



San Joaquin Sierra

Hoof Prints



February -March 2013

Issue 1

San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC
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membership@bchcalifornia.org (membership email only).
On the WEB: <http://www.BCHC.org> (SJS unit) or
<http://www.bchcalifornia.org> (State)

Max & Irene Cochran
 Newsletter Multiple
 Award Winner

1st - 2004
 1st - 2005
 3rd - 2006
 2nd - 2007
 2nd - 2008
 2nd - 2009
 2nd - 2010
 2nd - 2011



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



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

A NEW YEAR HAS BEGUN

Wow! Christmas party, first board meeting and first ride of the year, and it's only January 12, 2013. Our new ride coordinator, **Tara Stephenson**, on one of the coldest days of the year gathered 25 dedicated riders and headed to Avocado Lake (additional details later in the newsletter). At this ride, five new members attended their first BCHC ride, and said they would be back for more. Additionally two riders came and renewed their membership – great job Tara.

I would like to take a minute and extend a special thanks to our past Officers and Directors for their dedicated service and commitment to our club (**John Mikkelsen, Belinda Dominguez, Wanda Caradonna, Joe Kaminiski, Mary Odell, Char Meier, Cathie Walker, Randy Witt, Fredi Chrisman, Katie Horst, Carol Kaminski, Jan Mikkelsen, Diana Pierce, Toby Horst and Carolyn Witt**), without your personal desire to preserve this unit, the BCHC – San Joaquin Sierra Unit could have easily disappeared, and for this I say thank you.

We have many new and old faces on our current board, and the energy is high with great ideas. We have all agreed on one thing, we need to maintain the Objectives & Purpose of the Backcountry Horseman of California (see the back page of this newsletter for our mission). However, we have also agreed to reach out to a diversified group of horseman by providing lowland one-day rides to multiple-day High Country Backpacking trips. We will continue and expand educational venues at our general meetings, while maintaining specialized social events, such as "Shoot Your Heart OUT" at the Fresno Pistol Range. **Joe Kaminiski**, our Vice President and Public Lands Liaison is currently coordinating work party projects for this up coming summer, so if you have a burning desire to try out your new chainsaw, come and help us clean some trails this summer, since chainsaws will be allowed this year.

In short, we are developing a multi-prong approach, in reaching out to all who enjoy horseback riding, while supporting the main purpose of the Backcountry Horseman of California - keeping our trails open for us and our children and their grandchildren.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

I must say, I did go to a couple of Christmas Parties this year, but our BCHC party was a sell-out crowd of roughly 90, and it was full of life and fun. As always, the dinner and desert was excellent, special thanks to **Alan Fry, Dianne Williamson, Ted Kimbler, Ted Fischer and Fredi Chrisman** for serving up a fantastic meal.

To get us all into the giving spirit the hall was decorated by **Wanda Caradonna** and crew, with **JC Parkin** delivering her beautiful centerpieces and **Cathie Walker** adding the final touches, as she always does.
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Our famous chefs Alan and Diane

New President Greg Caradonna
Past President John Mikkelsen



Christmas Party 2012

Pictures taken by
Katy Horst. Smiles
from our happy mem-
bers.



The Top Hand award was presented by President, John Mikkelsen to two of the most deserving individuals I know, **Toby** and **Katie Horst**. Receiving a Henry Lever Action, Made in America, 22 Rifle does not begin to express our thanks for your years and years of dedicated service in keeping the Back-country open and safe to all that desire to use it. "Made in America" and Toby and Katie Horst are synonymous. Thank you, from all of us.

After dinner the night continued, it was full of live music, laughter and dancing. Our Christmas party is one of our major fund raising events, and it could not happen without giving individuals like **Susan Turner** who donated many of our auction items. Our auctioneer **Dan Baumgardner** got the crowd so involved that I actually misinterpreted Ted Fischer's 2-finger bid to mean two hundred dollars while the bid was only at one hundred dollars, luckily it worked out, especially since Ted donated the item. When Char Meier bid on a Pig-Hunt for herself, and her friend Pat Fox purchased a Double Barrel 12ga shot gun that weighs more than she does, it is another sign of how our members will reach into their pockets to support our mission.

To all of you that joined us, we hope you had a wonderful time as so many of us did, and we hope to see you back next year, and on the trails this summer.

By Greg Caradonna, an individual who is honored to be your President.

THANK YOU!

We want to thank **Diana Pierce** for her dedication in helping out the unit as the Sunshine person for the past years. She sent many correspondences to our members with warmth and kind words. We will miss you but hopefully see you again on the trail.

The Sunshine Corner

By Diana Pierce

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Kim and Ralph Watkins, Clovis
David Strobel, Le Grand
Carolyn Shaffer and Ron Steger,
Ahwahnee
Dawn Smith, Reedley
Donna Reiniche, Prather
Ann Van Zant, Clovis
Bonnie Pearce, Fresno
Kathleen Rising, Sanger
Jeanne Bryson, Prather

We're always excited to welcome our new members. Remember to invite others you know who enjoy their equine friends and the back country to join us too! New members can join at any ride.

MEMBER NEWS

Since I have joined the Sierra Freepackers unit, the San Joaquin unit will be looking for another Sunshine Corner person to take my place. I have enjoyed these last three years and will miss everyone involved in the unit. You are a great bunch of people and I wish you all the best. Diana Pierce

This column is intended to help us all keep up to date with the important events in the lives of our members. If you have something of significance happening in your family or know of something happening in another member's family, please send the information to Jan Mikkelsen at jessecowboy@comcast.net until further notice.

Thank you

2013 OFFICERS/ DIRECTORS

President

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TBA

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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

Starting 2013

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Carolyn Witt
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Clovis, CA 93619
559-325-7876
cawittbchc@yahoo.com

Hoof Print 2013 Deadlines

Advertising, announcements, pictures
and other copy must be received by
editor by the deadline listed below.

<u>Deadline</u>	<u>Publication</u>
January 20	February/March
March 20	April/May
May 20	June/July
July 20	August/September
September 20	October/November
November 20	December/January

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
Toby Horst & Char Meier
Past Presidents

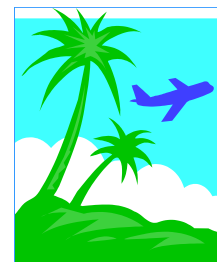
"Travel Advantage"

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!!

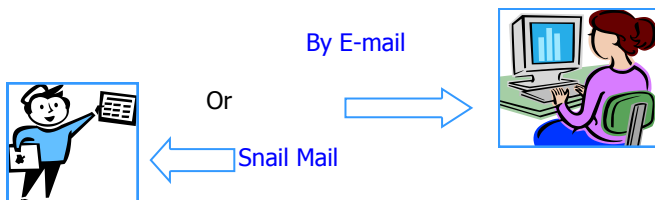
C.J. Hargreaves
BCHC Editor/Travel Site
Coordinator
cjohargreaves@verizon.net



Calling ALL Members!

Remember to please send an email to
Chip Herzig:
chipherzig@gmail.com

Let him know how you want your State Newsletter:



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.

*Must be a member and
may join at any ride*

2013 Calendar

*Must be a member and
may join at any ride*

Board Meetings are on the **1st Wednesday** 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).

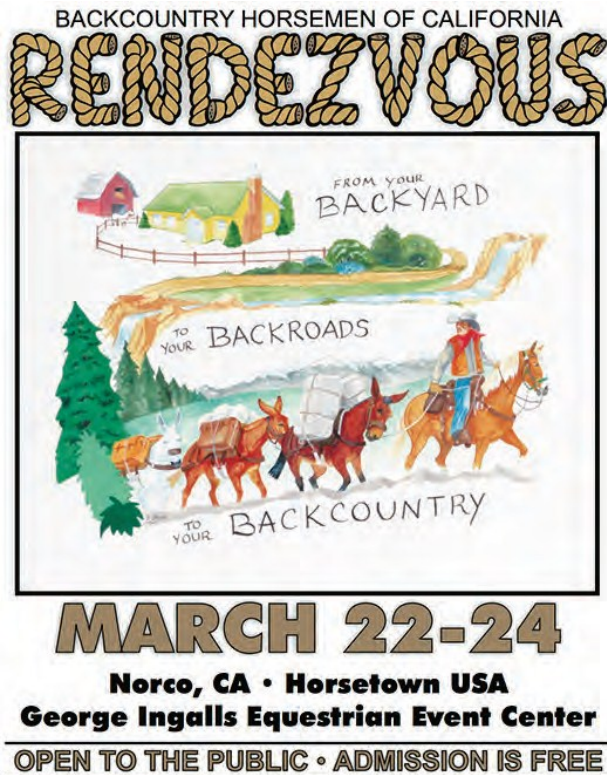
Calendar & Ride schedule is on-going, and new events and rides will be published when confirmed. *Note: dates and events are subject to change or cancellation; calling the contact person is recommended or checking www.bchc.org*

February 9	Annual Shoot Your Heart Out	John & Jan Mikkelson, 559-289-4911
February 16	Hensley Lake/Buck Ridge Ride	Tara Stephenson, 559-977-2766
February 23	Coffman Ranch Ride	Tara Stephenson, 559-977-2766
March 2	Lewis P. Eaton/Woodward Park Ride	Tara Stephenson, 559-977-2766
March 9	Avocado Lake/Orange Orchard Ride , Part 2	Tara Stephenson, 559-977-2766
March 16	Membership Appreciation Ride San Joaquin River Gorge	Tara Stephenson, 559-977-2766; Ted Fischer, 559-855-8599 John & Jan Mikkelson, 559-289-4911
March 20	General Meeting Clovis Memorial, Freedom Room, 6:30pm	Any Board Member
March 22-24, 2013	BCHC Rendezvous Norco: George Ingalls Equestrian Event Center	Any Board Member or www.bchcalifornia.org
March 30	Millerton Lake Ride , Part 2	Tara Stephenson, 559-977-2766
April 6	Revis Mountain/YLP Ride	Sandy La Spada, 559-760-7875
April 13	Parade Practice /Desensitizing Clinic	Jan Mikkelson, 559-289-4911
April 27	Clovis Parade & Rodeo	Jan and John Mikkelson, 559-289-4911
May 11-12	Jose Basin Campout & Packing Practice	Toby & Katie Horst, 559-855-7765
May 22	General Meeting Clovis Memorial, Freedom Room, 6:30pm	Any Board Member
July 19-21`	Tamarack Ride	Toby and Katie Horst , 559-855-7765
August 14	General Meeting Clovis Memorial, Freedom Room, 6:30pm	Any Board Member
September 7	Shaver Lake Poker Ride Ride is open to the public	Char Meier 559-297-1290 and Wanda Caradonna 559-351-5190
December 14	Annual Christmas Party	Put the date on your calendar and join us for fun, camaraderie and music

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

Please contact any Board Member if you would like to host a ride or activity.

24th Annual “From your backyard, to your back roads, to your backcountry”



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

Some of the activities include:

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

To download forms with information and for the events go to: <http://www.bchcalifornia.org>



BCHC Member Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Ron and Peggy Jefferson

For several years Peggy and I have been planning a trip with our kids and grandkids to celebrate our upcoming 50th anniversary. It's not until September but with the two oldest grandkids in high school, we decided we better use this recent Christmas Vacation to get everybody together. **Costa Rica** was our destination. Maneuvering our party of 12 through all the transportation connections went pretty well. Our first stay was in Tamarindo, a beach community on the Pacific Coast. Our second stay was in Tortuguero in the rain forest, reachable only by boat or plane. And the 3rd leg of our journey was a stay at the foot of a volcano, Arenal, near the town of La Fortuna. Lots of European, American, and Asian tourists. American money accepted happily virtually everywhere; no Montezuma's Revenge—drank tap water everywhere we stayed and ate fresh fruit—, all tourist-related folks spoke English, but I had a lot of fun speaking Spanish with our guides and drivers and they were accommodating conversationalists. Everybody we ran into was quite nice.

In Tamarindo I saw a man riding his horse and asked what he charged for a horse rental—I thought it would be fun to ride on the beach. He said \$32 for a 2-hour ride up in the hills, through the town, and then back to the beach. I thought, “Wow, that's quite a bargain in California terms.” So I asked the rest of the family, “who wants to go?” Our 2 grandkids from Elk Grove and our eldest from Visalia said they wanted to go. So off we went in a taxi up through the town on dirt roads into the hills. The man that set it up didn't go with us so I was a little nervous, hoping this whole deal was on the up and up. His “brother” got up on his horse after helping the grandkids mount theirs, and off we went. I decided I better ride in back because “Fernando” never looked back. A little different than the highly regulated rent-a-horse industry we've come to expect in California. No helmets, no safety briefing, no nothing. And we were off at a trot. And we trotted on the 2 hour ride a lot more than we walked. I was worried about the grandkids because they don't ride except rarely at our annual family camping trip to Cedar Grove. But they laughed, waved their arms, and tried to get ahead of each other as we rode the hill trails and dirt roads of Tamarindo. I'm so glad I took **Kyle, Grayson, and Taylor** horseback riding on this family trip and am sure it will be something they remember doing with their ol' grandpa.

4th Annual
Shoot Your Heart Out!

February 9, 2013
11am to 3pm

Back by popular demand!! February 9, 2013 is BCHC San Joaquin Sierra's "Shoot Your Heart Out day." Bring your favorite **Valentine**, handgun, ammo, and/or shotgun. (No steel rounds please). Guns are also available to shoot from The Range Pistol Club. Ammunition will not be provided but is available for purchase at the Range. Basic handgun safety and cleaning of the weapons will be reviewed and questions will be answered.

*All weapons **MUST** be unloaded and locked in a box or have a trigger lock when brought into The Range.*

The charge will be \$10.00 per person, paid to BCHC-SJSU.

You must be a BCHC member to shoot. You also may become a member the day of the shoot. Applications will be available.

Light sandwiches and drinks will be provided. A 10% discount to the 511 store will be provided to participants.

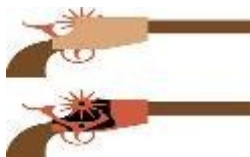
Range Master will be John Mikkelson, Past President SJSU BCHC.

Location:

The Range Pistol Club
5152 North Gates Avenue
Fresno, CA.

The Range is behind the west Costco Store near Hwy. 99. north of Shaw.

R.S.V. P. by Wednesday, Feb. 6, to Jan by emailing jessecowboy@comcast.net or by calling 289-4911.



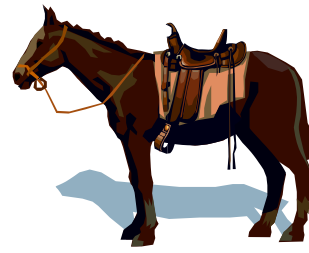
See ya thar pardner!



Shoot
Your
Heart
Out!

Shoot
Your
Heart
Out!

Rides by Tara February-March



February 16th - Hensley Lake/Buck Ridge Ride 10 am

This is a nice 2-3 hour ride including time for lunch break. This trail runs alongside the lake, some parts of the trail offer very pretty views of the lake. Wide to narrow dirt trails, some rocks and climbs. This trail is shared with bike riders and hikers. Might have small water crossings. There is a four dollar day use charge. Large parking area with picnic benches and bathrooms. . Please RSVP to **Tara Stephenson** by February 13th at either Tara1Stephenson@aol.com or call her at 559-977-2766, at that time, she can give you directions and answer any questions.

February 23rd - Coffman Ranch Ride 10 am

Always a nice ride at the Coffman Ranch! Ten dollar haul in fee which includes use of their arenas, round pens; heck, we can even give our horse a warm water bath if we are so inclined after the ride. The ride will be about 2-3+ hours including a lunch break. The Coffman Ranch has some nice single track trails to follow or we can just amble about if we are in the mood to do so. Located in the foothills so there will be little bits of climbing along the trails as well as cattle roaming around. . Please RSVP to **Tara Stephenson** by February 20th at either Tara1Stephenson@aol.com or call her at 559-977-2766, at that time, she can give you directions and answer any questions.

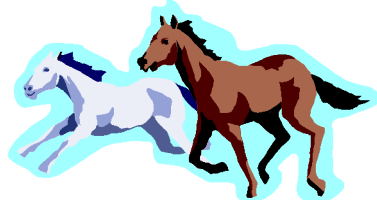
March 2th, Lewis P. Eaton Trail/Woodward Park 11 AM (Be in the saddle at 11 AM)

Wow, talk about **exposure**, you and your horse will see **EVERYTHING** on this ride, not to mention going over a few suspended bridges. We will be parking at the trailhead which starts at the [Coke Hallowell Center](#) on Old Friant Road. From there, we will begin our 3+ hour adventure along the bike/walking trail known as the Lewis P. Eaton Trail. On this paved trail, you will encounter cyclists, runners, walkers, mom's with baby carriages, dog on leashes, loud noises coming from Friant Road and the nearby gravel company. As we get into the park area, we move away from those things heading down to the river to give our horses a drink, tie up to a tree for a lunch break on picnic tables with nearby bathrooms. After lunch, for those of us that wanna let our horse "break loose and lope", we can use the tracks down by the river to have a nice lope around. For those of us that would prefer to just walk, we can do that as well. Then we'll return the way we came back to the trailers. **This is NOT a ride for spooky, green horses.** Please RVSP to **Tara Stephenson** at Tara1Stephenson@aol.com or cell number 977-2766 by February 27th, at that time, she can give your directions and answer any questions.

March 9th, Avocado Lake/Orange Orchard Ride, Part 2 11 AM

(Be in the saddle at 11 am). Back by popular demand, we will return to the lake for some more **conditioning**. This ride will be 4+ hours. We will of course eat our lunches at the lake, but this time, we will be spending more time out in the orchards, where we can climb the hills and cross the little rivers that run through the orchards. This time we will head farther east where there are more opportunities to climb and traverse. On this ride, you will be exposed to farm workers and machinery out in the orchards as well as an occasional pig, coyote and jack rabbit. There is a \$5.00 fee to enter and park at Avocado Lake. Please RVSP to **Tara Stephenson** at Tara1Stephenson@aol.com or cell number 977-2766 by March 6th, at that time, she can give your directions and answer any questions.

(Continued on page 9)



March 30th, Millerton Lake/Madera Side Ride, Part 2 11 AM

(Be in the saddle by 11 am) Also back by popular demand and due to the limited trailer parking, we are offering this ride again to those that weren't able to make it to the first ride we had up there! So again, please RSVP right away so that you can be one of the 10 trailers we can fit into the parking lot. An easy dirt trail that goes from the horse corrals on the north side back a few miles around the lake and then back. Approximate length of ride 2-3+ hours including a lunch break. There might be hikers and or bikes on this trail. There might also be car traffic alongside some areas of the trail. There is a ten dollar admittance to the lake. Please RSVP to **Tara Stephenson** by March 27th or before to secure your place on this ride (limited trailer space) at either Tara1Stephenson@aol.com or call her at 559-977-2766, at that time, she can give you directions and answer any questions.

April 6th, Coffman Ranch Ride, Part 2 11 AM

(Be in the saddle by 11 am) Another favorite, let's ride this puppy one more time before we head up into the high country! Always a nice ride at the Coffman Ranch! Ten dollar haul in fee which includes use of their arenas, round pens; heck, we can even give our horse a warm water bath if we are so inclined after the ride. The ride will be about 2-3+ hours including a lunch break. The Coffman Ranch has some nice single track trails to follow or we can just amble about if we are in the mood to do so. Located in the foothills so there will be little bits of climbing along the trails as well as cattle roaming around. Please RSVP to **Tara Stephenson** by April 3rd at either Tara1Stephenson@aol.com or call her at 559-977-2766, at that time, she can give you directions and answer any questions.

April 20th, Revis Mountain Ride, 11 am

(Be in the saddle by 11 am). Woo hoo, finally we get a chance to ride up here, we've been trying to get a ride going up here but kept getting rained out so let's cross our fingers for this one! We welcome you to join us for a 3 to 4 hour trail ride in the hills of Yosemite Lakes Park. We will park at the Equestrian Center parking lot at Yosemite Springs Parkway and Longhollow Drive. Overflow parking is available at the Recreation Center a bit further down Longhollow. We will be ascending Revis Mountain. The trail is mostly dirt road footing with some asphalt street crossings and rock step-overs. The ride is very challenging for the horses due to climbing the mountain. There are a few steep areas. This ride is suited for intermediate riders and horses that are in good shape. We will see mountain views and one or two small creek crossings. There are occasional hikers with dogs on leashes and very seldom we see a bicyclist. Bring your lunch, we will be tying up and eating on the trail and a bucket to water your horse after the ride. Water is available at the Equestrian Center. For future reference, visitors are allowed to ride in YLP only if a resident of YLP accompanies them. For directions and to RSVP, please call Sandy La Spada at (559) 760-7875 or e-mail at sandynpaul@sti.net. Also, please RSVP to **Tara Stephenson as well** by or before April 17th at either Tara1Stephenson@aol.com or call her at 559-977-2766, so that she can get the paperwork done and have a head count. **Attention! This ride has limited trailer space (we have room for hopefully 13 rigs at the barn and 5 rigs at the Recreation Center) so please RSVP right away so you secure your place on this ride!**



BCHC San Joaquin Sierra Unit's First Ride of 2013

by Dawn Smith

Photographs by William Peverille, Cara Thompson, and Tara Stephenson

Saturday, January 12th, 2013, 25 horse & rider teams participated in the first ride of our season! It was a nippy 35 degrees, mostly clear and sunny at Avocado Lake which is a 210 acre county park, located 23 miles east of Fresno off of Hwy 180.

Trail Boss, **Tara Stephenson** chose this area for the first ride of the year, because of the great 'conditioning' terrain it offers. In addition, Avocado Lake has amenities such as firepits, restrooms, picnic tables, paved access in & out. For many horses & riders, it was a nice way to 'ease' the transition back into the saddle, after some time off over the holidays.

Before the ride started, **Ted Fischer & Tara Stephenson** gathered riders together for an Education Clinic regarding gentle use of the lands on which we ride, LNT (leave no trace), and general trail safety. The group was then split into two smaller groups, leaders and drag leaders assigned, and the ride(s) commenced. After riding the perimeter of the lake, we stopped back at the horse trailers and ate lunch together. A good time was had getting to know the new members and visiting with friends.

After lunch we went back out; riding away from the lake where the terrain is less varied (everything looks 'the same'). An hour into the ride, a few riders had become '*turned around*'. This brought to light an awareness of the need for rider re-education [brushing up on] directional training; landmarks, map reading, compass use, etc, before packing into uninhabited higher elevations.

All horse & rider teams made it back to camp safely, said our goodbyes and loaded up. When I was driving away, I noticed that the parking area was nice and clean, free of any trace that we had been there. Our unit's first trail ride was a success!

A special thank you to riders, **Greg Caradonna** and **Joanne Caufield**, who acted as crossing guards when our group crossed over Piedra Road, and to all those who smiled, laughed, shared their expertise on horses, local vegetation, lake usage, and historical facts about the land on which we rode. It was a cold day, but made warm by such wonderful people!

This wonderful group consisted of **Jo Ann Caufield, Ted Fischer, Donna Reiniche, Jeanne Bryson, Bonnie Pierce, AnnVan Zandt, Judy Sylvia, Sue Crain, Pat and Duane Peverill, Tom and Debra Winegarden, Greg and Wanda Caradonna, Arlene Henry, Debbie McFarren, Sandy La Spada, Peter Parking, Cara Peterson, Jan Doyle, Sheila and Rich Roberts** and of course our great coordinator **Tara Stephenson**. (More photos on next page)





SJS Unit Fund Raisers For Sale

"There's a Mule Under My Saddle Cookbook"

by Jean Brown of Idaho

\$10.00

Hats

\$15.00

Khaki with a maroon or forest green bill and are embroidered with one horse, two mules and says Backcountry Horsemen of California.

Scarf

\$10.00

Scarves are a light or dark blue and are embroidered with one horse, two mules and says Backcountry Horsemen of California

Maroon Shirts

\$35.00

(Extra Tall \$38.00). The shirts must be prepaid before the order. The logo on the right has the person's first name and on the left is BCHC with San Joaquin Sierra Unit under the BCHC.

Horse First Aid.....

great, informative quick reference

\$25.00!

Contacts: **Wanda Caradonna** at 559 392-3534,

wandacaradonna@sbcglobal.net

&/or look for items at our rides and meetings.



180 W. Bullard Ave.
Clovis, CA 93614

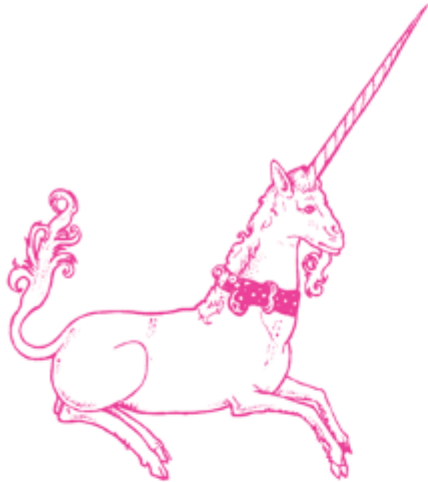
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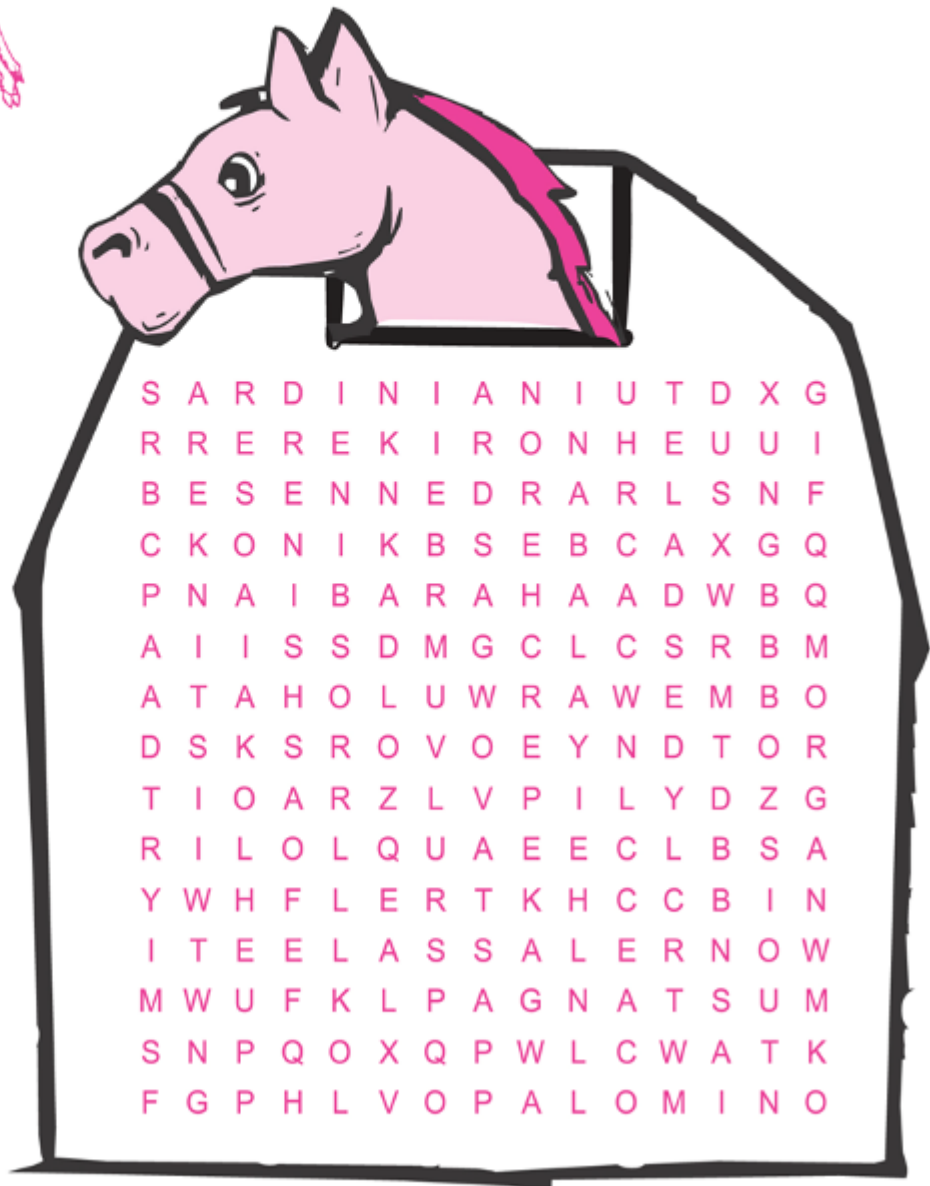
"I don't horse around when it comes to selling your property!"

KIDS CORNER



Unicorns are pretend creatures with the body of a horse and a head with a horn. Can you find all of these real horse breeds in the letters below? Look up, down, sideways, backward, and diagonally.

Appaloosa
Arabian
Ardennes
Azteca
Bashkir
Clydesdale
Fleuve
Holsteiner
Konik
Lokai
Morgan
Mustang
Noriker
Palomino
Percheron
Salerno
Sardinian
Thoroughbred
Tinker
Walkaloosa





Millerton Lake Ride

Photos by
Tara Stephenson
William Peverill

Riding in the
"Sonshine"
By Tara



Okay, who ordered the beautiful day for our ride that day? Well, I want to thank you! 15 riders and we all had a smile on our faces and we were quickly shedding layers as the ride progressed. Since we had to limit the number of trailers for the ride, we still had a pretty big and LIVELY group, not the horses, they were all good, it's the humans that were pretty frisky! Our riders that day were **Tom and Debra Winegarden, Peter and Janice Parkin, William and Pat Peverill, Ted Fischer, Donna Reiniche, Ann Van Zant, Jeanne Bryson, Bonnie Pierce, Arlene Henry, Becky Ballstreri, Art Riesgo** and myself. After quite an interesting and very educational talk by Ted (who knew that it took millions of years for a bottle to disintegrate? Not I!) and our LNT (Leave No Trace) briefing, we were treated to donuts from **Peter and Janice Parkin** (thank you, guys...YUMMY) and Peter and Janice also provided carrots for our horses, since they were listening intently too! Then it was time to hit the trail! Such a nice, easy 1.4 mile trail to Rocky Point where we hung out, let the horses drink and I tried to get a group picture (yea, that was an epic FAIL, hehehe), we headed back the way we came to our trailers (adding another 1.4 mile onto the ride), spying Marines and bald eagles along the way...oh, and yea, we had to find a certain someone's camera, I won't mention names...**William Peverill**, that got lost when we spied the Marines (yes, real people, must have been a training exercise) running along the road with a very LOUD drill sergeant. The horses and the humans were so enjoying the nice trail, not too steep, just winds along, up and down and over a bridge or two. The scenery is so nice and green at this time so that made the trail all that more enjoyable. Once back at the trailers, we all crowded around the lone picnic table and had the most enjoyable lunch ever! We still had some donuts left over and **Donna Reiniche** had made a really good 7 Layer dip that Ted seemed to really take a liking to, hehehe...Then it was time to pack up and head home...an easy 4 hours had passed so quickly...I stayed behind, surveying a spotless campsite where we had parked, I think it was cleaner after we left than before we got there! All in all, perfect weather, good horses and a nice conditioning ride!





They didn't say there would be roping on this ride, but somehow I got roped into giving a report. Anyway, a report is a small task considering the great enjoyment I think everyone, and I, had on this ride. The "January Ranch" is named for the January family (we were not just taking a ride in January). It's located near Minkler on the Kings River bottom land. It is a beautiful spot with grand old oaks scattered through the bottom land. There were some creeks to cross and some ups and downs, but mostly pretty flat ground. But I am getting a little ahead of myself. **Tara Stephenson** had everything set up with good directions (Even though we somehow missed her well placed sign!), the trail marked, and everything ready to go.



We surely appreciate Tara's efforts. (She had help, but I am not sure who they were – but we appreciate their efforts.) Thanks also go to **Tracy Knepper**. Tracy, our club member, lives and works on the ranch and made the ride possible – many thanks! Tracy was also our leader and took us "over the hills and through the woods". There actually weren't any real hills, but the oaks and other trees were beautiful.

The ride began with everyone ready to go by the 10AM planned start time. It was overcast and cool, but the footing was good and no dust – perfect riding conditions. **Ted Fischer** gave the safety instructions and we were ready to go. My horse was a little nervous, as were some others, but there were no train wrecks and all riders returned in good shape. As someone said, they were very appreciative of having a ride like this to take their young horse. We know that new places, new horses, new sights, new animals (cattle) can be challenging to our horses. So these rides are very helpful to get our horses well trained. About an hour and a half into the ride, we stopped in an oak-studded meadow for lunch. Tara and Tracy had picked a nice spot – we had trees to tie the horses, and the King's River was our backdrop. Pretty nice! As is always the case on these rides, we got to see some riders we have not seen in a while and meet some members we may not have met before. There were 23 riders; **Tara Stephenson, Dawn Smith, Cindy Schueler, Ted Fischer, Donna Reiniche, Jeanne Bryson, Tracy Knepper, Ann Van Zandt, Tom and Debra Winegarden, Greg and Wanda Caradonna, Jim Crawford, Linda Franklin, Peter Parkin, Cara Peterson, Jim Knabke, Randy and Carolyn Witt, Wendy Garza, Sue Lehman, Natlie Agnew and Debbie McFarren**. I did not talk to everyone, but it was a convivial group and I am pretty sure all enjoyed the ride. Thanks for having me along – the **Roped Reporter, Jim Knabke**.



Turtle Rock
Indian grinding stone
Delicious sandwiches

JANUARY 17th, GENERAL MEETING

By Carolyn Witt

We had a good turnout and many good discussions occurred, one was whether ponying a young horse at some of our regular rides would be appropriate. It was suggested this should be discussed more at our next Board Meeting in March. If you have an interest please join us to voice your opinions. Each Officer and Coordinator gave a short report. We are in need of several people to come forward and volunteer for **Sunshine Coordinator, Christmas Party Coordinator or Committee member, Youth Reporter**. If you are interested contact any Board Member and help serve your unit.



There were sign-up sheets for Desensitizing Clinic, Rodeo Parade, and Shoot Your Heart Out Day. Our new Ride Coordinator has helped increase the membership by offering some awesome rides pretty much every weekend. She needs suggestions for places to ride right now due to the weather conditions, so if anyone has any great places please let **Tara Stephenson** know.

Our guest speaker for this meeting was **Al Gould**, leather artist and saddle/tack maker. He gave all of us practical advice about taking care of our saddle, saddle fit, tightening up the flank cinch instead of dangling it, making sure to have a throat latch in the Backcountry, how to recognize a broken saddle tree, what to put in your "diddy bag" and he would be willing to do a saddle-fitting clinic.

A NOTE FROM TARA And Sandy's Horse By Tara Stephenson



A note about upcoming Rides and Events:

Just wanted to let you all know that since we are in the winter months and the weather is cold and unpredictable, our rides have and need to be kept at a low elevation, even repeated some rides due to popular demand. Rest assured, as soon as the snow melts, there will be MANY rides up in Sequoia National Park and Yosemite. There are also plans for a camping trip to join up with the Ohlone Unit at the **Jack Brooks Horse Camp** on July 3 – 8th. We also are planning another camping trip to **Montana De Oro** July 12-14. So far those are what we have on the "books"...we are working on them and when the plans are firm, we will be sure to let you all know how to contact us for all the details. And please, if you'd like to host a ride, that would be so helpful, not to mention making the rides varied...different host with different places to ride just adds up to all that much more fun!

**Board of Director's Meeting
Wednesday September 5, 2012
Clovis Elks Lodge**

Meeting was called to order at 6:30 by John Mikkelson
An addition to agenda was added.

Treasurer report: as of Aug. 31, 2012

YTD Income \$ 2781.78
YTD Expenses \$ 2941.40
YTP Profit/(Loss) (159.62)
General Checking \$14558.79
CD and Savings \$11267.26

Committee Reports:

Membership – Jan Mikkelson led discussion of club liability if non-current members participate in ride.

Shaver Lake – Greg Caradonna reported for Char Meier. Both Char and Wanda currently at Shaver preparing for ride. 45 riders have signed up.

Old Business:

Big Meadows/work – John Mikkelson reported on the hard work that got done in and around the camp. Trees and brush were removed. The work party created more hi-lining room. All corrals received a new layer of gravel.

Big Meadows/play – Cathie Walker reports smaller group then in the past but everyone had a great time. Ron Jefferson treated us to campfire music on Saturday night. Thank you Ron.

Annual Elections meeting and ride to be held Saturday October 20th, Riddle Ranch, Orosi, CA. Nominations to date:

President – Greg Caradonna

Vice President – Joe Kaminski

Secretary – Cindy Mueller

Treasurer – Peter Parkins

Katie Horst will no longer be a director in 2013. Possible candidates are Carol Kaminski and Wanda Caradonna.

Nominations will be open from Membership at the October meeting.

Public Lands – Joe Kaminski learned that Pt. Reyes Park will allow bicycles only on weekend and horses allowed Monday through Thursday. There is a push to allow bicycles on Pacific Coast Trail.

Toby reported on the RAC proposal for Chamberlain Meadow to develop a horse camp for public use and recon trips. They need 4-6 people during 2013 season.

Christmas Party – DJ confirmed; date is December 8th at Clovis Elks Lodge, Cocktails at 5:00pm. Dinner served at 6:00pm.

New Business

State Meeting is October 13th, Visalia CA.

Joe and Carol Kaminski, Toby and Katie Horst and Greg Caradonna will be attending.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:05pm

Continued from bottom of next column...

Details to follow about Solar Panels

Toby and Katy Horst reported on the purchase of electric fencing for future use on work party events.

Meeting adjourned at 8:39

**Board of Director's Meeting
Wednesday November 7, 2012
Clovis Elks Lodge**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 by Greg Caradonna
Greg introduced two new members of the board, Peter Parkin – Treasurer elect and Tara Stephenson – Director elect.

Treasurer report: as of Oct. 31, 2012

YTD Income \$ 5756.39
YTD Expenses \$ 4795.92
YTP Profit/(Loss) \$960.47
General Checking \$15671.93
CD and Savings \$11274.21

Committee Reports: Greg announced that Randy Witt is stepping down as the Education Chairperson. Ted Fischer was nominated to be the new Education Chairperson by Katie Horst seconded by Freddie Chrisman. Motion passed. Ted suggested we consider having education topics for both board and general meetings. The time frame for the board meetings would have to be kept to 10 minutes.

Membership: Jan Mikkelson reported we have three new members. Greg stated that membership committees were suggested at the State meeting. An E-mail will be sent out to members asking for volunteers for 3-4 persons committee. Jan Mikkelson will chair the committee.

Newsletter: Mary Odell will continue until the end of 2012 working with Carolyn Witt to learn the newsletter. Carolyn will be taking over in 2013.

Public Lands: Joe Kaminski reported grant monies approved for Chamberlain and recon project for 2013.
Shaver Lake closed for the winter.

Old Business:

Christmas Party – 12/08/2012. Bar to open at 5:00pm dinner at 6:00pm. RSVP by 12/01/2012

State Meeting

Greg Caradonna reported State Membership dues will increase in 2013 by \$5.00 for both individual and family memberships. Dues will increase an additional \$5.00 in 2014.

New Business:

Calendar Planning for 2013 discussed. Plans to increase member rides for 2013.

Proposed rides:

January 12th – Avocado Lake

January 19th – San Joaquin River Trail

February 9th – "Shoot your heart out" @ The Range

February 16th – Hensley Lake

February 23rd – Coffman Ranch

Rendezvous is March 22-24, 2013 in Norco Ca.

Membership drive ride possible sometime in March or April
Clovis Rodeo is April 27th and 28th.

Parade Practice will be April 16th or the 20th

Char and Wanda will host a Poker Ride at Shaver Sept. 7th.

Details will be posted in the newsletters and web site.

Board meetings will continue to be the first Wed. of each month.

General Meeting Dates:

January 17, 2013 March 20, 2013 May 22, 2013

August 14, 2013

☐ **NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Backcountry Horsemen of California

☐ **RENEWAL APPLICATION**



☐ **CHANGE - () PARENT UNIT () ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL () MEMBERSHIP TYPE**

DCTR (YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER) _____

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

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

Antelope Valley
Eastern Sierra
High Country
High Sierra
Kern River Valley
Kern Sierra
Lake-Mendo
Los Padres

Mid Valley
Mother Lode
North Bay
Ohlone Riders
Redhawk Riders
Redwood
San Diego
San Geronimo Pass

San Joaquin Sierra
Santa Ana River
Sequoia
Shasta Trinity
Sierra Freepackers
Steinbeck Country
Sutter Buttes
Top of the State

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

**Donate to BCHC
Education Fund?**
Tax Deductible

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

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

SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME -MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

PHONE

EMAIL ADDRESS

Make Checks Payable to: BCHC

CHECK # _____

DATE SUBMITTED: _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$_____

BUSINESS NAME - DONATIONS ONLY:

PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)

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

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

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNIT AFFILIATIONS MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT.

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

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

Please write additional choices on back

Please clip form along dashed line - **KEEP BELOW INFORMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS**

PARENT BCHC MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Individual, Family (Shared*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt Whitney. A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit. BCHC members may NOT hold more than one active Parent Membership.

A SHARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names, each sharing a common address.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

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

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

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

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I SUBMITTED AN Application Form for:

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

Questions: Contact membershin@bchcalifornia.org



San Joaquin Sierra Unit

P.O. Box 25693

Fresno, CA 93729-5693



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 legislation or management plans related to government regulations of the backcountry.
- To support or oppose new proposals, plans and restrictions as related to the interest of horsemen and those persons interested in recreational stock use and enjoying the backcountry.
- To promote the interest of people who, due to health or physical factors, need transportation other than by foot on backcountry trails.
- To promote public awareness and interest in the historical aspect of horsemen and stock in the backcountry and to help educate backcountry users on 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.