

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA Hoof Prints



December 2018

Issue 10

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)

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



OF CALIFORNIA

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

Presidents Message

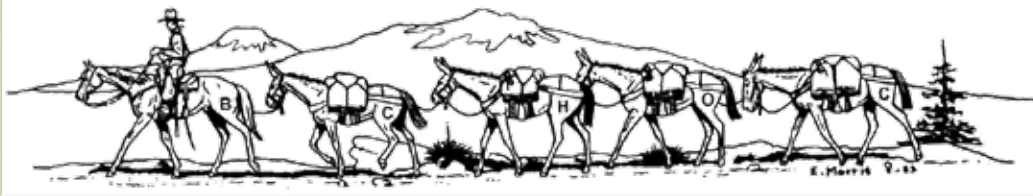


Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. Hope all of you had a very Happy Thanksgiving. Our family had a great Turkey Dinner. Now that we have some rain and snow and the fires are somewhat under control we can look to a better year in 2019. Please remember all those who have lost everything and support them in any way. We have two great functions coming up over the next few months. In December we have our annual Christmas

Dinner at the Elks Lodge on December 8. Great food and entertainment. It is an event where we can all just enjoy socializing and sharing our great equine stores. Hope to see you all there. January 12 we have the The Ted Fischer Memorial Dave Stamey Dessert Concert held at the Elks Lodge in Clovis. The tickets for this event will be on sale at the Christmas Dinner. All tickets will be sold prior to event and none will be sold the night of the event. Watch your emails and web page for information on these great upcoming events. On Jan 1 we will have some new officers and board members taking over. Please support them and your unit throughout the next year Please contact me with any concerns you might have and also about any activities you would like to see the club sponsor. Remember....this is your club. Get Involved!!!!

Please check out the web site bchcsjsu.org for all updates on the unit and activities. We have a calendar that lets you know about the upcoming activities. The calendar has been updated with 2019 activities. Hope to see you on the trail. Remember, He who procrastinates is a murderer of time-SADDLE UP!

William Duane Peverill
President, BCHCSJSU



**SAN JOAQUIN-SIERRA BACKCOUNTRY
HORSEMEN**

HO..Ho..HO (not WHOA!)



It's that **Time of Year** to gather for our annual **Christmas** Holiday party. You **DON'T** need to be a member to come and join in the festivities.

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8, 2018

Cost: \$25.00
 Time: 5:00 p.m. Social Hour
 Dinner: 6:30 p.m.
 Location: Clovis Elks Lodge
 535 Woodworth Ave
 Clovis

Please R.S.V.P. by December 1, 2018 to:
 Jim or Debbie Dixon 559-
 779-3507
 or email to: jddixon@netptc.net

***** Auction Donations? Bring any new item to the party and we'll put 'em on the table! ****
 Prepay and get it out of the way! Tear off and mail **BELOW!**



We will have
 Cowboy Poet
 Grant
 entertaining us
YeeHAW!
 No Host Bar
 Silent Auction
 And...As Always
Yummy Food
 Tri Tip or Chicken

Backcountry Horsemen Christmas Dinner December 8, 2018

Name _____ Number of Attendees _____

Chicken Dinners# _____ Tri Tip Dinners # _____ Paid amt. _____

Mail to: Jim & Debbie Dixon P.O. Box 319 Shaver Lake, CA
 93664



San Joaquin Sierra Unit

Board Meeting October 2, 2018

Call to order: 6:30

Roll Taken: President: Joe Kaminski, Vice President: Duane Peverill, Secretary: Carol Kaminski, Treasurer: Pete Parkin
Directors: Gary VanSickle, Sue VanSickle, Randy Witt, Ted Fischer, Jim Knapke, Carolyn Witt, Cathie Walker,
Steve Naylon, Fredi Chrisman

Minutes review and approved: 1st Gary V. 2nd Duane.

Correspondence: Donations for Big Meadows

Treasurer Report:

Committee reports:

Education: Members need to be in good standing to serve on board. Parks to raise entry fee \$10.00. Yosemite update: change in fire management. Burn more slash piles. Release of liability forms- state wants paperwork to release liability for events. Need ICE cards. State to put forms together. May combine with hours forms. Check at state meeting. Need insurance for any event. Early notice BLM- emergency contact.

Membership: 3 new members. John, Chris and Abel

Newsletter: Nov. 20 due date.

Public lands. Inyo, Sierra, Sequoia- 5 year plan (go ahead). More burning in Sequoia Park. Kyle to contact Ron Goode for meadow restoration info.

Sunshine: Thank yous to Clovis Independent 4 Wheeled Drive for road work, Jim and Doug Laber for outhouse plaque, Dog House for gift certificate donation.

Shaver Lake: To close Oct. Stalls to be taken down. Work party needed for next year.

OLD BUSINESS. Big Meadows- Checks came from High Sierra BCHC. New pump company hired to pump vault. Cost to be \$650 (was \$1,800). Membership requested for pump company. DG was dumped at camp. Randy volunteered tractor. Work party scheduled Oct. 19 (Thursday) to spread DG. Club to provide lunch.

2. 2017 events up-to-date. See calendar.

3. Dave Stamey-Feb.2. Need cost estimates fo Elks, Dessert, Insurance for alcohol. Ted 1st for catering, Randy 2nd. Passed. Club to pay for 2 tickets for Ron Jefferson.

4. General meeting- Club to pay \$15 per member for dinner. Stabie DVM to speak (dinner paid for).

5. Elections- Ted VP, Duane- President, Gary- Treasurer, Carol-Secretary. Directors- Debbie McF, Steve Naylon, Pete Parkin, Rick Perrin, Jim Laber

6. Christmas Dinner- Dec. 16(new date),set-up 9:00am., need non-camping donations, art work, travel, corn popper. Table decorations for event??? Fredi has gold faric, Cathie has saddles for decorations. Jim and Debbie Dixon for RSVP. \$25.00 for dinner. Chaffeing dishes needed. Call Jan for silent auction set-up. Maybe gun safe, CCW purse, ride with Eye-in the Sky(Randy)

NEW BUSINESS: Jan. 17 meeting- Joe to contact Greg for short wave radio speaker. No cost for class for those interested.

Forrest Service wants personal information for paperwork(we choose not to). Mark Nelson has BCHC branding iron.

We will buy for \$50. Duane 1st., Fredi 2nd. (passed)

Adjorn: 8:10

2018-19 Calendar

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.bchcsjsu.org

- December 5 Board Meeting
- December 8 Christmas Party Entertainment Any Board Member

2019

- January 2 Board Meeting
- Jan 12 Ted Fischer Memorial Dave Stamey Dessert Concert Tickets Go On Sale
Christmas Dinner...MUST PRE PURCHASE TICKETS -NO TICKETS AT DOOR
Contact William Peverill wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net
- January 16 General Meeting
- January 19 San Joaquin River Gorge Ride Ruth and Randy
- February 6 Board Meeting
- Feb 15-18 Desert Ride Starlite Ranch
- February 23. Obstacle Ride Fun Day. Contact Steve Naylon
- March 6 Board Meeting
- March 20 General Meeting
- March 29-31 Rendezvous
- April 3 Board Meeting
- April 27 Clovis Parade
- April 26-28 Clovis Rodeo (Non Unit)
- May 1 Board Meeting
- May 3-4 Jose Basin Camp Out Joe Kaminski 559 733-9170
- May 15 General Meeting
- June 5 Board Meeting
- June (TBA) Edison Work Party Joe Kaminski 559 733-9170
- July 11 Board Meeting
- July (TBA) Montana De Oro Camp Out Pete Parkin
- August 7 Board Meeting
- August (TBA) Diana Sorensen Memorial Tamarack Camp Out/Ride Joe Kaminski 559 733-9170
- August 14 General Meeting

2018-19 Calendar (continued)

Sept 4	Board Meeting
Oct (TBA)	Board Meeting
Oct(TBA)	Eagle Point Ride Shaver Lake (members Only) Cara (559) 901-3936 carasblueprint@sbcglobal.net
Oct (TBA)	CCMA Poker Ride/Camp out MDO (Non Unit)
Oct (TBA)	Elections/General Meeting
Nov 6	Board Meeting
Work Parties TBA	

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

William Duane Peverill
President

Remember to check for any Unit updates at our Web Site:
www.bchcsjsu.org for the San Joaquin/Sierra Unit,
www.bhcalifornia.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 MOUNTAIN MAN BREAKFAST

Prep Time: 20 minutes Cook Time: 1 hr. 10 minutes Servings: 5-6

INGREDIENTS:

1 pound mild pork sausage	1 (2 pound) package frozen shredded hash brown potatoes
1 onion, chopped	12 eggs, beaten
1 clove garlic, minced	1 (16 ounce) package shredded Cheddar cheese
1 red bell pepper, chopped	
1 green bell pepper, chopped	

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Build a campfire and allow the fire to burn until it has accumulated a bed of coals.
2. Cook and stir the sausage, onion, and garlic in a 12-inch cast iron Dutch oven with lid, raised over the coals to medium-high heat, until the sausage is no longer pink and the onion is tender. Stir in the red bell pepper, green bell pepper, and hash brown potatoes until evenly mixed. Cook, stirring occasionally, until the hash browns are hot and the peppers are tender, about 15 minutes.
3. Pour the beaten eggs evenly over the top of the potatoes, allowing them to sink into the potatoes. Cover the Dutch oven, and place 6 to 9 coals underneath, and 12 to 18 on top. Allow to bake until the eggs are firm, about 40 minutes. Sprinkle with Cheddar cheese, cover, and continue cooking until the cheese has melted, about 5 minutes.



BIOMIRAGE

landscape, pool garden design

October 4th, 2018

Hon. Devin Nunes

113 N. Church St.

Visalia, CA 93291

Hon Nunes,

I am writing today to express my gratitude for your support of the Backcountry Horsemen of California and our efforts to provide the necessary support to our US Forest Service in clearing high country trails. Without your support we would not be able to pack in the personnel and equipment with our horses and mules to clear trails so that the entire world can visit our beautiful mountains for generations to come. If we were not allowed access to assist the overstretched US Forest Service to clear these trails many trails could be lost to us and future generations.

Thank you, falls short of the deep gratitude I feel for your support. I have attached an article I wrote for our newsletter about my last work trip into the high sierras. I think it expresses what we do and why we do it. I hope you have the time to read it and enjoy a moment of satisfaction for what you have wrought...

Sincerely,

Melanie Mackenzie

Member BCHC

1635 W Linden Ave, Visalia, CA 93291
(619) 742-4860 biomirage.com
melaniejauregui@msn.com

DEVIN NUNES
22ND DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

CHAIRMAN
PERMANENT SELECT
COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRADE
DEPUTY WHIP



UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

November 7, 2018

1013 LONGWORTH HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2523

113 NORTH CHURCH STREET
SUITE 208
VISALIA, CA 93291
(559) 733-3861

264 CLOVIS AVENUE
SUITE 206
CLOVIS, CA 93612
(559) 323-5235

WWW.NUNES.HOUSE.GOV

Ms. Melanie MacKenzie
1635 West Linden Avenue
Visalia, CA 93291

Dear Ms. MacKenzie:

Thank you for taking the time to visit by my Visalia office and drop off your letter with your article. I welcome the opportunity to respond.

I greatly appreciate your kind words of support. There has been long historic value and use of pack and saddle animals. Livestock use on public land has a long tradition in American culture. President Teddy Roosevelt, an avid environmentalist and outdoorsman, explored the West extensively on horseback. John Muir, founder of the Sierra Club, traveled with pack-horses in 1869 through what would later become Yosemite National Park. I commend the great work that you do.

I will continue to work with my colleagues in Congress to support open access to all of our parks. I appreciate having your support.

Thank you again for taking the time to visit my Visalia office. If there is anything I can ever be of assistance with, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,


Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

OFFICE MISSION:

TO ENSURE OUR CONSTITUENTS AND ALL AMERICANS LIVE FREE AND PROSPEROUS LIVES IN A HEALTHY AND SAFE ENVIRONMENT BY SERVING, COMMUNICATING, PROTECTING AND REPRESENTING THEM IN A PROFESSIONAL AND CARING MANNER.



The Lighter Side

Back in the Old West three Texas cowboys were about to be hung for cattle rustling.

The lynch mob brought the three men to a tree right at the edge of the Rio Grande.

The idea was that when each man had died, they'd cut the rope and he'd drop into the river and drift out of sight. They put the first cowboy in the noose, but he was so sweaty and greasy he slipped out, fell in the river and swam to freedom.

They tied the noose around the second cowboy's head.

He, too, oozed out of the rope, dropped into the river and got away.

As they dragged the third Texan to the scaffold, he resisted, "Please!

Would yaw'l tighten that noose a little bit?

I can't swim!"

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FOR SALE

Saddle made by Al Gould.

Southwestern tooling. 15" seat,

Breast collar included, used but

in great condition. Email me for

any questions or pictures,

linda.fitzgeraldcbs@gmail.com.

Asking 2,150.00.

Call (559) 289-8322

www.bchcsjsu.org

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

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

www.bchcsjsu.org

Advertising Rates

Classified Ads

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

Display Ad Rate per issue

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

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

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

Attention

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

Respectfully,
Joe Kaminski
Past President



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180 W. Bullard Ave.
Clovis, CA 93612



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

"Travel Advantage"

Dear BCHC Members

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

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

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

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

2018 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

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wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

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tjfischer3@gmail.com

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kaminski clan@gmail.com

Treasurer

Gary Van Sickle, 559-288-0301
gwvansickle@gmail.com

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2018

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2019

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2019

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2019

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RAC

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Wanda Caradonna,
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Volunteer Work Hour Report

Wanda Caradonna,
559-392- 3534,
wandacaradonna @sbcglobal.net

Big Meadows Horse Camp

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

ADVISORS: Rick Preen

Past President

Joe Kaminski, 559-733-9170
kaminski clan@gmail.com

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 are embroidered with one horse, two mules and says Backcountry Horsemen of California.

Scarf \$13.00

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

Maroon Shirts \$37.00 (Extra Tall \$40.00). The shirts must be prepaid before the order. The logo on the left is BCHC with San Joaquin Sierra Unit under the BCHC. Names added for \$5.00 in a group.

Horse First Aid.....great, informative quick reference \$25.00

Contact: Pete Parkin 559-871-4500 ktzpaw@yahoo.com &/or look for items at our rides and meetings.

**Backcountry Horsemen
of California**



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

**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

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

New **Renewal**
 Change

(indicate change)

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

DCTR (your Membership)

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: _____ (please print legibly)

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (tax deductible) \$ _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check one)

Individual \$50 Family \$60 2 Year Individual \$90 2 Year Family \$110 3 Year Individual \$125 3 Year Family \$150

Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15 – Benefactor \$100 – Patron \$250 – Mt. Whitney \$500

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

Associate Memberships 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)

Add additional choices here

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 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 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.

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 new -

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership	\$ 60.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old)	\$ 15.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual	\$ 90.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family	\$110.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual	\$125.00
<input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family	\$150.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney Membership	\$500.00

On that form, I also requested:
 _____ Associate Memberships \$ _____
 My Total Remittance: \$ _____
 My Check Number: _____
 Date Mailed: _____

Verification of BCHC membership

is available via (1) BCHC unit president's reports (2) BCHC membership chair reports (3) a self-addressed stamped envelope submitted with this form or (4) a valid email address

*This handbook is available in its entirety at:
<http://bchcsjsu.org/uploads/3/4/7/0/34706757/handbook.pdf>
We will be publishing pages from this handbook in sections over the next few months.*

Insect repellent for both you and your horse is a must. An animal can't rest or stand quietly when being eaten by insects. There are many good products on the market. If you use a spray, your horse must be accustomed to its use.

If you carry salt for your animals or to keep the deer from eating your tack, use a little caution. If it is put on the ground, some of it will leach into the ground and the deer will dig a hole searching for it. Place it on a rock and block it there. Salt isn't necessary for your animals if they have it available between trips. During the early part of summer your horse will be shed-out and short haired. It is common to have frost at night and occasionally snow. If space permits on a pack trip or if you are camping at the trailhead, your horses will rest better and feel better if they are blanketed.

ON THE TRAIL

The old saying goes "the shortest distance between two points is a straight line". When riding the trail it may be the shortest but not the best. Shortcutting across switchbacks in the trail should not be done. It creates a new tread, which is usually steep, causing erosion and gullies. Cutting switchbacks also constitutes abuse of our resource and the hoof prints that remain are a signature of who is to blame.

Many experienced horsemen tie a knot in split reins or otherwise fasten them together when in the backcountry. If a rein is dropped and stepped on it could be broken, or your horse may act up. You may be using one hand for a packhorse lead rope, and your reining hand for dodging limbs occasionally. If you stop to adjust a pack, split reins must be secured or they will end up under the horse's feet. One way to secure them is to take a wrap around the horn and shove them through the latigo keeper slot.

Caution must always be used in handling the lead rope of the packhorse. Either carry it in your hand or take one wrap around the horn and place the under your leg. The safest is to keep the rope in-hand.

Never tie a lead rope to the saddle horn hard-and-fast!

Regardless of what you see in the movies, never tie a horse by the reins. Always tie or lead with a lead rope which is either fastened to a halter under the bridle or passed under a bosal and tied around the horse's neck.

There are several good books listed in the appendix which cover more detail on packing, camping and trail riding techniques.

TRAIL COURTESY

Trail courtesy is largely dependent upon the attitude of the individuals involved. It's infrequent that a person has a problem with someone using the same mode of transportation, but most of us know little of the problems of the other users. A better understanding of these problems will be helpful. In wilderness areas, only the hiker, horseman and Llama user are involved. In other areas motorcycles or mountain bicycles may be encountered. The only aspect that we can write on with any degree of authority is that concerning the horseman and hiker or motorcycle rider.

In all cases common sense and courtesy are more important than who has the right of way. Usually the horsemen will hear a motorcycle approaching before it comes into sight. Look for a chance to pull off the trail. A motorcycle makes more noise than most horses will tolerate at close range. When meeting a string of horses, a cycle rider should shut off his engine and move his machine as far off the trail as practical.

When overtaking a string of horses, a cycle rider should stay well behind the horses until the horseman can find a suitable spot to pull his horse off the trail to allow him to pass. A few minutes delay could well mean the difference between a minor inconvenience and possible injury.

Encounters between hikers and horsemen are common and should cause no problems if each respects the other's situation. A horseman often has pack animals as well as his personal mount to control. The necessity for a firm hand and fast action leaves little time for social amenities. In the excitement of the moment a horseman's concern can easily appear to be arrogance. Once thing that the horseman must remember is that the horses are his responsibility and that the hiker has every right to be on the trail, and deserves common courtesy. Another point that is probably not understood by most hikers is that a horseman leading a pack string can seldom afford the luxury of stopping to chat. Pack strings have an affinity for getting into trouble when stopped.

When a string of horses meets a hiker on the trail the hiker should make his presence known to the horseman as soon as practical by talking to the rider. This will let the horses know there is a person in that big package of nylon. The hiker should step off the trail on the low side. Few hikers know this, so be patient. The horseman and hiker should continue to talk until the pack string has passed so that the horses will be aware of the hiker's presence. Some hikers feel safer if there is a tree between them and

the trail, but there is little danger if the horses are aware of the hiker and don't become startled. A pack string overtaking a hiker owes the courtesy of holding the horse in check until the hiker can find a suitable place to step off the trail. If a pack string is overtaken by a hiker, the horseman should find a good spot to let the hiker pass. The horseman should remember the following: The hiker is packing a load, may be tired and it requires extra effort for the hiker to move off the trail. It may require little effort on the horseman's part to move aside. Be considerate.

There can occasionally be problems between different horse groups. Two basic rules are you use the right hand trail in a divided trail system, and the loaded string has the right of way. However, we can't always choose the places where we must pass and discretion will save a lot of broken halter ropes.

Ridden horses should always give way to a pack string and usually a small string should give way to a larger one. Naturally, children and novices deserve extra consideration.

On high rocky trails it may be necessary to backtrack a considerable distance to find a suitable place to pass. Turning your string around may require you to turn each animal around separately and reverse the order. Remember to turn the horse with its head to the down hill side. In this manner it can see where it places its feet on the trail. Patience is a true virtue in these situations.

HOLDING AND TYING

The best method to graze livestock is free roaming either in public pastures or in selected locations where stock can be contained by drift fences or natural obstacles. However, this method is not practical under many circumstances. Therefore, the most widely used method of restraint is by alternately tying and turning the horses loose to graze for a specified length of time.

The nature of stock, the location, and the method of holding all have an effect on the degree of trampling and soil disturbance that takes place. Some horses are more prone to pawing. The following measures are recommended to reduce environmental damage when using stock in the backcountry. Wet, marshy areas are very susceptible to damage and should be avoided. Tying stock in the immediate camp area is discouraged. The pawing and trampling that may occur creates an over-used appearance and dusty conditions in the camp area. Lake shores and stream banks are especially subject to trampling. Over-grazing and caving in of banks may occur if stock is confined close by. All land management agencies require stock to be tied or picketed away from lake shores and stream banks.

A hitch rack or high picket line is the recommended method of confining stock. Hitch racks should be placed where the soil is hard and rocky. Either method should be back in the trees where the impact will be less noticeable and less damaging to the ground cover. Horses should be tied so they can't reach the ground. This will help prevent getting a foot over the rope. When feeding, the lead rope may be loosened so the bottom of the nosebag can rest on the ground. Remember to shorten the lead rope after feeding.

Never use a nosebag on a loose horse. If it gets to water it may fill the nosebag with water and drown.

A preferred method of tying horses is with the use of a "high picket line". This is a line stretched (approximately seven feet above the ground) between two trees. Lead ropes are tied along the high line so that the halter snap is two feet from the ground. This allows the horse to lie down yet not get tangled. A rule of thumb is tie horses shorter when you will not be nearby or be able to see them such as at night. Horses seem more relaxed and content when tied to a high picket line than with other methods. They seldom pull against the line because there is nothing solid to pull against.

THE HIGH PICKET LINE

Where the high line goes around the tree, the bark should be protected by padding, such as a cinch or gunnysack. A 2" wide nylon "tree saver" strap is a good choice. Never use your lash cinch to fasten one of a tether line, most lash hooks can break easily as well as the canvas portion.

The high picket line prevents the horse from getting around the tree, damaging the bark or root system. As with other methods of restraining horses, the high picket line should be set up away from the immediate camp area - away from the trail and back in the trees where the least ground cover will be disturbed.

The lead rope may be tied directly to the high picket line as shown in figure (A), or a loop knot, figure (B), can be tied at intervals along the high line. A 2" ring or swivel snap can be placed on the line before the loop knot is tied. This is handy because the loop knot has a tendency to tighten on the lead rope making it difficult to untie.

The loop knot can always be loosened and moved to suit any spacing or situation. If the lead rope is tied directly to the high line as shown in figure (A); a half hitch thrown over the loop will keep it from working loose.

There are three things to be cautious about when using the high picket line:

1. There must be a swivel in the lead rope or it will become twisted or unraveled as the horse moves around.
2. If the lead is tied too long the horse may get a leg over the lead or may become tangled if it rolls.
3. If the high picket line is too low, a saddled animal may catch the saddle on the high line and damage the saddle.

Again, the high picket line is to keep stock from damaging trees or their root systems. If the lead rope is allowed to slide along the high line, it defeats the purpose of this method.

Half-inch hemp rope makes a good high line. Nylon is too stretchy. Multi-filament polypropylene rope is best. It will stretch more than hemp, but is stronger, lighter, and will not soak up water. Many horsemen use the lash ropes from their packsaddles for the high picket line.

A hitch rail can be easily constructed by tying a solid pole between two good-sized trees. A deadfall pole should be used. The horses should be tied on the opposite side of the tree from the pole so that the strain is against the trees rather than the rope-ties. The hitch rail should be trimmed closely.

The tying area must be located off the trail and away from water or boggy area. An area with hard rocky ground that catches enough breeze to discourage insects is ideal. Some horses will become restless and paw while tied. A pair of hobbles will discourage this bad habit.

Another method of holding horses which may be particularly useful where feed must be packed in is a temporary corral. A corral allows the horses some movement while still keeping them contained. Select a spot for your corral away from trails or water and if possible on hard rocky ground. Temporary corrals should be made as large as practical. The size will depend on tree spacing, but a thirty-foot diameter corral would be about right for five horses. Corrals can be made of rope and usually should be made from two ropes. The top rope should be at least belt high and the bottom eighteen inches lower. Mantie and cargo ropes can be made by tying poles to trees. Leave the branches on all but the inside and make sure there are no short limbs to injure a horse. Don't corral strange horses together. Corrals should be taken down and poles stored when you leave.

Portable electric corrals are good for stock familiar with electric fences.

A ration of grain, evening and morning, will help teach a horse that camp is "home". Carry extra grain or pelletized feed in areas where graze is sparse. The effort to stop the spread of noxious weeds into the backcountry has caused the prohibition on packing hay or unprocessed grain into some wildernesses.

Processed grain or pelletized feed is an excellent substitute. Processed grain has been rolled, ground or otherwise treated so that it will not germinate. Alfalfa pellets are a good substitute for hay but you must accustom your stock to eating pellets, before the trip. Contact the local land management to determine if hay is allowed.

GRAZING

Horses grazing on good grass cause little adverse impact, but keeping them in the area where you want them and not heading for the truck can be a problem.

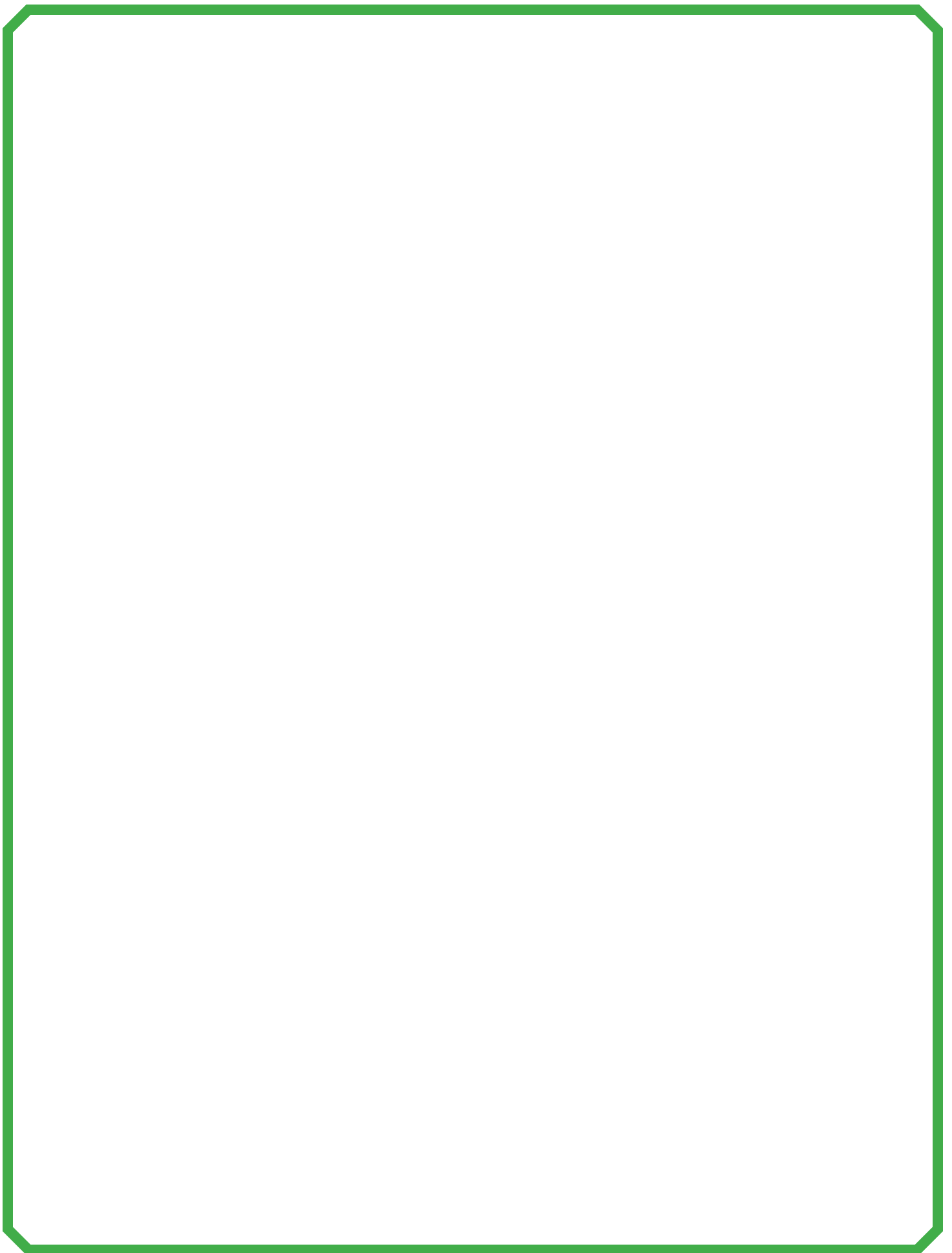
There are several methods of limiting travel during grazing. Loose grazing or hobbling are the best choices. Picketing should be used only if the other two choices are not feasible. Picketing is hard on range area, potentially harmful to horses, and is not allowed by some land management agencies.

However, picketing is satisfactory in suitable terrain and may be the only alternative.

Unless you're particularly fond of walking, always keep a wrangle horse tied near camp whenever horses are turned loose to graze. Tying two wrangle horses is better than one. Most horses get nervous and excited when left alone and may paw the ground or cause other damage. Usually two horses will remain relatively calm even if the other horses are out of sight. Also a single horse is more likely to break loose.

Then you are on foot. (The tied or picketed wrangle horses must be rotated to insure an adequate grazing period.) Almost any group of horses has at least one animal that wouldn't leave the rest under any condition. If time is short, this horse could be used as a wrangle horse and turned loose after the rest are tied for the night.

Bells help keep track of horses and make strayed horses much easier to find. When turning horses loose to graze, bell all mares, loners or animals that have a tendency to stray. Bell straps should fit reasonably snug to prevent them from getting caught. Bells with a higher pitch seem to carry farther in the woods. If several horses are belled, bells of different pitches should be used. Weather conditions vary the distance that sound travels.





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Objectives & Purpose of the Backcountry Horseman of California *From the BCHC Bylaws*

- To improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows; to advocate good trail manners.
- To promote the conservation and utilization of our backcountry resources in concert with livestock transportation.
- To keep the backcountry trails and forage areas open to horseman on all public lands.
- To keep current information before the Corporation membership and its local Units regarding new 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 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.