

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

Hoof Prints

Happy
4th of
July

July 2025

Issue 83

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

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

Max & Irene Cochran
Newsletter
Award Winner

3rd - 2022

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



OF
CALIFORNIA

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

Presidents Message



June was a busy month. We started out with our annual Raffle Ride then our general meeting, and off to Thomas A Edison Lake and the High Sierra Pack Station to clear trails. I am thankful for many in our unit who stepped up and volunteered to make all these events a success.

Hats off to all of you and see

articles inside for more details.

We are still in need of some members to put their names in the hat for the board of directors. Please give me or any of the directors a call if you are interested or need more info. The commitment is to attend board meetings on the 3rd Tuesday of each month to help give member relevant consideration to future events, rides, and trail work for our area. Our next meeting is on the 15th of this month, so please come join us and see how your board works for you.

Coming up we have our MDO trip July 31 – Aug 4. Reservations are closed but we have a member that has Thursday-Sunday at Lupine next to Chamise and Manzanita with 3 nights available July 3 thru noon on

August 3rd. Let me know if interested in that shortened time frame.

Thank you all for your work on our events in June. Watch the calendar for upcoming events and work parties. We will be going into clear the California Riding and Hiking trail Tentatively set for Aug 13-18th and September 18 – 23rd. If interested call Marcee Hansen for more details.

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

Your President, Jim Laber

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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

2025

Jul 15	Board of Directors
Jul 31 - Aug 4	MDO Camp and Ride
Aug 19	Board of Directors
Aug TBD	Fun Ride
Aug 13-18	California Riding & Hicking Trail - Tentatively
Sept 6	Memorial Ride Big Meadows
Sept 16	Board of Directors
Sept 18-23	California Riding & Hicking Trail - Tentatively
Oct 9-13	Coastal Mounted Assistance/SJSU MDO
Oct 21	Board of Directors
Oct 25	General/Election Meeting, Trail Trial Fun Day Luck of the Irish Ranch
Nov 8	Holiday 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, 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 for the San Joaquin/Sierra Unit,

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.

DUTCH OVEN JAMBALAYA

Enjoy the bayou classic at your campsite! Shrimp, sausage, chicken, and rice join up with veggies and simmer to perfection. This Dutch oven jambalaya is especially great for feeding a crowd.

INGREDIENTS:

- 2 tablespoons oil or bacon grease
- ¼ of a white onion, diced small
- ¼ of a green pepper, diced small
- ½ stalk celery, diced small
- 1 14oz can roasted, crushed tomatoes
- 1 cup rice
- 1 sausage, boudin or andouille, sliced
- 9 raw shrimp, size 16/20, peeled and deveined with tail on
- 2 chicken thighs, skin removed
- 1 clove of garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- 1 spring of thyme (or ¼ teaspoon dried)
- 1 ⅔ cups chicken stock



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Prepare the meats and fish. Make sure the vein has been removed from the shrimp, but you can keep the tail on. The perfect size is 16/20, which will be printed on the bag, but any size will work.
1. Add your oil or grease to the dutch oven over medium high heat. Saute the onion, celery, green bell pepper, chicken and sausage for about 2-3 minutes. If you're cooking over coals, the heat is right when you hear the vegetables sizzling.
3. Add in the rice and stir to keep it from sticking. Then add the garlic, paprika, cumin and thyme, and stir constantly for about 2 minutes.
4. Add in canned tomatoes and chicken stock. Cover with the lid and cook for 10 minutes without opening.
5. At the 10 minute mark, add in the shrimp and cover to cook for 10 more minutes.
6. When done, the mix should be sauced but not overly soupy. Serve hot in a bowl.

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



San Joaquin Sierra Unit

Holiday Dinner

NOVEMBER 8TH

Save the Date!

Classic Country Western
Live Band: Southern Comfort Band

OPEN TO THE PUBLIC!

Unit Awards • Rifle Raffle
50/50 Raffle • Dessert Auction
(Bring a dessert for Auction)

Diciccos Old Town Clovis
408 Clovis Ave., Clovis, CA 93612
No host bar • Dinner at 6:00pm



IT'S RIDE TIME!!!

Come join us on our San Joaquin Sierra unit Summer ride.

When: SATURDAY, JULY 19TH, 2025

Where: PERIMETER TRAILHEAD behind Fishing Club, SHAVER LAKE

Time: REGISTRATION BEGINS @ 9:00 AM

RIDE WILL BEGIN @ 10:00 AM

Club will provide water for you

This ride is structured for the success and safety of the beginning high country rider. ALL RIDERS WELCOME

BRING:

A FRIEND

RSVP Wednesday JULY 16th

Lunch & Chair

Lois Patten 559-970-2548

Alternative Drink

Water for your Horse

Please make sure your membership is up to date. We will have membership forms for those who are not members. Cost for an individual is \$60 annually. Discount for families.

Payment; Check or Cash ONLY. NO E-PAY

No dogs, stallions, or alcohol on trail.

RAFFLE RIDE JUNE 14, 2025

Our ride was absolutely beautiful this year in Shaver Lake, California. There was a nice cool breeze on a 75-degree sunny day. We had over 30 attendees this year and had 3 who signed up for membership. Many of them were prior participants on past rides. It was great to see all the familiar faces. Our Raffle prizes overflowed to the ground from 4 tables. This year we had quite a few riders come from BCHC-High Sierra Unit. I am so happy they made it to our event this year. I would like to thank all the participants that donated items to our raffle. This is our only fund raiser for the year to help fund our trail projects.

Thank you to our BCHC-SJSU members that volunteered to make the raffle ride run smoothly. Thank you to Carol Kaminski, Steve Naylon, for the wonderful food. Thank you, Jim Laber and Doug Laber, for all your help with parking and lots of other stuff. Thank you, Linda Fitzgerald and Jan Mikkelsen, for getting everyone signed in for the ride. Thank you to Karen Daughrity, Lois Patten, and Marcee Hansen for clearing and marking the trail. Last, but definitely not least, Thank you Ruth Cramer for securing our dates and permits for this spectacular location. There were a lot of laughs and great comradery among this large group of Equine Enthusiasts. I hope to see you all again next year.





WANTED



TRAIL CREW

Able bodied Riders and Hikers. Come join us and work under our banner or bring your organization and let's open some trails together, that are almost forgotten. The California Riding and Hiking Trail has segments that because of fire and disease are impassible. We have stock (mules and horses) that carry us our provisions and our tools down the trail. We can be a benefit to each other, us carrying your tools and helping to clear these important trails together. We collaborate with the USFS and other entities in the Sierra National Forest, High Sierra Ranger District. Hikers who wish to help are encouraged to join our organization in helping us to clear trails in the National Forest and Wilderness.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL:

Marcee Hansen – (559) 977-9472

Jim Laber - (559) 250-7906 • Doug Laber (559) 786-6634

Facebook Group:

Back Country Horsemen of California San Joaquin Sierra Group

Web: <https://bchcsjsu.org/>



REWARD

Back Country Bitcoin (your legacy)

Back Country Horsemen of California (BCHC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to
KEEPING TRAIL OPEN TO ALL While practicing Leave No Trace practices.

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 Jim at jim@visaliaidea.com or upload them through the website: 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) for the information regarding times and location of upcoming meetings.

Respectfully,
Jim Laber

1/4 Page Ad

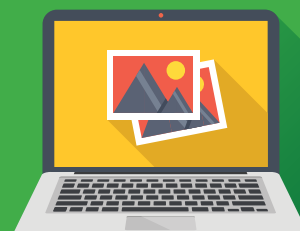
\$20 per Month

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HOWDY

If you have attended any BCHC San Joaquine Sierra Unit events and have pictures, it would be deeply appreciated if you would send them to wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net. As the webmaster, I like to keep the webpage up to date with photos of our events. Since I am not at the event, this is the only way to keep page current. You may also text via my phone number located on the webpage under webwrangler. Thanks in advance. Visit the webpage at bchcsjsu.org Happy Trails.

William Duane Peverill
Web Wrangler and Past President



EDISON WORK PARTY

Pilot car driver Muriel Holland, Bob Skinner, Doug Laber, Brian Jones, Lois Patten, Carol Kaminski, and Steve Naylor, met at the Twin Lakes parking lot next to Badger Flats Campground and headed up Kaiser Road to the High Sierra Pack Station early Saturday morning June 21. The road was paved at the end of last season in many places above Portal Forebay which made the drive a little faster. Most all the potholes were filled in, which was easier on of us and our stock. Marcee Hansen came up later in the afternoon and we all got our stock and tools organized for the coming week of work. Brian, Doug, and Jim tacked up their rides in the afternoon and took a ride to recon the work for the next day and found a good reason for all the chain saws to go out the next day.

We went in a week earlier than last year and were blessed with cooler temperatures the entire week which was a relief over last year. We started on the shortcut to the Lake/Mono trail and the work started not far from the station. We did not get too far before our Forest Service Wilderness Ranger Joe Ryan who we heard cutting with chainsaw, showed up and we went over the plan for the day and got on with it. We encountered plenty of work along the way and wound up crossing a small creek and boggy area we had to add some rocks to the tread to keep the stock from getting excited going through. Some of the clearing was as simple as moving the fallen trees, which many were in that 6-8" size dried out and light. We also had various sizes up to 36" and some pile ups that were difficult to get through. We finally made it to a stump that had been part of a fallen tree, and we went to work on getting it out of the trail tread as it destroyed that section of trail when the roots pulled up from under the trail. It was a hard job but rewarding to finally get it out of the way.

The next day we went back out to the stump area and helped rebuild the trail tread which Ranger Joe had already gotten a good start on. Marcee and Lois went up the trail past the landing to check the trail and Joe took his chain saw and headed up behind them to work the landing area and up to Mono Creek Trail. We then headed back to the station and later met with Ranger Joe to see how the work went above the landing. The next day was set for working the Goodale Pass trail and the Devils Bathtub trail to the wilderness boundary and get all the chain saw work done.

Marcee, Brian Doug, and Jim went up the Goodale pass trail on our off day which wound up being a day of recon. We had planned on getting all the way to Cold Creek but the last part of the hill before the creek was impassable. The whole side of that hill was bare a couple of years ago with barely any green but now the dead trees are falling and piling up and the White Thorn has taken over.

Friday, we packed up and left the station after coffee and some breakfast pastries. Steve led us on the way out and we were thankful as even getting out early the weekend traffic had

started. With all the dead trees standing in the burn scars I can see the work to be too much each year unless proactive cutting to protect trails is done. I think we have an endless ongoing job, and I am thankful for all the members who stepped up and got chainsaw and Crosscut saw certified. I am also thankful for the crew that came up and did the work this year. We were few but we were mighty. Also, thanks to Carol and Steve who kept us fed with terrific food and treats to keep us going and healthy on the trail, and thanks to Muriel for driving us in . Final stats: 99 trees cleared with 128 cuts and 18 carry offs.





JUNE 2025 GENERAL MEETING



Kaycee Jones with Boss Mare Bodywork, Certified Equine Massage Therapist did not disappoint at our general meeting June 17th. She demonstrated a few of the techniques she uses on Karen Daugherty's prized trail horse Cash.

We had a little over 20 members attend this informative meeting at J BAR L Arena. Kaycee told us the importance of body well being within our mounts as we tackle the difficult terrain in the back country. Often times our equines will continue on as if nothing is bothering them while they carry over 200lbs, climb up and down rocky stairs that can be 20" in height, picking their way through boulders, navigating slippery river rock through rushing water, and maintain balance on granite slides. We owe our partners a great deal more than food, water, and a brush off when we put them away after a treacherous day. When we are sore, we take meds, stretch, or even go to the chiropractor. Don't you think our animals deserve the same? I realize some of us have little time as it is. Yet, stretching legs and topline is the least we can do. If you don't have the time, you can always call someone who does. Luckily, we know someone.

As Kaycee worked on a few key areas that almost always are affected using stock, we got to see Cash obtain some relief from her expertise. Even though he was quite nervous, he seemed to walk away better than when he arrived. She explained the benefits by maintaining the horse's musculoskeletal system, stating massage reduces the risk of muscle strains, joint problems, and other injuries, ensuring that the horse remains in good physical condition for longer periods. As backcountry riders we usually pull our stock out after winter and hit

the trails. Sometimes we have the opportunity to leg up our animals, sometimes life is too hectic with jobs and family. Equine massage therapy is a great way to help horses and mules get ready for the activities we require of them. It is not only beneficial for physical health but also for our stock's mental well-being. Equine, like humans, can experience stress and anxiety, which can negatively impact their behavior and performance. Kaycee is also a certified Red-Light Therapist. She explained the possible need for more than deep tissue massage and stretching. When tendons, ligaments, and muscles have been strained, inflammation makes it very difficult for massage to help. Infrared light therapy is a non-invasive therapeutic way to help heal wounds and soft tissue injuries. It uses certain wavelengths of light that are delivered to sites of the body that have injuries. Triggering several natural processes of the body on a cellular level, one of them being an increase in blood flow. This therapy stimulates the regeneration and repair of injured tissue.

It was a great pleasure to have Kaycee as a Guest Speaker. She had a list of interested clients by the time she was done. A few of us bought shirts and hats with her logo on them. After her demonstration, we enjoyed ice-cream that Jan Mikk brought. It was really good.

Do your Trail Partner a favor!



Thank you Kaycee and J BAR L Arena





PEGGY RIDDLE

Peggy Riddle, 68 years old, passed away, unexpectedly October 2024. Peggy was a huge contributor and supporter of our Backcountry Horsemen unit, along with her sister Cathie Walker and niece Cindy Mueller. For many years she and her family provided the beautiful Riddle Family Ranch to the unit for Play Days, Trail Trials, Election Meetings, and general rides for us all to enjoy. We spent many fun days there with very fond memories.

Along with supporting our unit through their ranch activities, she was a fabulous chef. She created wonderful food for events at Big Meadows as well as at the family ranch and other camping locations. One could always depend on something fresh, creative and absolutely delicious with yummy aromas coming from the cook trailer.

She was instrumental in supporting our group and what the Backcountry stood for and it's mission to keep the trails open for all equestrian's to enjoy. She had such a love of horses and rode for many years from the time she grew up working on the citrus ranch with her twin brother. She developed such a love of animals but her passion for horses was particularly strong. She even considered becoming a veterinarian spending time working in small and large animal hospitals but ultimately felt in her heart a nursing career was what she was meant to do.

She was a nurse in the Critical Care Unit of CRMC for 39 years where she was highly respected for her expert care, knowledge and kindness. She was a very generous person who was greatly admired and a friend to so many.

The BCHC-SJSU was very fortunate to have such a wonderful, highly respected member for so many years who gave us all so much in friendship, participation and the joy of cooking.

Jan Mikkelsen



SUNSHINE CORNER

Stay Safe Everyone
and Happy Trails



The Lighter Side



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Bonnie Pearce, Clovis
Andrea Jacobsen, Clovis
Patsy Anderson, Strathmore
Randall Paulson, Sanger
Debra Zavatto, Clovis
Beth & Josh Golden, Tulare
Elaine & David Mello, Exeter
Lisa & Ness Sanli, Prather
Jani & Boyd Goins, Auberry
Brenda & Brad Morgan, Auberry

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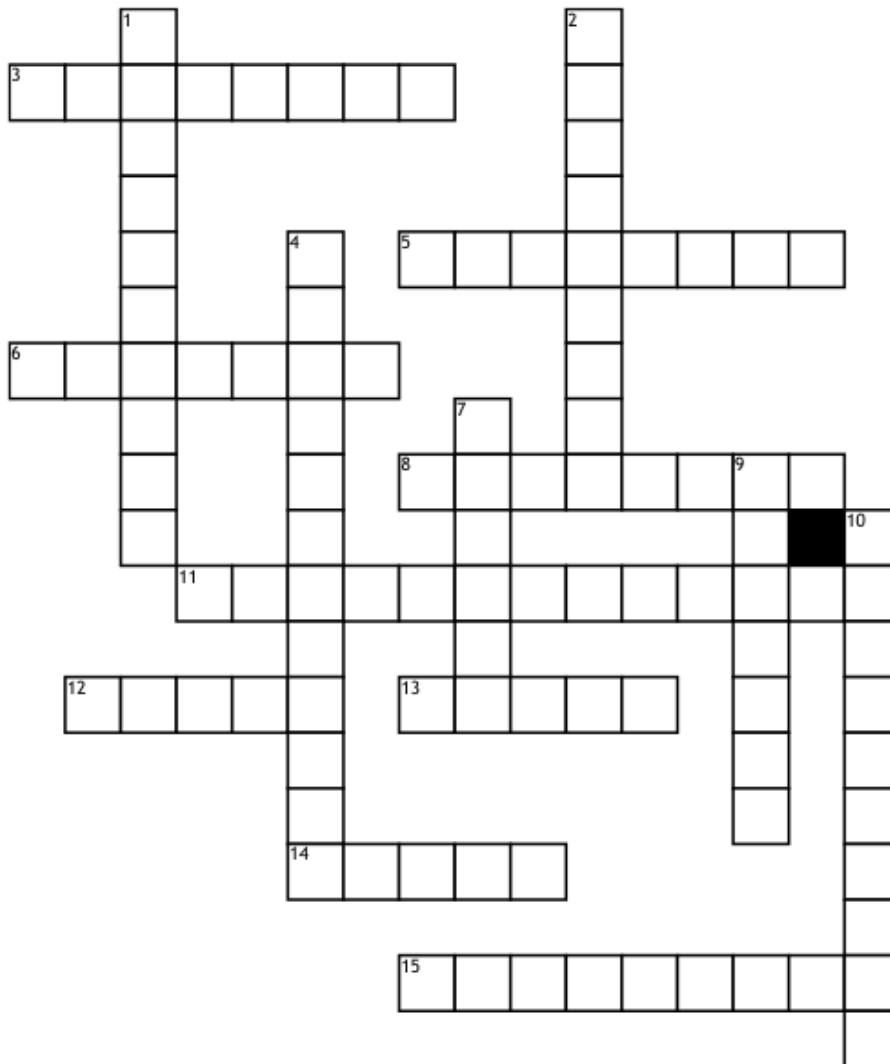
ADVISORS

Past President

Joe Kaminski, Honorary

KIDS CORNER

Horses



Across

- 3. What do you put your feet in when riding
- 5. What horse sport involves trick riding
- 6. What goes on the horses back first
- 8. A horse that originates in the Netherlands
- 11. Horse made in Kentucky

12. What is a bridle with out a bit that just has a nose piece called

13. Horse that comes from the British Isles

14. What do you use to control the horse while riding

15. Spotted horse from North America

Down

1. Horses from the Spanish Riding School of Vienna, Austria

2. Horse breed from Turkmenistan

4. What goes on the breast of the horse

7. Australian wild horse

9. Horse from the Arabian Peninsula

10. One breed of horse that comes from Spain

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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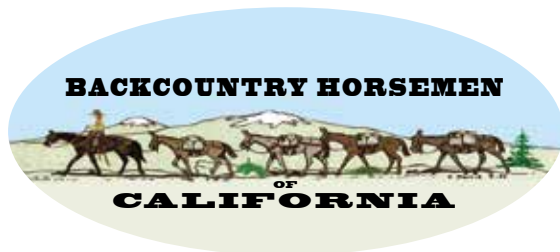
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Available



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.