

# SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA Hoof Prints

January 2019

Issue 11

**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)

**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN**



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

## Presidents Message



Hope you had a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. I want to Thank all of you that have supported me and the club during the last year. It was a pretty good year and we had a lot of great activities. Pat and I will be off traveling next year with our mules Georgette and Annabelle. We want to just go riding and camping in some new areas. If

you know of some great places to ride and camp please send information our way. It would be great to have some group camping. It is always fun to ride in small groups and socialize around the campfire in the evenings. January 12 we have the The Ted Fischer Memorial Dave Stamey Dessert Concert held at the Elks Lodge in Clovis. All tickets will be sold prior to event and none will be sold the night of the event. On Jan 1 we will have some new officers and board members taking over. Please support them and your unit throughout the next year Remember....this is your club. Get Involved!!!!

Please check out the web site [bchcsjsu.org](http://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 murder of time-SADDLE UP!

William Duane Peverill  
President, BCHCSJSU

## COME RIDE THE GORGE!

On Saturday, January 19, BCHC San Joaquin Unit will be holding the first ride of 2019, at the San Joaquin River Gorge. This is a Club Event, but new members are welcome to join that morning at the parking area. Sorry, no dogs or stallions.

One might think that riding in January might be cold and dreary; on the contrary, the San Joaquin River Gorge can be beautiful in the winter. It's that perfect place to start preparing your horse for summer riding, and just challenging enough to make it interesting for both horse and rider.

We'll meet at the horse corrals to take care of all that paperwork, and then the fun begins. Your hosts have chosen the Pa'san Ridge Trail up the river, a 7.1 mile loop that offers stunning views of the Gorge. The trail meanders in the direction of the bridge that crosses the river. Crossing the bridge, it begins a gradual ascent along the canyon hillside, winding through trees and meadows until the summit is reached. The view is gorge-ous!

Bring a sack lunch! Our destination is a small pond on the top, where we can water and graze the horses and have a leisurely lunch. Then we will head on around the loop, descending to the bridge and the trail back to the parking area.

It's a great ride; and an opportunity to work out those winter kinks and start getting in trail condition. Your hosts will recon and clear the trail beforehand, so you can expect a safe trail and a great experience.

"Hope you will join us there!"





*San Joaquin Sierra Unit*

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Board Meeting Nov. 7, 2018

Call to order: 6:30

Flag salute: Duane Peverill

Roll Taken: President: William Duane Peverill, Vice President: Ruth Cramer ,  
Secretary: Carol Kaminski, Treasurer:

Directors: Pat Peverill, Debbie McFarren, Steve Naylor, Jim Laber, Fredi  
Chrisman, Joe Kaminski-Past President, Guest: Pete Parkin, Muriel  
Holland, Karen Daughrity, Marcee Hansen

**Minutes review and approved:** 1st Jim Laber, 2nd Joe K.

**Correspondence:**

**Treasurer Report: Check with Treasure**

**Committee reports:** Ruth Cramer to assume Vice President duties  
immediately.

**Education:**

**Membership:**

**Newsletter:** Articles due Nov.20. It's out! Jim is asking for any articles  
or

info that is horse related or of interest.

**Public lands:** Controlled burns in progress. USFS looking at mechanical  
harvesting. Now have burn crews not to be redirected to fires.  
Adam H. request for help on Mt. Meadow trail. Crown Lake

Trail

to be completed first.

**Sunshine:**

**Shaver Lake:**

**OLD BUSINESS** 1. Wanda to step down from Shaver Lake camp respon-

## 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](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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](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.*

### BACKCOUNTRY-STYLE DUTCH OVEN POTATOES

This backcountry twist on an old Dutch oven classic can serve as a hearty meal on its own or as a side dish with grilled steaks, salmon, or pork chops. To make cleanup really easy, you can line your Dutch oven with aluminum foil. The bacon can be omitted for a vegetarian-friendly dish. Makes about 6 servings.

#### INGREDIENTS:

2 ½ pounds baby red potatoes, quartered or sliced	1 ten-ounce package baby carrots
4-6 slices thick cut bacon, chopped (optional)	1 eight-ounce package mushrooms, sliced
2 tablespoons olive oil	1 tablespoon fresh sage, chopped
1 four-ounce package herbed goat cheese	½ cup red wine
1½ cups fontina cheese, shredded	green onion for garnish, chopped (optional)
1 large yellow onion, diced	Salt, pepper, and garlic powder to taste

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

Lightly coat the sides and bottom of the Dutch Oven with olive oil, then add the potatoes, carrots, onions, chopped bacon, mushrooms, 1 cup shredded fontina cheese, red wine, and the chopped sage. Drizzle the ingredients with the 2 tablespoons of olive oil and season generously with salt, pepper, and garlic powder. Toss with a large spoon until well incorporated. Set the Dutch Oven on 15 to 20 smoldering charcoal briquettes, then add another 15 to the top. Resist the temptation to remove the lid while cooking, doing so will compromise the oven effect.

After cooking for one hour, remove the lid and check the potatoes for tenderness. When tender, sprinkle the remaining fontina cheese and crumbled goat cheese on top. Put a goat on it, as we like to say. Let cook uncovered for an additional 10 to 15 minutes, allowing excess liquids to simmer off and the cheese to melt. Garnish with chopped green onion.



## INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR JOINT PARADE UNITS

Have you thought about or been asked to join with another unit to ride with them in a parade? These joint units would be a great opportunity to represent BCHC in various local parades, besides being fun for members who enjoy riding in parades.

But who would be responsible for notifying our insurance carrier, and how would that work with joint units? We asked BCHC vice-president Ernie Cole and Misty Mize those questions, and here was the answer:

"To keep from having to have each Unit claim the activity, you could have the Primary Unit have the secondary Unit sign release forms stating that they are becoming day members of the primary Units for activities with the primary Unit.

Even though all participating are BCHC each Unit carries their own policy, so in the event units joined together the secondary unit is just members of the public participating in the primary Units activity."

So, the Primary unit will request insurance coverage. The release form can be downloaded from the BCHC website, at [bchcalifornia.org/forms](http://bchcalifornia.org/forms). (BCHC Event and Release Waiver)

Happy riding!



## The Lighter Side

The swing doors of the Wild West saloon crashed open and in came Little Pete, black with fury.

"All right!" he raged, "all right! Who did it?"

What goldarned varmint painted my horse blue?" The huge figure of Black Jake, notorious gunfighter and town baddie rose from a chair by the door.

"It was me, shrimp," he drawled, bunching his gigantic fists, "what about it?" "Oh, well, er," stammered little Pete wretchedly, "all I wanted to say was.

.when are you going to give it another coat?"

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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](mailto:linda.fitzgeraldcbs@gmail.com).

**Asking 2,150.00.**

Call (559) 289-8322



[www.bchcsjsu.org](http://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](mailto:wpeverill@sebastioncorp.net).

[www.bchcsjsu.org](http://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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Clovis, CA 93612



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

## "Travel Advantage"

Dear BCHC Members

Check out the latest edition of "Travel Advantage", @ [www.ytbtravel.com/bchc](http://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](mailto:cjohargreaves@verizon.net)

# DESERT RIDE AT STARLIGHT RANCH NE OF ROSAMOND CA

February 15-18, 2019

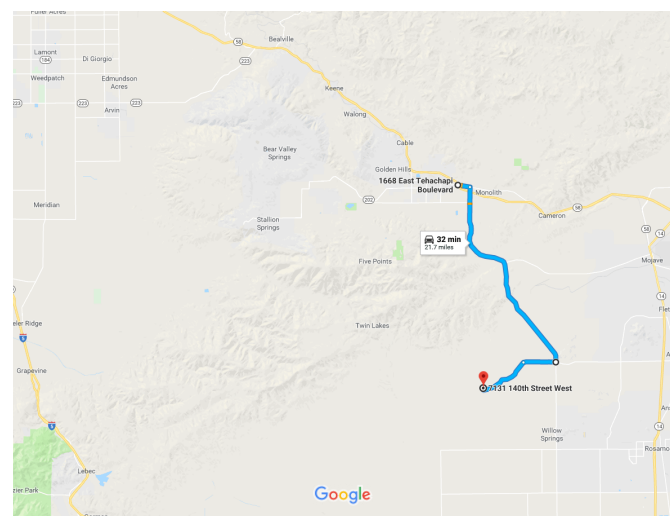
We normally go into town (Rosamond 1/2 hr away) Friday night for dinner at our favorite Mexican restaurant. There is an Albertsons, convenience stores and gas stations there. A Simple Breakfast to be provided at 9:00am Saturday and Sunday. Potluck Dinner Saturday, we will provide pulled pork or deep pit beef. We need RSVP by February 12th. Need to bring water and anything else they want to drink. Some beds available but need to secure with us. Bed rolls tents and whatever is needed for general camping. Terrain is simple to difficult depending on trail with all trails being packed to loose desert soils that are easy on the hoofs. Coyotes and Jack rabbits mice and desert rats for local animals. There are snakes but I have never seen one and we have done a lot of cross country out there. Most of the trails/roads are a gradual climb but depends on what you want to do. There is one that goes up to the PCT but would be a long ride. Clean up needs to be done behind horses and distribute outside fence. Take out all other that you bring in. There is a new outhouse on the property and a flush toilet in the house. May want to bring your own toiletries to be safe.

The gate at the ranch will be open at noon on the 15th and property will be cleared and gate closed by 2pm Monday the 18th.

**Directions:** Starlight Ranch is already tagged on google maps if you use that. The map shows traveling on what is called Aqueduct RD but you want to go 30' further on Backus Rd to what we call Upper Aqueduct RD where you will see a large Rock painted with a Smiley Face. Although the lower road can be used to get there, there are more obstacles and a large dip that larger trailers may have issues with. Take CA Hwy 99 south to CA Hwy 58 East out of Bakersfield to Tehachapi about 43 miles. Exit at Tehachapi Blvd and go Right on Tehachapi Blvd. Loves Truck Stop will be on your Right. Continue on Tehachapi Blvd for 1 mile and go Right on Willow Springs Road and follow for 16.0 miles where you will turn Right on Backus RD. Backus RD is paved for about 1.2 miles When you come to the end of the pavement you will see a dirt road to the right that you will proceed on. The rest of the trip is on dirt roads. You will continue on Dirt Backus RD over a short bridge and on to Upper Aqueduct RD. You will see a large rock painted with a Smiley Face. Turn left and continue on Upper Aqueduct RD for 3.6 miles to 140th St. There will be a curved dirt road leading to the right onto 140th St and most will want to take that. You will see a sign on your left that says Starlight Ranch. Go left before the sign and drive straight back about 100 feet and through the

gate to the ranch. You will need to bring water for overnight stays. The ranch is cyclone fenced but horses/stock will need to be tied up. There are just 3-4 highline areas first come first serve. There are some bed opportunities in the house and out buildings on the property but please call to claim. Jim and Doug Laber will be hosting the ride at the Starlight Ranch which is owned by Family. We will have a generator there that gives us lights in the house in the evenings. There is a large patio and fire pit for gatherings. Firewood if you have it will help and we will be bringing some out with us. It can get very cold and or very windy at the ranch so be prepared for that. Jim Laber, Cell: 559-250-7906, Doug laber, Cell 559-786-6634

LAT: 34.92479 LON: 118.382792





## **2018 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

### **President**

Joe Kaminski, 559.909 0505  
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

### **Vice President**

Ruth Cramer, 559 417 3878  
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Carol Kaminski, 559-733-9170  
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

### **Treasurer**

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

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2020

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2020

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2019

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2019

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2019

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#### **Education Coordinator**

TBD

#### **Sunshine**

TBD

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### **ADVISORS**

#### **Past President**

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

## **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)**

<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	<input type="checkbox"/> Antelope Valley	<input type="checkbox"/> Kern Sierra	<input type="checkbox"/> North Bay	<input type="checkbox"/> Santa Ana River
<input type="checkbox"/> Change		<input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Sierra	<input type="checkbox"/> Lake-Mendo	<input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Crest	<input type="checkbox"/> Sequoia
<hr/>		<input type="checkbox"/> High Country	<input type="checkbox"/> Los Padres	<input type="checkbox"/> Redshank Riders	<input type="checkbox"/> Shasta Trinity
<i>(indicate change)</i>		<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](http://bchcalifornia.org) or call (775) 463-3634**

**KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS**

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

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

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

# CHRISTMAS PARTY

What a great time we had at this year's Christmas party. It is always fun to see old friends and meet new friends. For those of you who attended it was great time to share stories and catch up since the last party.

As always a big thank you to Alan Fry's cook team. The tri-tip and chicken were delicious as were Fredi's beans. If you weren't there you missed a feast. We so appreciate all the time in planning, cooking, serving and cleaning up for an event like this especially at this time of year. And to all your elves, thank you for the evening also. It takes everyone helping to make the evening a success.

We had the privilege of having Grant the cowboy poet. His quick As always the silent auction was a great success thanks to Jan Mikkelson and all her efforts. We had a wide variety of items to bid on. There was something for everyone. Thanks also to all those who participated in the sometimes competitive lively bidding.

A round of applause for our Top Hand winner of 2018 Joe Kaminski. He has worked for many years not only as president but also as our work party coordinator for many years. Without Joe and his dedication we may not have been able to accomplish what we have over the years. He also spends many hours at multiple meetings as our Public Lands person. Thank you Joe for keeping us up to date on what is going on in our forests.

If you missed us this year we are already scheduled for next year. Same time same place but with new ideas. Put us on the calendar. Hope to see you then.



*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.*

Hobbles are one method of restricting a horse's movement so it won't travel great distances, yet permit enough freedom to graze. Only a grazing hobble with at least a one-inch strap should be used. Hobbles are more effective on some horses than on others. Some horses soon learn to travel quite rapidly wearing hobbles. These horses can be slowed down by placing a half hobble on a rear leg and a sideline fastened to the hobble in front. When horses are turned out to graze, all should be hobbled if any are hobbled. A hobbled horse will sore himself trying to keep up with horses running free.

On good grass, a hungry horse usually will be content to graze for two to three hours and seldom lift his head. If possible the camp should be located between the grazing area and the direction of the truck. The horses should be checked frequently if they can't be seen by camp. A bell in the lead horse will be helpful. The grazing period should be just before the evening feeding. This helps to hold the horses and makes them easier to catch. An advantage of grazing is that if water is available a horse can drink when it wants to.

Picketing horses is a satisfactory method in suitable terrain. The area must be free of obstacles so the rope won't tangle. You will have fewer problems if you picket by a front foot rather than from the halter or neck. A half-hobble with a swivel, or snap and swivel should be used to attach the picket rope. The other end of the rope should have a loop tied with a non-slip knot so that it will rotate around the picket pin rather than wind up. Some people make up special picket ropes which are pulled through discarded plastic garden hoses. The hose prevents rope burns and the extra stiffness helps keep it from tangling. The pin or stake must be driven in deep enough to stand considerable strain and must be moved frequently to protect against over-grazing and trampling. Picket stakes should be removed when breaking camp. Some horsemen picket the leader of a string with the idea that the other horses won't leave the leader if turned loose. In that respect this method usually works well; however, in a severely "herd-bound" string, the other horses will eat all the grass within the picket circle.

Popular camp spots, grass meadows and areas along the trails can be exposed to heavy grazing pressure throughout the season. Over-grazing contributes to a reduction in vigor of grass, tramped-out appearance of meadows, opportunities for unwanted weeds to grow, or degradation of an area. Avoid grazing grass that is down to short clumps. Rotate stock throughout an area. Move pickets frequently. Some areas have insufficient grass so it may be necessary to pack in feed. Processed grain, alfalfa pellets or hay cubes should be used. Hay is not allowed in some wilderness areas because it may contain weeds. During the planning stage of your trip consult with the responsible agency to learn of graze availability in the area of your planned trip.

### **THE CAMP SPOT**

In the backcountry many popular camp spots have been established and used for years. They are popular because they have an attraction. The attraction may be a scenic setting, plentiful water, good fishing, grass for stock, or a flat camping area. However, when selecting your camp spot it should be set back out of sight from main trails. Don't set up camp in a meadow, as traffic in camp will beat the vegetation flat. Choose a spot in or near trees that can sustain traffic. This helps to reduce stock and people congestion along main trails, offer privacy, and reduces the possibility of overuse immediately adjacent to main trails.

Camp spots should be at least 200 feet from the edge of lakes and rivers. This helps reduce the chance of water pollution and overuse immediately next to lakeshores, streams, and riverbanks. Some old established camp spots may be closer to lakes, streams, rivers, and main trails than desirable.

When planning a trip, select camp spots that are not heavily used. These will give you better grazing and more privacy in addition to reducing impact.

A well-organized camp is set up to be convenient, efficient, and neat in appearance. An established campsite should be used if available. If not, select a spot that can handle some use without being damaged. In some areas, like National Parks, ONLY established campsites can be used. In any event, some common sense should prevail. Do not drive nails in trees. Don't dig ditches around tents. Do not cut green trees or boughs, and remove underbrush sparingly. Select a spot to obtain water where you won't be caving in the banks leaving a permanent scar. Tether your stock outside the immediate campsite.

In bear country, food must be stored so bears can't get to it. Metal cans or boxes are available in some areas. Check with local management agencies for food storage requirements or problem areas.

In camp, if there are suitable fire rings established, they should be used rather than creating additional fire rings. If there is no fire ring and you build one, remove the organic material down to the mineral soil. Put it aside to refill the fire pit when you break camp. Put the rocks that you ring the pit with back where you

found them when breaking camp. What you pack in you should pack out. There should be nothing left to indicate you have been there.

When in camp tie a pole between two trees, place your gear on it, and throw a mantle over everything. When a pole isn't available, stand your saddle on the horn with the pad on top. Be careful with your equipment - porcupines and deer are fond of leather.

When the stay is over and camp is broken down, there are a few minute items to check before heading out. All tent poles and frames should be taken down and stacked, rope and string removed from trees, extra fire wood piled up, and all fires dead out. Fill in and smooth any paw holes and scatter any horse manure.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS**

There are increasing numbers of visitors experiencing the beauty, peacefulness and special nature of the undeveloped portions of our public lands. With more families owning horses and using the back country there is a need to impress a sense of responsibility on the user to help protect these special resources in back country areas.

Impact on the environment and practical methods to minimize adverse impact have never been examined in depth. Most of us have had a lifelong love affair with the backcountry and the horse has been our vehicle to enjoy it. Fortunately, the majority of horsemen have developed methods compatible with the environment. It is those who abuse the environment that we must educate.

This guidebook is not intended to be a complete text on a given subject, nor is there always-unanimous agreement on every subject. Different methods work for different people and for different animals. However, it was agreed that these methods are the best known to provide a safe and enjoyable trip, with a minimum of adverse impact. If additional information is needed for a particular problem, contact any member of the Back Country Horseman. If unfamiliar with the problem themselves, they will know whom to contact. Handling horses in a manner that will have little or no adverse impact is a bigger challenge than is "No Trace Camping". Much of our backcountry is in the National Wilderness System. Actions that are detrimental to this resource cannot be permitted to continue. ALL HORSEMEN must adjust their horse handling techniques to minimize the impacts of horse use.

Many land management decisions are reached based upon comments by the public on proposed management plans. In areas of horse abuse, the public has demanded that these areas be closed to horse use. We must adjust our use so that these management decisions are not necessary.

There is no single act that brings the horsemen poorer marks and leaves more lasting result, than tying horses to trees. Every backcountry camp has dead or damaged trees that indicate abuse. Practice and learn to use the methods described in Section 15.

### **BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN COMMANDMENTS**

1. THE HORSEMAN SHALL NOT KEEP HORSES LONGER THAN IT TAKES TO UNPACK OR PACK THEM IN ANY CAMPSITE NORMALLY USED BY HIKERS. (WE SUGGEST THAT HORSEMEN STAY AWAY FROM SUCH CAMPS IF POSSIBLE).
2. THE HORSEMAN SHALL NOT TIE HIS STOCK, FOR MORE THAN A SHORT PERIOD OF TIME, DIRECTLY TO A TREE.
3. THE HORSEMAN SHALL NOT CUT SWITCHBACKS.
4. THE HORSEMAN SHALL NOT LEAVE A CAMPFIRE UNATTENDED.
5. THE HORSEMAN SHALL NOT LEAVE HORSE MANURE OR HAY IN CAMP AREAS, TRAILHEADS, OR LOADING AREAS.
6. THE HORSEMAN SHALL ABIDE BY THE ADMINISTRATIVE RULES AND REGULATIONS AFFECTING THE AREA HE IS IN.
7. THE HORSEMAN SHALL RECOGNIZE THE FRAGILITY OF THE BACK COUNTRY ENVIRONMENT AND PRACTICE MINIMUM IMPACT TECHNIQUES AT ALL TIMES.

In closing, it is hoped that the foregoing pages on "Environmental Concerns" will be of some benefit to protecting the backcountry we enjoy. Nature did its part in creating the beautiful mountains, the pure water, the tall grass, and the serene spots we treasure. It provided the setting for the memories we treasure long after the trip is over. Let us do our part to keep it beautiful, clean, and not abused by our visits and activities.

### **A SHADOW CAST**

*I hate to admit to the company I'm in  
But a backcountry jerk too often I've been.*

*You have seen the shadow on the mountains I cast  
Because the marks I have left there last and last.  
When you see that lone tree with its root laid bare  
You know me and my string have often been there.  
But really, does tying up to a tree over night spell its doom?  
I've done it often you know, even when there is other room.  
Wait a minute, I seem to recall a high mountain pass  
With its cool clear water and lush green grass,  
And there in the middle of this picturesque scene  
Is a tall line fir tree that's lost all its green.  
What could have killed it I thought, hikers, bears, or ...  
Then it hit me, my god, I've been here before.  
Mother Nature mad that tree to stand the wind and the snow,  
It has stood the test of time and continues to grow.  
She made that tree to take the worst of her work,  
But she didn't plan on me, the back country jerk.  
Dan Plummer*

### **FIREWOOD**

Wood is the most common fuel for cooking and heat in the back country. When gathering wood, consider the following wood sources: first, gather smaller chunks of dead wood that need no cutting; second, cut wood from downed, dead trees; and lastly, cut wood from dead standing trees. When cutting dead standing trees for firewood take only those out of sight from trails, lakes and viewing areas. Cut them low to the ground so the stumps are less noticeable. In some areas, the cutting of dead, standing trees is prohibited. In some areas campfires are prohibited. Check with the managing agency if you are not sure. Green trees should never be used or their boughs should never be gathered for camp bedding. Skidding wood with stock is discouraged because it disturbs the ground cover and generally leaves a mess.

Cutting wood into pieces suitable for packing by man or stock is preferred.

The use of light gas stoves is gaining popularity. Their use has merit in areas where firewood is scarce.

### **CAMP SANITATION**

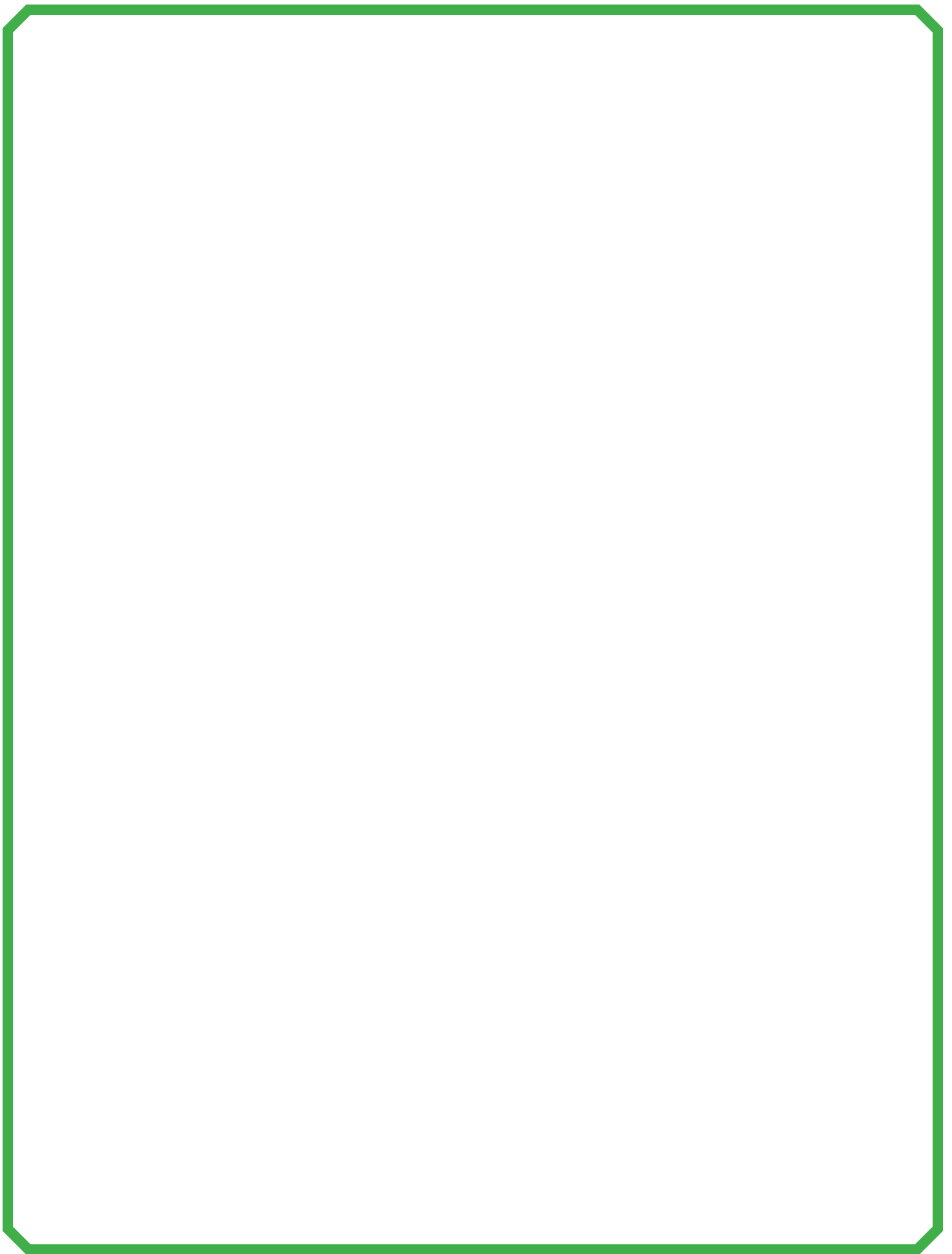
There is always "garbage" to care for - paper, meal scraps, cans, bottles, tinfoil, you name it, that needs to be burned or packed out. Burnable items can be burned in your campfire. Other unburnable items (cans, bottles, tinfoil, plastic) must be packed out. Odorous food cans are messy and attract flies and bears. A little trick to solve that problem is to place cans in the fire. The odor and food particles will burn out. When the fire is cold, remove cans and smash them flat. The flattened cans and other unburnable items can be packed out. Plastic or visqueen used for shelter should be taken out of the back country. If it is not removed it will eventually be torn up into small pieces and become a subsequent litter problem. Remember, if you pack it in - please pack it out. If you can remove litter by previous parties, good for you. You will know you have done your part and more.

If toilet facilities are not present, human waste can be disposed of by digging a small hole (6 to 8 inches deep). After use, fill the hole with loose soil and replace the sod. Nature will do the rest. If you have a large party or you plan to stay several days, dig a toilet pit. Save the soil and sod to be replaced when you break camp. Any of these facilities must be at least 200 feet from water sources.

After camp is set up, the stock cared for, the wood gathered and supper finished, there are the kitchen chores. Dishes and cookware should be washed in a pan rather than directly in lakes, rivers or streams. Soapy water, etc., should not be dumped in or near lakes, streams, or open water. Dump it on the ground a short distance from camp areas. If staying for a longer period of time, the dish water and wash water should be dumped in a small pit and covered when you leave. Concentrations of waste food particles tend to attract bears, flies, bees and other insects.

Horse manure in the immediate camp areas should be spread out with your shovel, collapsible rake, or a tree branch. This aids in the decomposition process, reduces flies, and lessens the impact on the area for other users. Leaving horse manure in camp when you leave brings bad publicity to all horsemen. Before departing, take a last minute glance to see that no debris is left behind, and that the area is left in a condition you would want to find it - neat, clean and inviting.

### **PRECAUTIONS WITH FIRE**





*San Joaquin Sierra Unit*

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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.