

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA Hoof Prints

April 2020

Issue 25

San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC
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Fresno, CA 93729-5693

Email: membership@bhcocalifornia.org (membership email only)
On the WEB: www.bhcsjsu.org (SJS Unit) or
www.bhcocalifornia.org (State)

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



OF CALIFORNIA

Concerned Men and Women Dedicated to Gentle Use of California Trails and Backcountry

Presidents Message



We are officially in uncharted territory. Fortunately I don't make decisions that effect so many. During this time use common sense that isn't so common.

Many venues have been canceled or rescheduled.

We will do our best to keep you informed of events and changes. Rendevous may be rescheduled for the end of May after mule days. The horse expo has been rescheduled for July 16 through 19 in Rancho Murieta. The clinic at Steve's and the Clovis Rodeo parade have also been cancelled.

For those of us who missed the playday at Steve's, we missed out. Approximately 20 showed up to try obstacles and the challenges that were presented. I know Carol and the grandkids had a great day. Thanks Steve Naylor for the days and hours that were put into making such a great course. Looking forward to some great times out there.

I will close for now as I sit by a nice warm fire on this first cold and rainy day of spring, grateful for the late rain and snow.

Remember to stay in the saddle, the ground is hard,

Joe Kaminski
President

BCHCSJS UNIT TRAIL TRIALS FUN DAY

March 14, 2020

The BCHCSJS Unit Trail Trials Fun Day was held on March 14, 2020, at the Luck of the Irish Ranch in Lemoore, CA. The event was hosted and the course was created by Steve Naylon with help and input from several BHC members.

We had a diverse group of participants including 16 riders, 3 of whom were youth members, from both the San Joaquin Sierra and High Sierra units. Blessed with a cool sunny day (yes! No rain!), all enjoyed the challenges of the trial course along with learning which skills they could develop with their mounts. There were multiple obstacles to encounter, including two types of bridges and gates, a water crossing, log drags, a water bucket carry, and several types of log crossings.

The feedback was very positive, and all seemed to enjoy the challenges and the learning opportunities provided by this event.

Most of all, it was FUN!!!!

For all that missed it, there will be further trail trials in the future at the Luck of the Irish Ranch.

Steve Naylon





San Joaquin Sierra Unit

Board Meeting Feb. 4, 2020

Call to order: 6:30

Flag salute

Roll Taken: President: Joe Kaminski, Vice President: Ruth Cramer, Secretary: Carol Kaminski, Treasurer: Gary Van Sickle
Directors: Jim Laber, Debbie McDougald, Muriel Holland, Paige Stambach, Steve Naylon, Sue VanSickle, Doug Laber,
Past President-Duane Peverill

Minutes review and approved: 1st Ruth Cramer, 2nd Jim Laber

Correspondence: Thank you from Dave Stamey

Committee reports:

Education: Check on tax ID# that bank has. Compare to BCHC tax ID#. Membership is declining.

Need to work with all groups.

Membership: 1 new member

Newsletter: Articles due Feb 20.

Public lands: E-bikes maybe a done deal. Still in court. NEPA not followed. Call is in to Chris Tuttle for update on trailer bill.

Sunshine:

Shaver Lake: Ruth has signed agreement with San Joaquin River Gorge. Need to wear volunteer shirt or be on work party. Contact Ruth or Summer. Insurance package received. Shaver Camp to open May 1. Requesting a TEP (Temporary Entrance Permit). Letter to be written for parking. "Thank You" sign for camp outhouse donation. Looking at 2 sites for Poker Ride Possibilities- Fishing Camp or Ely Mountain. Possible dates Aug.1, 15 or 22. Trail work for bridge maybe May or June. Bicycle Club interested in opening Bear Highway Trail.

OLD BUSINESS. 1. Big Meadows sponsors- to add letterhead on sponsor letter. Page in newsletter to be added for Big Meadows sponsors.

2. Stamey Dessert concert- 90 attended, 10 unsold. Duane to pursue for next year.

3. Christmas 2020 - Board voted to book John Pemberton for entertainment. Ruth 1st, Duane 2nd Passed. Fredi to contact.

4. Ruth Cramer and Gary VanSickle to host MDO July 9-13. Oak Camp ground reserved.

5. Poker Ride- Ruth and Marcee to host. Flyer needed. Need help.

6. Elections - no absentee voting allowed except in family. Will check bylaws for absentee voting.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Budget - Done

2. Audit - Scheduled Mar. 2.

3. Fresno State Pack Team - Alan Fry requesting \$750 to support team for FSU. Ruth 1st, Debbie 2nd. for \$500 for pack team sponsorship. Passed.

Adjorn: 7:55 Jim 1st, Sue 2nd

2019-20 Calendar

Board Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month. All members are welcome to attend. Board meetings start at 6:30 pm at the Clovis Elks Lodge, 535 Woodworth Ave. (Bullard & Woodworth).

Calendar & Ride schedule is on-going, and new events and rides will be published when confirmed. Note: Dates and events are subject to change or cancellation; calling the contact person is recommended or checking www.bchcsjsu.org

2020

3/27-29	Rendevous Red Bluff (Possible Reschedule)
4/18	Desensitization Clinic
4/25	Clovis Parade
May	Shaver Camp Opening TBD
5/1-3	Jose Basin Ride & Pack
5/16-17	Big Meadows work party (weather permitting)
5/19-25	Bishop Mule Days (non BCHC event)
June	Edison work party TBD
July 23-30	Wishon work party
July 9-13	Coast Ride (Montana De Oro)
9/11-13	Diana Sorensen Memorial Ride
Oct	Shaver Ride TBD
10/8-12	Coastal Mounted Unit (non BCHC event)
12/12	Christmas Dinner

Is there any activity that you would like to sponsor? We are always looking to improve the club and making it fun for all members. Please submit your ideas, wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net. You may call 559-908-3138 and I will get back to you.

Joe Kaminski
President

Remember to check for any Unit updates at our Web Site:
www.bchcsjsu.org for the San Joaquin/Sierra Unit,
www.bchcalifornia.org for the State Web Site

The purpose of this publication is to keep its members informed on important issues that affect all horsemen and to inform the membership on up-coming events within the unit. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor & authors and not necessarily shared by BCHC.

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Scrambled Egg Bread

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 loaf (1 pound) unsliced French bread
- 2 tablespoons butter, softened, divided

FILLING:

- 2 tablespoons butter, divided
- 1 small onion, chopped

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Prepare campfire or grill for medium heat. Cut bread crosswise in half; cut each piece lengthwise in half. Hollow out two pieces, leaving 1/2-in. shells. Cut removed bread into cubes; reserve 1-1/2 cups (save remaining cubes for another use). Spread 1 tablespoon softened butter over bread shells. Spread remaining softened butter over remaining bread halves. Set aside.

2. In a small Dutch oven, heat 1 tablespoon butter over campfire. Add onion; cook and stir 3-4 minutes or until tender. Stir in ham and tomato; remove from pan.

3. In a small bowl, whisk eggs and pepper. In same pan, heat remaining butter. Pour in egg mixture; cook and stir until eggs are thickened and no liquid egg remains. Stir in ham mixture, 1 cup cheese and reserved bread cubes. Spoon filling into bread shells; sprinkle with remaining cheese. Transfer to a 13x9-in. disposable foil pan; cover with foil.

4. Place pan over campfire. Cook 8-10 minutes or until heated through and cheese is melted. Cook reserved bread halves, buttered side down, 1-2 minutes or until toasted. Cut each piece of egg bread and toast in half.



SUNSHINE CORNER



The Lighter Side

~ FUN QUOTES ~

All I pay my psychiatrist is the cost of feed and hay, and he'll listen to me any day. ~Author Unknown

You know horses are smarter than people. You never heard of a horse going broke betting on people.
~Will Rogers

A horse can lend its rider the speed and strength he or she lacks, but the rider who is wise remembers it is no more than a loan. ~Pam Brown

Horses - if God made anything more beautiful, he kept it for himself. ~Author Unknown

A horse doesn't care how much you know, until he knows how much you care. ~Pat Parelli

HORSE, MULE, DONKEY CLINIC

Jodie Collins
April 4th & 5th

\$150 & Space is limited.

Contact Joe if interested
559-909-0505

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www.bchcsjsu.org

Make sure you check out our website for updates on the Home page, Calendar page, and Newsletters. We also have a Photos page of our latest activities.

If you have any photos send them to Duane at wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

www.bchcsjsu.org

Advertising Rates

Classified Ads

\$.10/word with a 20 word minimum (\$2.00),
\$.50 a line after that.

Display Ad Rate per issue

Business Card Size, \$8.00,	1/2 page, \$35.00,
1/4 page, \$20.00,	Full Page, \$50.00

Prices are subject to change without notice. All prices are for one month, due the 10th of the month. Editor reserves the right to refuse inappropriate ads.

All paid Ads include an E-mail Blast to all members with current emails

Attention

Your SJS Unit Board of Directors would like to invite any of our members to attend the monthly Board meetings or General meetings. It is important all directors have the same opportunity to hear the information, concerns or suggestions you wish to share. We are volunteers doing our best to keep our Unit informed and working smoothly. Refer to the newsletter for the information regarding times and location of upcoming meetings.

Respectfully,
Joe Kaminski



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"I don't horse around when it comes to selling your porperty"

"Travel Advantage"

Dear BCHC Members

Check out the latest edition of "Travel Advantage", @ www.ytbtravel.com/bchc a travel newsletter full of terrific deals from YTB, our BCHC travel partner. The newsletter is chock full of great ideas for anyone's next getaway! You can download an icon to your computer desktop for instant connection to the BCHC Getaway website.

Please forward "Travel Advantage" newsletter to your friends and family and other BCHC supporters. The more we get the word out, the more people will use the BCHC Getaway travel site to take advantage of great rates on hotels, flights, rental cars and other travel-related items, the more BCHC will earn for our Treasury!!

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions about the travel site, how it works or what BCHC earns by participating in this great opportunity. Thank you for supporting and promoting BCHC Getaway!!

C.J. Hargreaves
BCHC Editor/Travel Site Coordinator
cjohargreaves@verizon.net

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

HIGH COUNTRY MANNERS

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE FOR GENTLE USE OF THE BACKCOUNTRY

TRAILHEAD MANNERS

- Leave your vehicle parked with other visitors able to exit, park, load and unload around you.
- Be sure to lock your vehicle doors, camper shells and tool boxes.
- Clean up all food scraps. Bears will break into your vehicle, if they suspect it contains food.
- Do your part in keeping the trailhead clean and accessible to others. Bring a rake and shovel.
- Use proper sanitary facilities at the trailhead.



TRAIL MANNERS

- Be polite and helpful when meeting livestock, backpackers, hikers, and other users of the wilderness.
- Always yield the trail to faster hikers or riders. Move aside as soon as you can and let them go on ahead.
- Common sense and courtesy should prevail in matters of right-of-way on the trail. In most cases, riders and pack animals do have the right-of-way. Those traveling uphill have the right-of-way over those going downhill.
- To ease possible congestion, avoid stopping in the trail at a creek or trail junction. Move to the next available place to pull out and get completely off the trail.
- Loose herded livestock are difficult to control and, in many places, illegal. It is wise to lead all your animals to minimize the chance for trail conflicts.
- Remove obstacles from trails whenever possible rather than riding around them, as this creates a secondary trail.
- Stay on the trail. Cutting switchbacks creates erosion.
- Explain to those not accustomed to stock that a hiker can control his/her movements on and off the trail easier than a rider can control the movements of a string of pack animals.
- Some horses and mules can be skittish while on the trail, therefore, it is wise to give them some room.
- Explain to those not accustomed to stock, that it is safer for you, them and the resource, to step to the downhill side of the trail and to stay in sight. Be sure the person feels safe before you start to pass.

- Explain to hikers that it would be helpful to speak in a calm voice to the animals as they pass, thus assuring the stock that the colorful hiker is not a bear. Remind them not to touch the animals as they go by and to please wait a few seconds before starting along the trail.
- Leaving any equipment in the middle of the trail, near a water crossing or bridge is like leaving your suitcase in the middle of the highway. Your equipment may get run over.
- Dogs can be good companions where permitted on the trail. Dogs not familiar with livestock can be intimidated and scare the stock. Remember to keep dogs under control at all times so they are not a threat to the safety of other visitors or to wildlife.
- An "encounter" session with local llamas and their handlers before you enter the backcountry might be worthwhile.



CAMP MANNERS

- Set up camp on hard ground away from grass and marsh areas where you and your stock will appreciate being away from mosquitoes. Be sure the location is at least 100 feet from any water source.
- Proper sanitation practices are very important. Choose a site at least 100 feet away from any water source or campsite. Use a shovel or trowel to bury human waste.
- Choose a campsite that has plenty of feed or pack in pellets and grain.
- If you need to restrain the stock, tie to a high line located on durable ground, 100 feet away from any water source, and out of sight of other camps and trails.
- The use of a portable electric fence is encouraged as it is an excellent way to control grazing pack and saddle stock. It is important to train them to respect the wire or tape prior to setting up in the backcountry. Move the fence often to avoid excessive impact on the meadow.
- Use only dead and downed firewood for fuel. Conserve wood by using a propane or gas stove for cooking.
- Pack out all garbage and trash. This means food scraps too. Remember foil does not burn.
- Remove, scatter or bury all manure in the campsite and at the trailhead.

PROPER PREPARATION

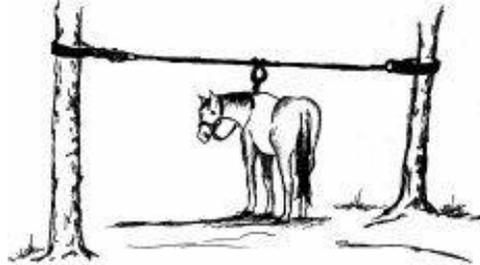
One of the most important aspects to consider when planning any trip is proper planning and preparation. This is especially true of backcountry trips. Try to be prepared for any eventuality.

- Consider the goals and needs of the group: scenery, lakes, fishing, moving camp, ages and experiences, etc.
- Know where you are going. Ask those who have been there before. Know how long it will take you to get to your destination each day of your trip.
- Know what maps you will need, study them and know how to use them. Have a compass along.
- Find out if you need to have a wilderness and/or campfire permit. Ask if there are any restricted areas you will be going through.
- Find out if you stay overnight at the trailhead. Learn what facilities are available: corrals, water, one night stay limit, manure dumps, etc.
- Know how many people are in your group and what kind of appetites/restrictions they may have.
- Determine if there is enough feed, water and proper campsite for each day's destination.
- Have first-aid kits for both people and animals, directions for use and a flashlight.
- Have at least one emergency light-weight meal along for the group.
- Be sure to have the appropriate clothing and equipment for the season.
- Have "strike anywhere matches" or a lighter in water-proof containers.

A MESSAGE TO HORSEMEN FROM YOUR FOREST SERVICE



Horses, Mules, Burros and Llamas too!



- Take only the minimum number of animals needed.
- During short stops, you may tie horses to trees which are at least eight inches in diameter.
- For long periods, tie horses to a high-line stretched between two sturdy trees. A good rule of thumb is 7 feet away from tree and 7 feet high.
- If you picket horses, move them often.
- Keep tied, picketed, and hobbled horses well away from camp, lakes and streams.
- Tie, picket, or hobble horses only in dry areas to minimize trampling.

WHO ARE THE BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

Backcountry Horsemen of California is a group of dedicated men and women working to preserve the historic use of trails with recreational pack and saddle stock. They perform public service activities for numerous land management agencies and they are continually working to educate their members on how to be "Gentle Users."

The use of livestock has played an important role in the American culture. California and the western states have particularly had a long tradition of using pack and saddle stock in the backcountry. The Backcountry Horsemen of California carry on this tradition in modern times. With this use comes the responsibility and obligation to care for our public lands and to ensure their use for generations.

Backcountry Horsemen of California works in cooperation with government agencies to help clear trails, maintain historic sites, construct new facilities, sponsor educational seminars and clinics, and assist with service projects as requested. They also strive to stay current on relevant issues and to provide input on management plans and activities that pertain to backcountry trails on public lands.

Backcountry Horsemen of California focuses its efforts in three key areas:

- Service Projects
- Education
- Public Lands Issues.



Approved for distribution by

Backcountry Horsemen of California
13061 Rosedale Hwy., Suite G B
www.bchcalifornia.org 4/11

A woman wearing a black cowboy hat and a light-colored, long-sleeved button-down shirt is riding a white horse. She is looking off to the side. The background is a blurred, hilly landscape under a clear sky. The entire image is framed by a green border.

Samantha Salomon Horsemanship

Spring 2020 Clinic Schedule

2/22 Clovis, Ca.

3/14 O'neals, Ca.

4/4 Clovis, Ca

4/18 Squaw Valley, Ca

4/19 Squaw Valley, Ca

5/30 Clovis, Ca.

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BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

HIGHLINES IN THE BACKCOUNTRY

A VERSATILE SYSTEM THAT
PROTECTS THE RESOURCES, YOUR
STOCK AND YOUR GEAR!



CONCERNED MEN AND
WOMEN DEDICATED TO
GENTLE USE OF CALIFORNIA
TRAILS AND BACK COUNTRY

The content of this written material
has been officially approved for distribution by
Backcountry Horsemen of California
3061 Rosedale Hwy., Suite G Box 217
Bakersfield, Ca. 93314

THE HIGHLINE:

A. Tree Considerations:

1. Use tree saver straps.
2. Use on trees 8" diameter or larger.
3. Tie stock away from tree trunk to avoid root damage.

B. Turf Considerations:

1. Use on durable surfaces.
2. Rake area free of pine cones and debris before stock use. Rake back into place afterwards.
3. Move stock at first sign of over-use or damage.

C. Easy to Tie, Adjust and Untie:

1. Basic Prussic loops.
2. Coupling loops with carabiners and pulleys: mechanical advantage.

D. Animal Considerations:

1. Secure system: All components are strong.
2. Easily adjust distance between animals after the highline is tightened.
3. In an Emergency simply cut loops to free animals.

E. Versatile Uses of Components:

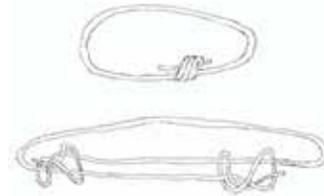
1. Highline used as lash rope.
2. Loops can be used for rope extenders, etc.
3. Carabiners can be used to hang lanterns to a dining fly, etc.
4. Safety and rescue applications. Use loops on vertical rope for foot and hand holds.
5. Carabiner and Prussic loop Come-along.
6. Carabiners can be used for pack hitches.

THE HIGHLINE RULE OF SEVENS:

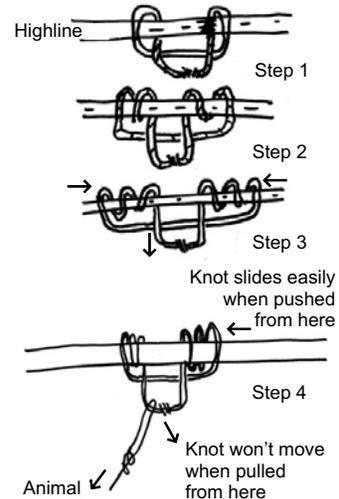
1. The highline should be about seven feet high.
2. The animals should be at least seven feet from any tree trunk.
3. The animals should be at least seven feet apart.
4. The length of leadrope from highline to halter should be about seventeen inches.

MAKING A PRUSSIC LOOP

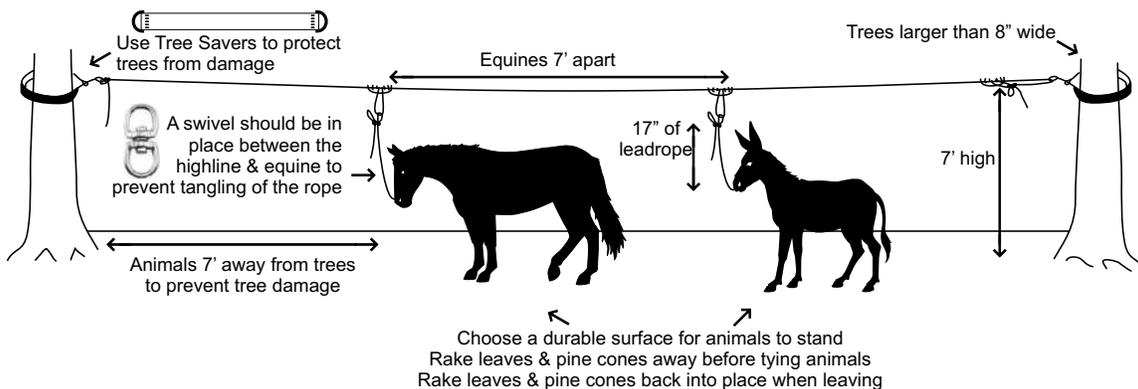
Loop is about 40" long
1/4" climbing cord
Must be smaller diameter than highline
Knots: Prussic Knot or Double Overhand



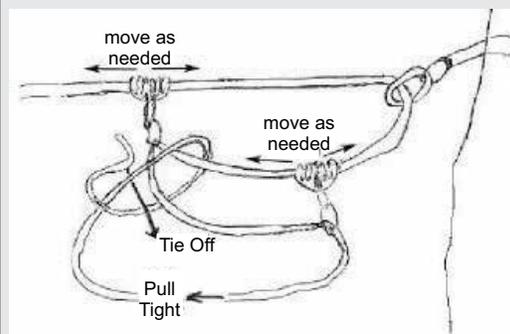
USING A PRUSSIC LOOP



SETTING UP A HIGHLINE



TYING OFF THE LAST PART OF A HIGHLINE



Step 1

- A. Tree savers on both trees
- B. Click carabiners (or loop rope) through tree savers
- C. Place 1st Prussic Loop on highline (with carabiner & pulley optional)

Step 2

- D. Attach 2nd Prussic Loop on highline (with carabiner & pulley optional)
- E. Pull tight
- F. Tie Off between loops with quick release knot, lock with 2 half hitches, and daisy chain any excess

THE MECHANICAL ADVANTAGE



Using carabiners and pulleys can give you a mechanical advantage. Pulleys can exponentially reduce the amount of force needed to tighten the highline when used in multiples. Carabiners also can make attaching the highline components together fast and easy, and are handy in a pinch!.

BCHCSJSU SHIRTS

On the trails we work and ride we share the trail with others, that at times have trouble seeing us because of shadows and various modes of transportation used, especially in non wilderness designated areas.

For that reason your unit board of directors has made this shirt available for safety on trail rides and work parties as well as a way to promote our unit and its activities.

Order you BCHCSJSU Trail Work/Riding Shirt

To order call Gary Van Sickle with size and quantity.

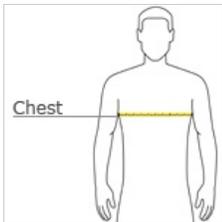
_____ X \$14.65 each _____
 (Qty) (Total)

Make checks payable to BCHCSJUS and send to:

Attn: Gary Van Sickle
 BCHCSJSU
 P.O. Box 25693
 Fresno, CA 93729-5693



HOW TO MEASURE



CHEST
 Measure under the arm and around the fullest part of the chest with arms down, keeping tape horizontal.

SIZE CHART

	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
Chest	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-56	58-60	62-64



Big Meadows Horse Camp Sponsors



Your unit pays the cost of maintaining and hosting the Big Meadows horse camp. We are seeking sponsors (8) in total that will be exclusive to the Business/Industry type. Sponsorships are \$500 each per calendar year. Sponsors will be advertised on our web page, our facebook page, at the camp, and in our monthly newsletter. Please show your support to these sponsors. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor please contact Joe Kaminski at (559) 909-0505. If interested in being a camp host for this season, contact Jim Knabke at (559) 779-4715.

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San Joaquin Sierra Unit

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Objectives & Purpose of the Backcountry Horseman of California

From the BCHC Bylaws

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