



### Toby Horst

Charles "Toby" Horst passed away Saturday, May 17, 2014. We lost a great man that day, who graced our world with his multi faceted interests and talents.

Toby was so smart. He was a technical wiz, a gadget lover, a computer expert, and of course our "sound" man with amplifiers and microphones. He was always ready with a slideshow, a GPS, or had a solution to a computer issue. He also had a love of music and a huge collection of many genres and eras.

He loved his tractor. Oh, did he love his tractor and all the tasks it handled. He drove it like a pro and reveled in its abilities.

He was very cultured and loved to travel the world. He and Katie were quite the square dancing couple and traveled several times a year to different dances to enjoy their great mutual interest. Toby and Katie were so lucky to have each other and share the same love of animals, dancing, traveling, the high country, and nature. Many people had great admiration of their marriage of 27 years. He was a loving and dedicated husband and an honest, deeply caring and forthright man.

And, of course, Toby was a horseman. Toby could ride for miles and miles, riding out on Dixie, many times pulling his string of mules, all individually named and with unique personalities. He always was the star attraction of the Clovis Rodeo parade, with the mules all packed up hauling tools and our BCHC-SJSU banner.

He was a steward of the backcountry and upheld the values of an American outdoorsman, preserving the mountain trails and meadows for us and generations to come. He worked tirelessly to keep trails open and on the maps, as well as working on grants to ensure the continuance of our rights and freedoms in the high country.

He was a valued member and patron of the backcountry family and deeply respected by the forest service, fellow riders, and packers. He left an impression with everyone he met and each of us learned something valuable from this man. In the past few days, people have been writing and talking about his influence, his teachings, his inspiration and his great stories. He contributed so much to all of us and this huge loss cannot be replaced.

Our thoughts, prayers and love go out to Katie and his family and to all of us, who loved and admired and appreciated this wonderful man. Jan Mikkelsen



It is with great sadness, that I must share with you that Toby Horst passed away Saturday evening after a valiant battle against pneumonia that he had been fighting since June – and, that had severely weakened his lungs. Up until very recently, Toby in his position as a Director of the San Joaquin River Trail Council – and, as Treasurer/Director of the Sierra Resource Conservation District had continued to take his responsibilities very seriously.

Many of you have known Toby for many, many years. And, I have had the privilege to know and work with Toby and his wife Katie for over 20 years. He has been an inspiration to many of us, for his capacity for critical thinking, problem solving, physical stamina, and just plain tenacity. Toby was never a person to say no – or to give up on any challenge that laid before him that dealt with his love and protection of the great outdoors, managing our natural resource wisely, and his care for the wellbeing of friends, neighbors and our local communities.

I know that Toby touched many a person's heart with his "salt of the earth" personality, sharp mind and persona. He is the only person I knew that could balance and securely double-diamond the load of panniers on the back of a mule – and then confidently lead a string of them in the most challenging backcountry regions of these majestic Sierra Nevada mountains. Yet, he could dazzle you with his technical prowess when it came computers, gee whiz electronic gadgets and financial management systems. He was the consummate rugged individual that is becoming rarer all the time.

Toby has been my inspiration over these many years – and I know that he has been for all those who he has befriended along the way no matter how hard a trail laid ahead. I cannot find enough words to express my feelings for a man who has touched my innermost being. We thank Toby for sharing his life with us in so many positive and countless ways.

And, now we can freely say – Toby, you will always be an inspiration – and within our heart.



Steve Haze  
President

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San Joaquin River Trail Council



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