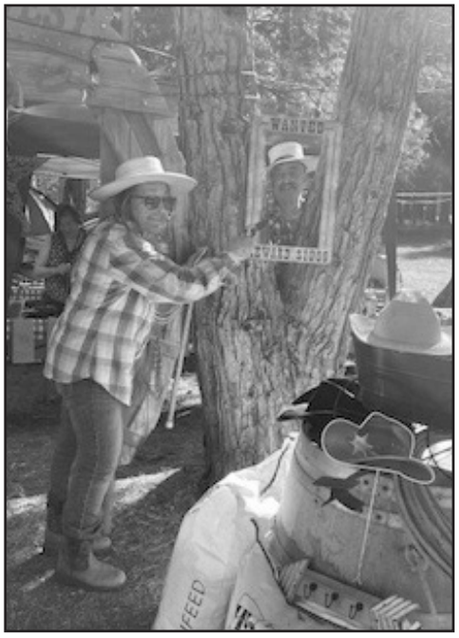
An event of this scale doesn't just happen - it took some hard work to pull it all together, and we owe a massive, heartfelt thank you to our amazing volunteers! From the crew managing camp logistics, cooking meals, and handling check-ins, your tireless energy and long hours made this weekend a seamless success. We truly could not have done it without this dedicated team! We shared great miles, laughed, and made memories that will last until next year.

Want to relive the weekend? We are gathering photos to share with the club!

Please email your favorite trail shots or camp snapshots to kellacious1987@yahoo.com so we can feature them in an upcoming gallery.

Thank you all for making this year's "Fun Ride" at Stone Cellar such a wonderful tradition.

Happy trails!

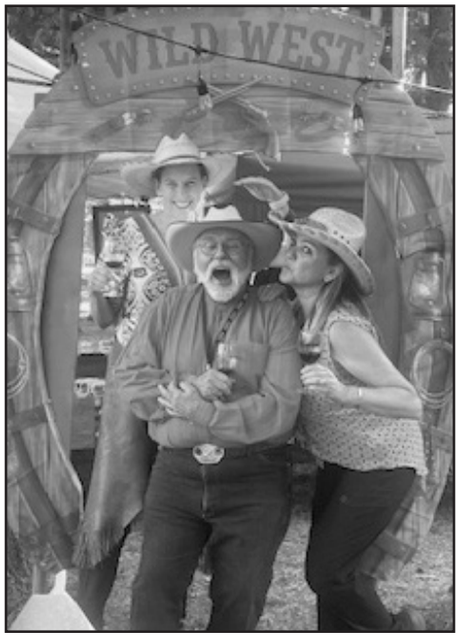




A photo booth is always a fun way to liven up a party. Have some props ready - hats, glasses, funny signs - and start being silly!











UNIT NEWS

SIERRA FREEPACKERS UNIT:

PUBLIC LANDS DAY

The Army Corps of Engineers built the Eastman Dam (1972-1975) allowing the water from the Chowchilla River to be stored for irrigation and flood control. Every year the Sierra Freepackers have donated 100 hours to help with projects at both Eastman Lake and Hensley Lake. This year we participated with other volunteers to help restore the volleyball court at Cordorniz Recreation Area Campground.

The Corps had many different projects available for the more than 100 volunteers and the Sierra Freepackers chose to help spread sand at the volleyball court. The Freepackers alternate each year between Hensley Lake and Eastman Lake with our New Years Ride traditionally at Hensley Lake.

The Army Corps of Engineers were very well organized at this event and provided a full BBQ lunch. Our support for them has always been well received and we look forward to continuing to help them keep public lands open to the public.



Sierra Freepackers member Patricia Vallentyne helps restore the volleyball court at Eastman Lake



Corps of Engineers Ranger Reuben Hernandez helps spread sand in the volleyball court

KERN RIVER VALLEY UNIT:

WILDERNESS PROJECT ACCOMPLISHMENTS

By Patrick Shreffler

Funding for these projects was shared by BCHC Kern Valley Unit, Seqouia National Forest Kern River District and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation funds. RMEF has funds for removal or repair of fences that pose a hazard to elk and other wildlife. The accomplishments made were the result of cooperation between BCHC units and the USFS. BCH members provided the USFS personnel with stock. This is how the BCH and USFS are supposed to work together for the good of the public lands. The Kern River District of the Sequoia National Forest is an example of how the founders of the USFS meant the USFS to work.

June 9 - Trail Head Public Pasture Repair
The objective was to repair three public pasture fences near wilderness trail heads. These were Cannell Meadow, Big Meadow West and Big Meadow North public pastures. Eight members of the Kern River Valley Unit (KRVU) assisted USFS Bob Frenes in repairing these fences. The USFS purchased the supplies. All repairs were completed.
BCHC Man hours: 75

June 22 to 24 - Big Meadow to Manter Meadow Trail Project
The objective of this trip was to open the trails to the Manter Meadow USFS Administrative Campsite and the abandoned Manter Cow Camp in Domeland Wilderness for future trail and fence work.

Four BCHC members (three KRVU members and one Kern Sierra Unit member) with riding and pack stock, assisted the USFS Assistant Recreation Officer and three members of the USFS trail crew to open

See ACCOMPLISHMENTS, Page 27

UNIT NEWS

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, continued from Page 26

the blocked trails to Manter Meadow. These included Manter Creek Trail to Woodpecker Trail, the South Manter Trail to the Woodpecker Trail and the Woodpecker Trail to the North Manter Trail. Base camp, food, and logistical support were provided by KRVU members at Big Meadow West horse camp. The USFS provided saws, tools and saw fuel. All trails were opened for use to the USFS Administrative Camp by removing brush, logs and hazardous trees.
BCHC Man hours: 224

July 20 to 25 - Manter Meadow Fence Project
The objectives of this trip were to (1) Remove unserviceable or abandoned hazardous fencing at the Administrative Camp, at the public pasture and the cow camp. (2) Repair the Manter Public Pasture fence damaged by fire and falling trees. (3) Provide the District Ranger and the Assistant Ranger stock for reconnaissance of the issues with fences and trails in the Domelands Wilderness.

The crew was made up of seven BCHC members (three from KRVU and four from KSU) who assisted the USFS Assistant Recreation Officer and a USFS seasonal. BCH packed personnel and supplies into the Manter Meadow USFS Administrative Campsite in the Domelands Wilderness with 14 head of stock. Camp supplies were provided by KRVU and USFS. Food was funded by RMEF. All fence supplies were provided by USFS.

The Manter Public Pasture fence had been heavily damaged by fallen trees from the Manter Fire and had been unusable and unsafe for over nine years. The north end of the fence was tangled and down in an area of burned standing and downed trees and brush. The remainder of the fence was down due to burned posts.

We relocated the Mantor Meadow pasture fence line out of the burned area and built a new fence line. 410 feet of old fence line was removed. We installed 35 T posts, 21 wood posts and used two rolls of wire to make repairs. The Manter Meadow Pasture is now safe for wildlife, horses and hikers while being usable for travelers with stock. We removed 1,600 feet of downed and abandoned fencing at the USFS Administrative Camp. We began removal of downed and abandoned fencing at the Manter Cow Camp by removing approximately 1,000 feet of fencing there. But we found more downed fences and could not remove them all on this trip.

On July 23, we provided Kern River District Ranger Nancy Chapman and Assistant District Ranger John Gomez riding horses and packed their gear into camp. They wanted to personally see the conditions of the trails to evaluate the need for a wilderness power tool exemption. On July 24, KRVU Project Director Pat Shreffler guided them to see the pasture fencing issues along with trails we had opened and trails that were blocked. After the trip they said the first-hand experience really made them more appreciative of the need for maintained pastures and power tool exemptions.
BCHC Man hours: 348.5
Stock provided: 14 head.

August 3 to 5 - Manter Cow Camp fence removal
The objectives of this project were to: (1) Pack out remaining supplies at the USFS camp site from July trip. (2) Remove Manter Meadow Cow Camp abandoned fencing.

Four members of KRVU, one USFS Assistant Recreation Officer and seven head of stock set up base camp at Big Meadow North Public Pasture. Base camp, food and logistics were provided by KRVU members with RMEF funding.

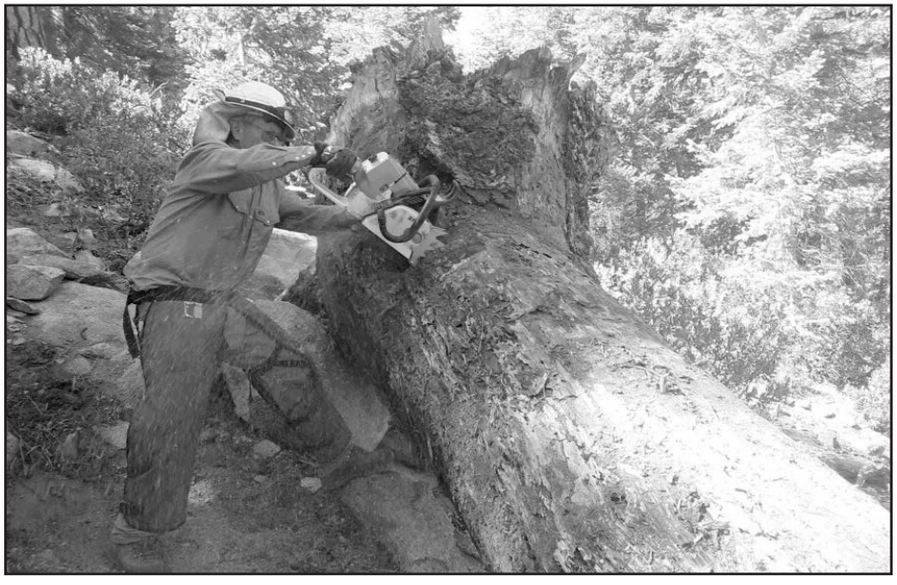
We packed out all remaining supplies from the Administrative Camp. We removed 2,000 feet of fence. We discovered approximately 3,115 feet of additional abandoned fencing we were unaware of at the Cow Camp. The total fencing there mapped out to be about 5,828. To date we have removed about 3,000 feet. The removal of remaining abandoned fence and Woodpecker Trail work is planned for the summer of 2027.
BCHC Man hours: 168

September 8 to12 - South Sierra Wilderness Trail Project
The objectives of this project were to (1) Remove logs from the non-motorized sections of the Albanita Trail and sections within the Wilderness. (2) Remove logs from the Albanita Trail. (3) Remove logs blocking the Broder Trail, a trail that accesses the Wilderness but that is not within the wilderness. (4) Remove logs from the Lost Meadow Trail. (5) Remove logs from the Hooker Trail.

Five members of BCHC (four KRVU and one KSU) along with one USFS Wilderness Tech made up the crew. Base camp was at Granite Knob. Food, base camp and stock were provided by KRVU. USFS provided saw gas, oil and tools.

We used chainsaws to clear all logs off the non-wilderness section of the Albanita Trail and Broader Trail. We cleared the wilderness sections with crosscut saws and a rope and pully system. Progress was terribly slow as we found many very large trees had fallen since last year. These were 2- to 4-foot diameters with complex binds, including side binds, requiring lots of time and multiple cuts. We had to clear the same stretches of trail we did the year before on the Albanita Trail which accesses all the others we intended to clear.
We completed the Albanita Trail, but it took two days to open the same trail we had cleared three years in a row. We cleared approximately one mile of the Broder Trail.

We were unable to work on the Lost or Hooker Trail or finish the Broder Trail. We spent two days clearing the Albanita Trail that we have cleared the last three years. We were unable to get to the Lost and Hooker trails. Without the use of power tools, we will fall farther behind. The Lost and Broder trails have been blocked for stock use for four years now. The Hooker Trail can be used but requires go-arounds that are not safe for stock or the environment.
BCHC Man hours: 220



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

We look forward to meeting you!

The following 50 new memberships from 7/15/2026 through 10/20/2026

Antelope Valley	Stefanie Hester
Eastern Sierra	Sasha & Klara Greene
High Sierra	Jeff Reiner
	Gavin Silva
	DeAnn Waldrep
Kern Sierra	Brianna, Tim & Katie Sager
Los Padres	Pat Aiken
	Paula Brown
	Julie & Randy Diffenbaugh
	Rob Friedl
	Sarah Goodhue
	Brandi & Rowdie Plaskett Sr.
	Karen Vaughn
Manzanita Riders	Linda McKinley
	Melody Van Aken
Mid Valley	Manuel Bettencourt
	Evelyn Chavarria
	Dean & Deanna Davis
	Shane Parson
	Kenneth & Kendra Thomas
Mother Lode	Stephanie Marino
	Colleen Morrissey
	Rachael Soroka
North Bay	Ashley Busk
	Taylor Busk
	Summer Clay
	Lia Liskey
	John Martin & Merri Lou Franzella
	Tessa Mil
	Adair Sarasy
Redshank Riders	Mary Ann & Ralph Savory
Redwood	Pam Peace
	Vanessa Steinbeck & Rick Levos
San Joaquin Sierra	Jessica Pierce
	Valerie Quezada
	Kelley Robertson & Gina Farmen
Sequoia	Patricia & Jon Collins
	Carla Mackey
Shasta Trinity	Ann Captain
	Jeff & Susanne Carman
	Patty Davis
	Lisette Hanks
	Peyton Hayes
	Terri Hill



MORE NEW MEMBERS

Shasta Trinity	Lena Locke
	Devin & Bonnie, Dustin, Walker and Regan Mauldin
	Destiny Rivera
	Dusty Steele
Sutter Buttes	Janet Spilman
Top of the State	Desiree Hardin

TO JOIN OR RENEW BY MAIL

1. Fill out the MEMBERSHIP FORM, make a copy for your records. The form is available at bchcalifornia.org/Documents&Forms/Membership

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: **BCHC**

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.

3. Pay with the new Stripe payment system that accepts all major credit and debit cards.

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

7/15/2026 through 10/20/2026

BENEFACTOR ($100)

Antelope Valley	Marge Biehl
	Rayen Richmond
Eastern Sierra	Leonard Dodson
	Craig London
	Troy Patton
High Country	Lorene Guffey
High Sierra	Ruth Gerson
	Trish Pendegraft
Kern Sierra	Mylon Filkins, DVM
	Lynn Joiner
	Larry Mumford
	Tammy Robinson
	Roger Whitaker
Los Padres	Kaye Bruns
	Robin Cederlof
	William Chaides
	Eve Devine
Manzanita Riders	Dan Clifford
Mid Valley	Tony Alamo
	Jay Barnes
	Gary A. Cain
	Evelyn Chavarria
	Rian Hudson
	Jennifer Marshall
	John V. Marshall
	MID VALLEY UNIT
	John Schaapman
Mother Lode	Cosumnes River Horsemens Assoc.
	Donna Jones Furlow
	Helen McDermott
	Jaede Miloslavich
North Bay	Lynn Cominsky
	Tim Holliday
Redwood	Gary Alves
	James Biteman
	Erin Zulliger
San Joaquin Sierra	John Cunningham, High Sierra Pack Station
	Larry Nishma, Knapp-Yosemite Trls Pk Sta
	James Laber
	Stephen Naylon
Shasta Trinity	Lori Henderson
Sutter Buttes	Kristin Cooper
	Hetty Dutra
Top of the State	Lavina L. Smith

PATRON ($250)

Eastern Sierra	Bill Carter
High Country	Donald Moire
	Lynn Saunders
High Sierra	Claire Cochran
	Richard Cochran
	Jacob Hamstra
	Karl Pendegraft
	Christopher Shepard
Kern Sierra	Willi Coeler
Manzanita Riders	Lynda & Michael Sterns
Mid Valley	Karen Barindelli
	Lloyd Erlandson
	Carol Jo Hargreaves
	Debra Lewis
	Dennis M. Serpa
	Les Weidman
Mother Lode	Stephanie Williams
Sequoia	Kathryn C. Bennett
	Steve Ladrigan
	Jamie Wilson, DVM
Shasta Trinity	Doug Maxfield
	Bruce McGowan
Sutter Buttes	Kay Walters

MT. WHITNEY ($500)

Antelope Valley	Laurie Henry
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

BCHC THANKS ALL SPECIAL MEMBERS!

BCHC Units Around the State

ANTELOPE VALLEY
PO Box 84
Valyermo, CA 93563
https://www.facebook.com/groups/328687220552083/
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
mcmurrycindy@gmail.com

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

KERN RIVER VALLEY
PO Box 9507
Lake Isabella, CA 93240
Mike Hughes
(760) 223-0608
4hranch@earthlink.net

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

LOS PADRES
7395 El Camino Real PMB #472
Atascadero, CA 93422
www.bchc-lpunit.org
Jennifer Best
(805) 345-9066
jenpete@aol.com

MANZANITA RIDERS
PO Box 3130
Ramona, CA 92065-0954
Facebook: Backcountry Horsemen of California Manzanita Riders Unit
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 LODE
PO Box 702
North Highlands, CA 95660
www.bchcmlu.org
Kelly Rowell
(916) 719-1975
kellacious1987@yahoo.com

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
Stacy Kuhns
(909) 633-1705
stacykuhns@aol.com

REDWOOD
PO Box 6023
Eureka, CA 95502-6023
www.redwoodunit.com
Dennis Halligan
(707) 407-7287
dennis@stillwatersci.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
http://www.sarubchc.org/
Carol Kelly
(951) 288-0394
theckcorral@gmail.com

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

SHASTA TRINITY
20633 Gas Point Road
Ste. B2 #48
Cottonwood, CA 96022
www.bchcshastatrinity.org
Sam Burrows
(530) 646-7336
sburrows@frontier.com

SIERRA FREEPACKERS
PO Box 64
Oakhurst, CA 93644-0064
www.sierrafreepackers.com
Lee Smith
(408) 515-0066
specialtytextures@gmail.com

SUTTER BUTTES
2568 Lake Hills Dr
Butte Valley, CA 95965
https://www.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
https://www.tos-bchc.com/home.html
https://www.facebook.com/2273753019542490/posts/d41d8cd9/2686922421558879/
Robert Robustellini
(530) 468-5636
muletrackstoo@gmail.com

IMPORTANT NOTE:
The unit names and addresses listed here are taken directly from the 2026 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. Thank you!

REMEMBER!

The BCHC Executive Committee no longer sends out membership renewal verification "green slips" via regular mail. Each unit president and membership chair will be sent their unit's data.

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.

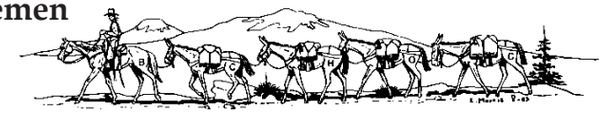
By mail: BCHC Membership
1280 State Rt 208
Yerington, NV 89447

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)

- ☐ Antelope Valley
- ☐ Eastern Sierra
- ☐ High Country
- ☐ High Sierra
- ☐ Kern River Valley
- ☐ Kern Sierra
- ☐ Los Padres
- ☐ Manzanita Riders
- ☐ Mid Valley
- ☐ Mother Lode
- ☐ North Bay
- ☐ Redshank Riders
- ☐ Redwood
- ☐ San Joaquín Sierra
- ☐ Santa Ana River
- ☐ Sequoia
- ☐ Shasta Trinity
- ☐ Sierra Freepackers
- ☐ Sutter Buttes
- ☐ Top of the State

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)

- ☐ 1 Year Individual $60
- ☐ 2 Year Individual $110
- ☐ 3 Year Individual $160
- ☐ 1 Year Family $75
- ☐ 2 Year Family $140
- ☐ 3 Year Family $205
- ☐ Young Adult (18-25 years old) $15 Include Date of Birth / /
- ☐ Benefactor $100
- ☐ Patron $250
- ☐ 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 -

☐ 1 Year Individual	**$60**
☐ 2 Year Individual	**$110**
☐ 3 Year Individual	**$160**
☐ 1 Year Family	**$75**
☐ 2 Year Family	**$140**
☐ 3 Year Family	**$205**
☐ Young Adult (18-25 years old)	**$15**
☐ Benefactor	**$100**
☐ Patron	**$250**
☐ Mt. Whitney	**$500**

☐ On that form, I also requested:
_____ Associate Memberships

My Total Remittance:----------

My Check Number:_____

Date Mailed:_____

Verifying BCHC Membership by

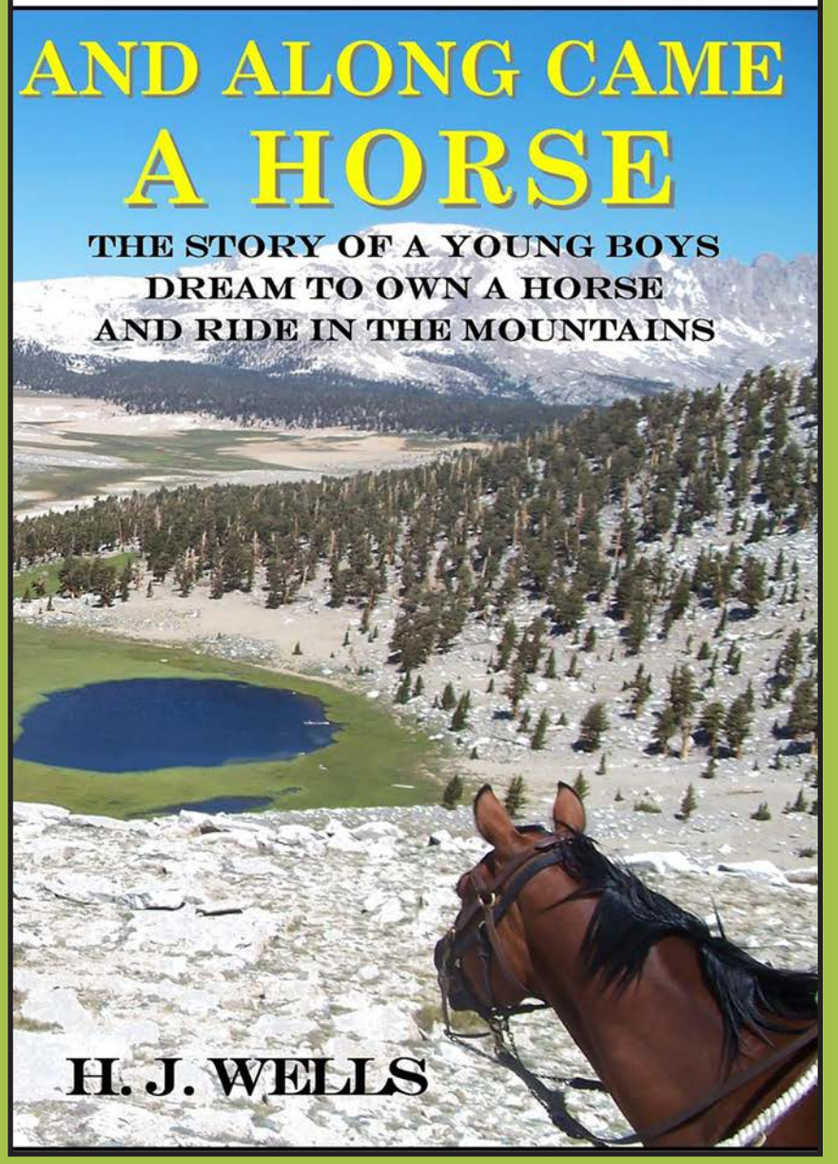
1) BCHC Unit President's reports
2) BCHC Membership VP reports
3) a self-addressed stamped envelope submitted with this form
4) a valid email address

The Book

AND ALONG CAME A HORSE

Is Now Available on **AMAZON BOOKS**

A hardbound 6x9 book with a jacket, 372 pages, pictures, history, places, people, and trails. Mountain Ghost Stories and the Unexplained.







FOR SALE

2007 Featherlite 8411, 7X24, 8ft short wall large tack room, many extras. Asking $18,000

Lloyd Erlandson (209) 761- 3942