

# SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

## Hoof Prints

April 2025

Issue 80

**San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC**  
**PO Box 25693**  
**Fresno, CA 93729-5693**

Email: [membership@bchcalifornia.org](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org) (membership email only)  
On the WEB: [www.bchcsjsu.org](http://www.bchcsjsu.org) (SJS Unit) or  
[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) (State)

Max & Irene Cochran  
Newsletter  
Award Winner

3rd - 2022

### BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



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

## Presidents Message



Thankfully we keep getting weather that hopefully leaves enough runoff water for the year. We just had our annual desert ride, and you missed some good rides and great weather if you didn't show up. The flowers are showing up late this year in the desert just like our rainfall season. A few of us rode with our sister unit High Sierra, this past Sunday at the Lake

Success Pavillion for the Cathy Caskey Memorial Ride and had a good ride in her honor without getting rained out. I like to think she helped with that. It was well attended and well done. We have the Trail Trials funday coming up at Steve Naylor's this coming Saturday. If your horse has been cooped up for the winter, it will be a good place to start tuning them up, with trail trial obstacles and noises from the spookless sound conditioning playing in the arena. Parade riders are encouraged to attend, and it sounds like we will see a nice turnout. Your board did not meet last month but we did get our annual audit, and state reports out for our unit. Sierra FS is conducting saw training in May for crosscut and chainsaw as well as First aid in April. Please call me if interested in signing up, info inside. We have Rendezvous next week up in Corning CA

the 11-13. Next board meeting will be 15th of April which you're welcome to attend, and the Clovis parade on the 26th. Please contact Jan if you are interested in riding the parade. We have our first work party coming up on the 2nd-the 4th of May and there is a flyer inside if interested. June 14 is our Annual Raffle Ride and now is a good time to ask for or come up with raffle items, appreciate any help.

Hope to see you soon on the trail in the middle of the saddle on top.

Your President, Jim Laber

## In This Issue

Pg. 1	Presidents Message
Pg. 2	2025 Calendar
Pg. 3	Recipe of the Month
Pg. 4	Trail Trials Fun Day
Pg. 5	Clovis Rodeo Parade
Pg. 6	Upcoming Sierra Forest Saw Training
Pg. 7	2024 Officers & Directors
Pg. 8-9	Desert Ride
Pg. 10	Sunshine Corner/Lighter Side
Pg. 11	San Joaquin River Gorge Work Party
Pg. 12	BCHCSJSU Shirt Order Form
Pg. 13	Kids Corner
Pg. 14	Membership Application
Pg. 15	Big Meadows Horse Camp Sponsors

# 2025 Calendar

Board Meetings are now on the 3rd. Tuesday of the month. All members are welcome to attend. Board meetings start at 6:30 pm and for now we are meeting at the American Legion Hall, 508 4th Street, Clovis, CA 93612.

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](http://www.bchcsjsu.org)

## 2025

April 5	Obstacle Course Funday
April 11-13	Rendezvous-Corning Ca Rolling Hills Equestrian
April 15	Board of Directors
April 26	Clovis Parade
May 2-4	San Joaquin River Gorge Work Party TBD
May 20	Board of Directors
May 20-25	Bishop Mule Days
June 7	Big Meadows Work Party TBD
June 14	Raffle Ride TBD
June 17	Board of Directors/General Meeting
June 21-28	Edison Work Party TBD
Jul 25-29	MDO Camp and Ride
Jul 15	Board of Directors

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, [jim@visaliaidea.com](mailto:jim@visaliaidea.com). You may call 559.250.7906 and I will get back to you.

Jim Laber  
President

Remember to check for any Unit updates at our Web Site:

[www.bchcsjsu.org](http://www.bchcsjsu.org) for the San Joaquin/Sierra Unit,

[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) for the State Web Site

*The purpose of this publication is to keep its members in- formed 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.*

## CAMPFIRE BAKED APPLES

*These camping apples are such a fun and easy dessert! The recipe is very forgiving and can easily be scaled up or down depending on the size of your group.*

### INGREDIENTS:

- 4 apples, honeycrisp work best
- ½ cup rolled oats
- ½ cup brown sugar
- 4 tablespoon butter, very soft or melted
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon salt

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Start the coals: You can make baked apples using either the embers from a wood fire or charcoal. Make sure to prepare your fire well-enough in advance to allow the larger pieces of wood to burn down to usable embers.
2. Make the filling: While the fire or charcoal is getting ready, make the filling for the apples. In a small bowl, mix together the oats, brown sugar, softened butter, butter, and salt.
3. Carve the apples: Carve out the middle of the apples using a small spoon. Start from the top of the apple and carve your way down into the core, removing the core and all the seeds. The most important thing here is to not carve through to the bottom! (Otherwise, all the butter and brown sugar will drip out, leaving the filling dry and your Dutch oven a sticky mess.)
4. Fill the apples: Fill the apples with the oats and sugar mixture and pack it down with your spoon.
5. Place the apples into the Dutch oven and set over a bed of hot charcoals. Make sure all the apples are standing upright. Place the lid on top and cover it with hot charcoal. Ideally, you're aiming to bake the apples at 350 F. If you are using a 10" 4 quart Dutch oven, that would be 7 coals on the bottom and 14 on top. Depending on the coals and outside temperature, you may need to adjust this number.
6. Bake the apples for about 30 minutes, until the apples are soft and the filling is crunchy on top.
7. Serve in a bowl, topped with whipped cream. Enjoy!



# **Backcountry Horsemen of California San Joaquin Sierra Unit**



## **TRAIL TRIALS FUN DAY**

**Saturday, April 5, 2025**

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

(You may sign up as a new member on site)

### **Location**

✿ **Luck of the Irish Ranch** ✿

7939 21st Avenue, Lemoore CA 93245

### **Time**

Saddle up and ready to ride by 10:00 a.m.

### **Lunch**

BBQ provided - bring your own beverage of choice

### **Contact**

Steve Naylor

559 284-7478 • [scnaylor@hotmail.com](mailto:scnaylor@hotmail.com)

### **RSVP**

to Steve by Wednesday, March 26, 2025 so we can plan the food.

*This event is meant to provide a fun opportunity  
to familiarize you and your mount  
with different obstacles and encounters  
that may be found on a trail or ranch.*

**Come and Practice and Join the Fun!**  
**Don't Forget Your Chair**

**No dogs**

**No stallions**

**Helmets required if under 18**

*Visit the website  
[bchcsjsu.org](http://bchcsjsu.org)  
for Map and  
Directions*

# **ATTENTION CLOVIS RODEO PARADE RIDERS!!!!**

April 26, 2025 is the Clovis Rodeo Parade!!! As usual, the required parade wear is a burgundy shirt, light colored straw or felt hat, or helmet, riding jeans and our own bandanas with the BCHC logo. We also have matching saddle pads that I will be loaning out the day of the parade.

Since we no longer have large enough orders to purchase shirts from a supplier, you can usually purchase burgundy shirts made by the Ariat brand at Boot Barn. We have the bandanas for \$15.00 a piece that I can provide the day of the parade. I am including a photo so you can see the color of shirt we wear. If you find a different brand, but is the same color, that is fine, as long as it is a button front shirt with a collar and long sleeves.

If you don't want to purchase a shirt, several members have offered theirs to borrow. The sizes are: one small, two large and a medium. Please let me know if you plan on riding in the parade and I will send out the map for you to park the day of the parade. We will get our parade entry number, but no matter what the number, we always need to be there early to park and prepare. It is a wait, but worth the enjoyment of representing our group.

Thanks,

Jan Mikkelson  
BCHC-SJSU Membership Coordinator  
jessecowboy@comcast.net



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 Jim at [jim@visaliaidea.com](mailto:jim@visaliaidea.com) or upload them through the website: [www.visaliaidea.com](http://www.visaliaidea.com)

## 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, or website ([bchcsjsu.org](http://bchcsjsu.org)) for the information regarding times and location of upcoming meetings.

Respectfully,  
Jim Laber

## CONTEST TIME

*Find the Hidden Hoof Print!* 

First person to find the hidden hoof print in this newsletter and email Jim Laber @ [jim@visaliaidea.com](mailto:jim@visaliaidea.com)

**Will Get A Free**

BCHCSJSU Long Sleeve Color T-Shirt

**GOOD LUCK!**

## Upcoming Sierra Forest Saw Training

**Red Cross First-Aid training  
Saturday, April 12, 2025**

**Crosscut Saw Training  
May 17 & 18**

**Chainsaw Training  
May 31 & June 1**

**If interested in any of these  
please call Jim Laber  
559-250-7906**

## **2024 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

### **President**

Jim Laber, 559-250-7906  
jim@visaliaidea.com

### **Vice President**

Ruth Cramer, 559 417 3878  
racramer@outlook.com

### **Secretary**

Carol Kaminski, 559-733-9170  
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

### **Treasurer**

Linda Ritzgerald, 559-289-8322  
linda.fitzgeraldcbs@gmail.com

### **DIRECTORS**

Term Expires at end of year:

Steve Naylor, 559-284-7478  
scnaylor@hotmail.com  
2025

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2025

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k\_daughrity@yahoo.com  
2025

Doug Laber, 559-786-6634  
douglaber@gmail.com  
2025

Marcee Hansen, 559-977-9472  
jamn4jabez@yahoo.com  
2026

Jan Mikkelsen,  
jessecowboy@comcast.net  
2026

Jeanine Jones 559-862-5178  
jjones2248@gmail.com  
2026

Lois Patten 559-970-2548  
pattenkennel@gmail.com  
2026

## **COORDINATORS**

### **Membership/Mailing Coordinator**

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jessecowboy@comcast.net

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jamn4jabez@yahoo.com

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### **Education Coordinator**

### **Ride Coordinator**

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pattenkennel@gmail.com

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k\_daughrity@yahoo.com

### **Shaver Lake Camp Host**

Ruth Cramer, 559-417-3878  
racramer@outlook.com

### **Web Wrangler**

Duane Peverill, 559-908-3138  
wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

### **Facebook**

Marcee Hansen, 559-977-9472  
jamn4jabez@yahoo.com

### **Big Meadows Horse Camp**

Jim Knabke, 559-299-3254  
jjknabke@comcast.net

## **ADVISORS**

### **Past President**

Joe Kaminski, Honorary

# 2025 ANNUAL DESERT RIDE

Rosamond, Ca



What a beautiful weekend to spend time with our horses and great friends. Thursday March 20th was the start of a great weekend. The group that enjoyed the weekend were TJ Smith, Steve Naylor, Jim and Shela Emery, and Jim and Doug Laber. Most of us arrived on Thursday afternoon and began setting up our high lines for our horses and unpacking the essentials that we would need for the weekend. Thursday evening Jim, Doug, and TJ went to town and had dinner at Roberto's Mexican Restaurant in Rosamond. Like always very good food. When we got back to the Ranch Steve was just finishing up setting up his high line for his horse. We got a fire going in the fire pit and visited with each other. Friday morning, I got coffee started and headed out to our horses to start mucking and then feeding. Everyone was up early taking care of their stock. After the chores were done it was time for coffee and relaxing before we got breakfast going. The breakfast was sausage, scrambled eggs, and biscuits. After breakfast we were joined by Jim and Shela Emery from Bear Valley, who were going to be coming out to ride with us on Friday and Saturday. We all got our stock ready for the days ride. Our destination for Fridays ride was Bean Canyon, about a 5-mile ride one way. Once we got out to Bean Canyon, we gave our stock a little rest and we took the time

to stretch our legs and have a snack. On our way back from Bean Canyon we took a little detour to go by a sign maker that used to live full time in the desert. He was well known for scripture signs that are still out next to Willow Springs Road. His property still has scripture signs being displayed. We finished our ride around 2 pm and we got the stock unsaddled and brushed out and then headed to the patio to relax and visit with each other. It was nice having Jim and Shela come out each day to ride with us. Saturday morning started off just like Friday morning, except breakfast included Bacon, and lots of bacon. Jim and Shela showed up around 9:30 am and we all got our stock ready for the days ride. Saturday was the ride to the pictographs that some of you may have seen in previous newsletters. This ride to the pictographs was a little over 5 miles one way. Once we made it there, we spent about half an hour letting our stock rest and stretching our legs. I still think the images on the rocks look like Aliens but have been schooled that it is a picture of an eel that was a food source for Indians on the north coast. Lol. On our way back we went off trail and went cross country. This is nice because the horses are not sure where we are going. You do need to stay on the watch for the small cactus called the Cholla i.e. walking man or jumping cactus. These Cactus are becoming more prevalent in this area. After we got back, we got our stock brushed out and fed and we headed to the patio and visited and then said goodbye to Jim and Shela as they had to get back to town. For our dinner on the last night, we had Shredded beef and salad with Chocolate chip cookies for dessert that TJ finally shared with the rest of us Lol. Thanks to Carol for the great cookies.

Sunday morning, we were all up early taking care of our stock and getting things packed up. Thanks again to Steve, TJ, Jim and Shela Emery for having a great weekend riding in the desert with us.

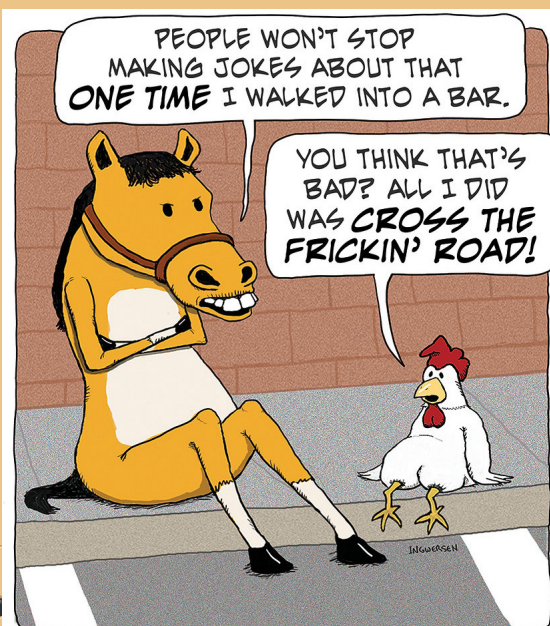


# SUNSHINE CORNER

Stay Safe Everyone  
and Happy Trails



## The Lighter Side



## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Patricia Achilly, Downey

Sheila Emery, Tehachapi

Pat Plume, Sanger

Kaitlen Betchel, Lemoore

Jason & Anne Nikolakakis, Templeton

Morgan Wukodinsvich, Kingburg

Bonnie Pearce, Clovis

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## **San Joaquin River Gorge Camp out & Work Party**

# **May 2 - 4, 2025**

**BRING A CHAIR, DRINKS, & SNACKS**

**Dinners – Fri & Sat – POTLUCK with  
meats provided by unit**

**Breakfast – Sat & Sun – provided**

**Lunch – provide your own**



On Google Maps as “San Joaquin River Gorge Special  
Recreation Area”

**MEMBERS ONLY – You can join at the ride**

**RSVP Marcee Hansen – 559-977-9472 or**

**Jim Laber – 559-250-7906**

# 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.

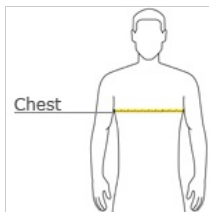
\_\_\_\_\_ X \$14.65 each \_\_\_\_\_  
(Qty) (Total)

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

# KIDS CORNER



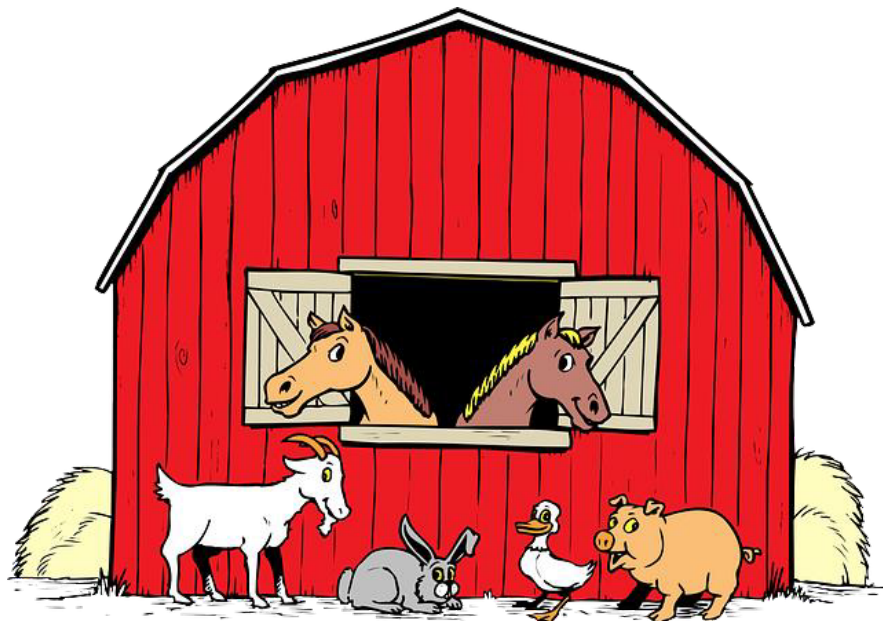
## HORSE COUNTRY

### WORD SEARCH PUZZLE

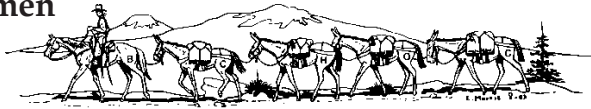
BIT  
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 BUCK  
 BUGGY  
 CARRIAGE  
 COLT  
 COWBOY  
 EQUINE  
 FOAL  
 GALLOP  
 HARNESS  
 HAY  
 HOOF  
 HORSESHOE  
 MARE  
 NEIGH  
 OATS  
 PONY  
 RACE  
 RIDE  
 SADDLE  
 SPURS  
 STRAW  
 TACK  
 TAIL  
 YEARLING

D	K	L	A	Y	N	O	P	H	O	O	F	P	C	P
R	E	L	E	S	O	B	L	A	N	K	E	T	E	B
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D	S	V	F	T	K	E	S	N	A	Y	N	U	T	E
R	Z	O	Z	S	L	S	P	G	E	I	G	B	A	D
F	A	L	J	N	D	O	E	X	U	I	T	G	O	I
L	E	R	A	M	T	P	C	Q	A	O	G	T	U	R
E	G	N	I	L	R	A	E	Y	V	T	G	H	Z	B

The words appear UP, DOWN, BACKWARDS, and DIAGONALLY.  
Find and circle each word.



# Backcountry Horsemen of California



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

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

A Family & Youth  
Oriented Organization

Release 4 2025 (11 Feb 25)

☐ New ☐ Change

☐ Renewal

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

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

DCTR (Your Membership Number): \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S NAME - No Business Names, Print Clearly

SPOUSE/CO-MEMBER'S NAME - MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address/PO Box

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

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

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

### Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

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

**Associate Membership: An Additional \$15 PER UNIT is added to your Parent Unit Dues**

Associate Membership Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

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

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

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.

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

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

### KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a -

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




## Big Meadows Horse Camp Sponsors



Your unit pays the cost of maintaining and hosting the Big Meadows horse camp. We are seeking sponsors (10) 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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PHN: 559.635.1144

Salser & Dillard Creighton Chapel - FD 497  
1588 Lincoln Street, Kingsburg CA 93631  
PHN: 559.897.2908

Available



***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 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.