

# SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

## Hoof Prints

January 2020

Issue 22

**San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC**  
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### BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



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## Presidents Message



What a great unit we have. This was once again evidenced by the fantastic Christmas dinner and all those that were responsible for putting together a wonderful evening.

Once again we appear to be on the way to a wet winter as there is rain in the valley and snow in the mountains. Take time to reflect and be thankful for where we live and all that we are able to enjoy. Whether you enjoy the low lands, mountains, coast, or desert all are readily available.

Start your planning now for the rendezvous in Red Bluff. It has been there before and

they do a great job. Rides are starting to come together along with work parties. Once again Jan Mikkelsen will be heading up the Clovis parade. We also have some playdays planned weather permitting. If you are interested in putting together a ride please let us know and we would be glad to help out.

Carol and I hope to see you in the New Year.

*Remember to stay in the saddle, the ground is hard,*

Joe Kaminski  
President

# DESERT RIDE AT STARLIGHT RANCH NE OF ROSAMOND CA

February 14-17, 2020

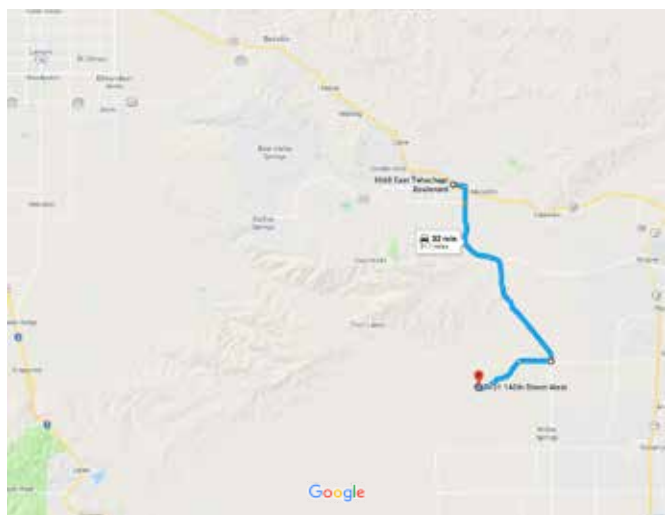
We normally go into town (Rosamond 1/2 hr away) Friday night for dinner at our favorite Mexican restaurant. There is an Albertsons, convenience stores and gas stations there. A Simple Breakfast to be provided at 9:00am Saturday and Sunday. Potluck Dinner Saturday, we will provide pulled pork or deep pit beef. We need RSVP by February 7th. 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 14th and property will be cleared and gate closed by 2pm Monday the 17th.

**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





### *San Joaquin Sierra Unit*

Board Meeting Nov. 5, 2019

Call to order: 6:30

Flag salute

Roll Taken: President: Joe Kaminski, Vice President: Ruth Cramer, Secretary: Carol Kaminski, Treasurer:

Directors: Steve Naylor, Jim Laber, Debbie McDougald, Paige

Past President: Duane Peverill

**Minutes review and approved:** 1st Steve, 2nd. Paige

**Correspondence:** Thank you from Sherri Mount

**Committee reports:**

**Education:** Education award-Submit Muriel for mountain riding classes. Blast to board and unit newsletter for submissions.

Marcee- contact her for chainsaw cert. class on Dec. 14. Ruth/Tami - info. on youth participation to come in Jan.

**Membership:**

**Newsletter:** Articles due Nov.20. Newsletter articles can be submitted to state. Cara to write Shaver article.

**Public lands:** BCHC has joined others in filing a lawsuit against e-bikes in Tahoe NF area. Need to have public hearing and environmental concerns.

**Sunshine:** Jim and Debbie Dixon's grandson football accident.

**Shaver Lake:** Closed. Shaver work party went well. Shaver Lake Trail Volunteers and BCHC worked together. Bridge needs to be redecked. Edison to provide materials. Ruth to meet with SLTV for time frame and materials.

**OLD BUSINESS.** 1. Ruth- letter of agreement drafted.

2. Stamey tickets being sold. Fund raisers are required by state. Possibly fundraiser in honor of Pete.

3. Christmas- see previous minutes. Paige offers a boat rental from Wishon Village. Will also look into pack/ ride in area. Muriel offered 2 nights at her B&B. (need to check on John Pemberton). Discussed raffile and silent auction.

4. 2020 Events - Desert ride in Feb. 13-17. Jan. possibly a New Year's Day ride. Steve N. - Mar. 14 playday. Rendezvous 2020 - April 3-5. Clovis Parade - April 25. Desensitization - Apr. 18. Poker Ride? - Feb. 29 at Hensley Lake. Jose' Basin - May 1-3. Big Meadows w/p - May 16-17. Edison w/p - June. Crown w/p July. Shaver Camp opening- May. Fine Gold w/p - Jan.? Diana

Memorial Ride - Sept. 11-13. Shaver Lake ride (Cara) - Oct.

CMA Ride - Oct. 9-11 (non club). Montana de Oro coast ride

July 17-19? Christmas Party - Dec. 12. Dec/Jan. Gorge ride after a rain.

5. Elections - board of directors to be re- voted on. Jim L. motions to hold new election in Jan. Ruth 2nd. Passed. Joe to check with state on process.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**Calendar review:** Next meeting Dec. 3, 2019

**Adjorn:** 8:17 Jim L. 1st, Steve 2nd

# 2019-20 Calendar

Board Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday 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)

## 2019

Nov 5	Board Meeting
Nov 27	Board Meeting
Dec 14	Christmas Dinner
Dec 3	Board Meeting
Work Parties TBA	

## 2020

1/18	Dave Stamey concert
2/13-17	Desert Ride
3/14	Playday Steve Naylon
3/27-29	Rendevous Red Bluff
4/18	Desensitization Clinic
4/25	Clovis Parade
May	Shaver Camp Opening TBD
5/1-3	Jose Basin Ride & Pack
5/16-17	Big Meadows work party (weather permitting)
5/19-25	Bishop Mule Days (non BCHC event)
June	Edison work party TBD
July	Wishon work party TBD
July	Coast Ride TBD
9/11-13	Diana Sorensen Memorial Ride
Oct	Shaver Ride TBD
10/8-12	Coastal Mounted Unit (non BCHC event)
12/12	Christmas 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, [wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net](mailto:wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net). You may call 559-908-3138 and I will get back to you.

Joe Kaminski  
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 informed 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.*

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## ONE-POT SPAGHETTI DINNER

### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 pound lean ground beef (90% lean)
- 1-3/4 cups sliced fresh mushrooms
- 3 cups tomato juice
- 1 can (14-1/2 ounces) no-salt-added diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 can (8 ounces) no-salt-added tomato sauce
- 1 tablespoon dried minced onion
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon ground mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/8 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/8 teaspoon ground mace, optional
- 6 ounces uncooked multigrain spaghetti, broken into pieces
- Fresh mozzarella cheese pearls or shaved Parmesan cheese, optional

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a Dutch oven, cook beef and mushrooms over medium heat until meat is no longer pink; drain. Add tomato juice, tomatoes, tomato sauce, onion and seasonings.
2. Bring to a boil. Stir in spaghetti. Simmer, covered, 12-15 minutes or until spaghetti is tender. If desired, serve with cheese.



## Ted Fischer Memorial DAVE STAMEY CONCERT



Tickets on  
Sale Now!  
\$30

Jan. 18th, 2020

Doors Open 6:45  
Concert Starts 7:30

Clovis Elks Lodge

Contact:  
William Duane Peverill  
by phone or email  
559 908-3138  
[wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net](mailto:wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net)



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- Log On: Making a wood stove hot
- Log Off: Too much wood on fire
- Monitor: Keep'n an eye on the wood stove
- Down Load: Gitten the farwood off'n the truck
- Mega Hertz: What ya git when ya git thrown offn yur horse
- Floppy Disk: Whatcha git from tryin to tote too much farwood
- RAM: That thar thang what splits the farwood
- Hard Drive: Gitten home in the winter time
- Windows: Whut to shut when its cold outside
- Screen: Whut to shut when its black fly season
- Byte: Whut dem dang flys do
- Chip: Munchies fer the TV

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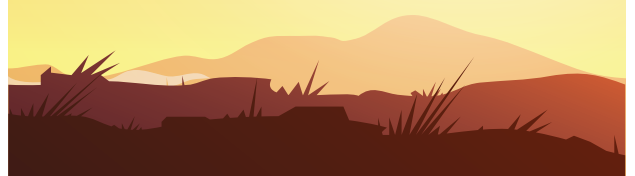
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## SUNSINE CORNER

Healing Blessings to all who are hurting  
or suffering, and may this year find us all  
in better health and strength.



**[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@sebastiancorp.net](mailto:wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net)

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

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### 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



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**"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](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)



## 2019 CHRISTMAS DINNER

On Dec. 14th we celebrated our annual Christmas dinner. How nice it is to see old friends and new. We had some great help with Paige doing a fantastic job with table tops. Jan Mikkelson doing another great job with the silent auction. Alan Fry, Diane, Ted Kimbler, and Fredi Chrissman with a stellar dinner. Thanks to Debbie and Jim Dixon reservations and Gary VanSickle treasurer. Thanks also to Duane for pictures and all around go getter.

John Pemberton was our entertainment what a tremendous singer and entertainer. If you were not there, you really missed out. We even had line dancing. Already looking forward to next year.

This year our top hand went to Gary Van Sickle for the great job he is doing as our treasurer. Congratulations Gary!











## **2018 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

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# Backcountry Horsemen of California



## What's the BUZZ???



*So what is that buzz or hum of wings? Is it a bee or wasp? What is it doing? Where is it going?*

*Could it be a danger to me or my animals?*

*One thing we know: a small, flying speck of life, can certainly pack a powerful punch!*

Bees and wasps can be a serious nuisance problem especially in the late summer when the populations are high and the food source is low. In the balance of nature, however, these insects are beneficial in their activities, particularly as pollinators and predators of pest insects. Bees sustain themselves on nectar or pollen. Wasps develop by feeding primarily on insects, and in the late season are drawn to human food and garbage. There are honey bees, bumble bees, carpenter bees, mining bees, sweat bees, leaf cutter bees and parasite bees. There are hornets, paper wasps, yellow jackets "meat bees", cicada killer wasps, spider wasps, and parasite wasps.

The yellow jacket, commonly known as "meat bee" is attributed to most of the "bee stings" in mountainous areas. According to entomologist George Poinar, "one sting is enough to kill a hypersensitive human and 50 to 75 stings is enough to kill a normal human." Weather is a factor with yellow jacket populations. A mild winter in the mountains allows more queens to survive and set up new nests in the spring. Fall is when the workers become more assertive in their quest to obtain protein to stock the queen's winter nest. Anything that resembles meat or sugar is what the workers want and will be aggressive to take to the nest. They tend to defend their nests vigorously when disturbed. Their mandibles are how they bite and can take a piece of your flesh, but the venom is contained in the stinger and they can sting repeatedly. Their nests are similar to paper wasps, building paper cylinders from chewed organic materials and using sticky saliva to mold the cylinders together in organized cells. Nests can usually be found in the ground or at ground level in fallen logs, tree stumps, rodent tunnels and natural cavities along meadow edges, trails, etc.

**PREVENTATIVE MEASURES:** Forget the perfume and fragrances while in the wilderness. Wear light or natural colored clothing. Flowers are bright and you don't want to attract bees. Insect repellent may help.

**IN CAMP:** Keep your camp CLEAN. Minimize your trash/garbage and keep it sealed. Keep all food covered. Traps may help to lure meat bees away from the camp. Meat bees seem to like meat and fruits best. The use of spray is best done in the early morning or at night when it is cooler. Meat bees do not move as fast and your chances of getting stung are reduced. Those mosquito net tents are very nice and light weight to pack.

**ON THE TRAIL:** Be alert! You must be aware of your surroundings and what is happening at all times. Be certain your group knows the plan of action should you encounter an aggressive hive. Watch for that little flying flicker of activity that is either coming or going from a hole in the ground, rotten wood or natural cavities that you and your animals must go past. Watch the animal in front of you. Does he drop his head to get something off his nose? Aggressively swish his tail and stomp his feet? You had better not miss these warning signs! If you believe you are among the stinging critters: give a loud holler "bees" and have everyone pick up a trot and move through the area. (A lope is a greater danger to everyone and harder to control the situation). Continue to trot until the entire group is at a safe distance from the nest. Check for any stings on both humans and animals. Take appropriate measures for first-aid treatment.



## FIRST AID MEASURES

Honey bees—but not other bees or wasps—generally leave the stinger embedded in the skin. Remove the stinger as soon as possible. Honey bee stingers are best removed by scraping (not crushing) the stinger with a finger nail or knife blade.

Wasps do not leave a stinger but instead can bite several times.

Localized swelling and pain are typical reactions. In most people, these symptoms will gradually disappear. Wash the area with soapy water or alcohol. Apply antiseptic to area to help prevent possible infection. Cool lotions or compresses can help relieve pain and swelling. Various materials applied to site may also reduce pain such as: crushed aspirin, a paste made of baking soda or meat tenderizer. If multiple stings are received oral antihistamines can be helpful.

A small percentage of humans are hypersensitive to stings. A systemic allergic reaction can involve difficulty in breathing, dizziness, nausea, and development of hives. These symptoms may require immediate medical attention from a physician. Most hypersensitive individuals carry an injectable antidote and know how to administer the medicine. They should be evacuated immediately.

Name	Nest/Location	Colony Permanence & Size	Food Habits	Stinger
Honey Bee	wax comb loc: large hollows, hives	perennial > 10,000	nectar, pollen sweet foods	barbed left during sting
Bumble Bee	wax comb loc: rodent burrows, small hollow spaces with lots of insulated debris	annually 50–500	nectar, pollen	no barb
Paper Wasp	paper comb, no envelope loc: under eaves in small voids	annually < 100	live insects	no barb
Yellow Jacket “Meat Bee”	paper comb, covered with paper envelope loc: usually underground	annually 100’s	dead insects garbage, meats, sweet foods	no barb
Hornet	paper comb, covered with paper envelope loc: above ground in trees, shrubs and under eaves	annually 100’s	live insects	no barb

**LURE TRAPS:** Available at many retail stores. These are easy to use. Best used to catch the queen in late winter and spring. They may help reduce but not eliminate large populations. Change the bait every 2-4 weeks and more often when temperature is high.

**WATER TRAPS:** Generally homemade and consist of a 5 gallon bucket, string and protein bait such as turkey, ham or fish. (Do not use cat food). The bucket is filled with soapy water and the protein bait is suspended 1-2 inches above the water. (The use of a wide mesh screen over the bucket will prevent other animals from taking the bait). After the yellow jacket takes the protein, it flies down and becomes trapped in the water and drowns. Place the traps away from your eating area.

**NEST SPRAYS:** Aerosol formulations of insecticides which are labeled for wasps and hornets and must be used with extreme caution. Wasps will attack when sensing a poison applied to their nests. Always wear protective clothing. Underground nests can be quite a distance from the visual entrance and the spray may not reach far enough to hit the wasps. Partially intoxicated, agitated wasps can still be stinging you at some distance from the nest.

The content of this written material has been officially approved for distribution by Backcountry Horsemen of California  
13061 Rosedale Hwy., Suite G Box 217, Bakersfield, Ca. 93314 [www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) 4/11



# Debunking Trailer Myths And Half Truths

BY NEVA KITTRELL SCHEVE

People talk and horse people talk more than most. Opinions are many and stories travel quickly throughout the horse world, sometimes opinions get elevated to truth without merit. Since most opinions have some basis in fact, it's difficult to know what is myth and what is truth. Usually the facts are somewhere in between. Opinions about horse trailers are especially subject to scrutiny because there is very little conclusive research or solid information. For someone who is looking to buy a horse trailer, it's important to know the facts.

## Let's look at a few of the most commonly believed myths.

---

### HORSES HAUL BETTER IN SLANT LOADS THAN STRAIGHT LOADS

What is the basis for this half-truth? In the early 1980s the first slant load trailers came on the market. The original purpose of the slant load trailer was to put more horses into a shorter trailer. Hauling 4, 6, or more horses in a [straight load trailer](#) necessitates a very long trailer that many people don't want. In addition, the fact that horses will position themselves in a slant position when there are no dividers in the trailer caused people to believe that horses preferred to stand that way because it was more comfortable when the trailer was moving. When the first slant load owners realized that the horses loaded readily into the trailer it was assumed they were also hauling better and this well intentioned, but somewhat misleading concept was readily accepted. The story developed a life of its own. Soon, the slant load trailer was considered the "only way to go".

It sounds reasonable, doesn't it? Maybe, but there are many other factors that should be considered before slant loads can be recommended for every horse.

The first horses to be hauled in slant loads were quarter horses and polo ponies, smaller horses that could cope with the shorter stall length. Slant loads quickly became the fashion in this market and soon, owners of large horses wanted them, too. But it soon became apparent that these horses didn't fit very well. A horse that is cramped in a stall is not able to use its head and neck normally to keep its balance in the trailer. If he is hauled in the trailer this way for long periods, he overcompensates and uses improper muscles to cope.

Because it is illegal for a trailer to be over 8 ½' wide, the stalls cannot be made longer without making some design changes for larger horses. Many manufacturers widen the overall interior, but then the wheel wells are inside the trailer where they interfere with 3 or 4 of the stalls. Other manufacturers configure more of a slant to the stalls, but the severe angles don't really give the horses more room. The only solution is to widen the stalls, which allows the horses to stand in a more forward position. However, widening the stalls defeats the original intent of the slant load trailer because it makes it longer.



Do horses really like to haul on a slant? In my opinion, there are no studies that prove this fact at this time. Common sense suggests otherwise.

The most common argument for the slant is the fact is that a horse will stand on a slant in an open trailer. As an experiment, put a horse in a stall in the barn, stand him against the wall and tie him comfortably with a lead rope. He will immediately move his hindquarters away from the wall. Since the barn stall is not moving, he isn't standing that way to find a "center of balance"; he just doesn't feel comfortable standing next to the wall. Horses like to feel space around them. He also probably wants to look out the stall door or window. In addition, most horses that stand away from the wall in an open trailer don't position themselves on a complete slant with the butt against the opposite wall like a slant load divider demands.

A horse generally feels better in the open trailer because he isn't as restricted when he has more room - not necessarily because he is standing at a slant. A smaller horse in a traditional slant load is able to move around a bit to use his head and neck for balance, and he can also adjust his position somewhat to relieve tired muscles and joints. A horse that fits more tightly doesn't have that option.

When slant load trailers first came on the market, most other horse trailers at the time were small, dark, and inadequately ventilated. Since horses don't like dark small spaces, the entrance of a large slant load trailer was much less frightening than what everyone had been used to. Most horses popped into the trailer easily. But loading better doesn't always mean hauling better. Rubber torsion suspension also came onto the market at the same time as the slant load trailer. My opinion is that any improvement of attitude about hauling was a result of a smoother ride, not the slant position.

Horses naturally propel themselves forward using both hind legs, and halt by bringing those hind legs up underneath them. All riding disciplines require that horses halt straight with hind legs well under them because that is the correct and natural way for a horse to halt. A moves straight when moving forward. Dressage riders do not ask the horse to begin a dressage test by halting at X, slanted to the left. Western riders do not ask their reining horses for sliding stops slanted to the left.

Why ask a horse to absorb the force of acceleration and deceleration in a trailer in a slanted position where he must use the right foreleg and the left hind leg in an uneven manner? Traveling for long distances in this position can make a horse sore. Sometimes stiffness or soreness that may cause behavioral problems, and outright lameness that is not often attributed to the trailer ride, can be caused by it just the same. Hauling in a straight position, either forward or backwards, helps the horse equally absorb the acceleration and deceleration through the length of the spinal column. (Never put horse backward in a trailer that is not designed for it.)

Minimum requirements for a horse trailer to be safe and stress free from the horses' point of view are room, light, ventilation, and safety in design. Access to each horse individually can be included in the "safety in design" category. Most slant load trailers do not provide this feature. If one horse is in trouble, all the others must be unloaded to reach that one horse. A front unload ramp can improve that situation.

In conclusion, most horses will be less stressed in a trailer that has more room and light, not necessarily whether it's a slant or straight load.

### **ALL STEEL TRAILERS RUST, ALUMINUM DOESN'T**

In the past, most steel trailers quickly turned into rust buckets, and aluminum seemed the best answer to solve that problem. That perception has endured even though it is not necessarily true

any more. The steel industry has improved considerably over the years and the trailer manufacturers have been using better caliber steel, especially for higher quality trailers. If the trailer is built of raw steel that has not been treated or painted at the steel factory, the trailer will rust in a short period of time. If the trailer is built of a kote-steel, which is coated at the factory before it is shipped, the trailer will be less likely to rust, especially if it is kept clean and dry. If the trailer is built of galvanealed or galvanized steel, which is electrochemically treated, it will not rust unless the treatment is removed during welding and not recoated.

The statement that all steel trailers rust, is a myth because it depends upon the steel, the trailer, the quality of the manufacturer, and most of all, how well the trailer is maintained.

Aluminum does not rust, but it can corrode. Corroded aluminum turns to white powder. Like steel trailers, every all-aluminum trailer is not alike. The quality of the alloy, the quality of the trailer, and the owner's maintenance program will make a difference in the life of a trailer. Many people do not realize that aluminum must be regularly maintained and in particular, aluminum floors must be washed and dried monthly to protect the floor from corrosion.

### **ALL ALUMINUM TRAILERS ARE LIGHTER THEREFORE BETTER, THAN STEEL TRAILERS**

Whatever trailer you chose, for safety sake, it should be strong enough for the wear and tear of the largest, strongest horse that is hauled in it and hold up as well as possible in an accident. That not only includes the structure itself, but interior dividers, posts, bars, and tie rings. The most commonly used aluminum alloys are 1/3 the strength of steel and 70% of the weight. Aluminum must be 3 times thicker than steel to be as strong, therefore, it can weigh as much or more than a steel trailer of equal strength. This is more true for 2 horse trailers because as the trailers get bigger and longer, the all-steel trailer will get heavier than the all-aluminum in proportion. Manufacturers of hybrid trailers use the strength of the steel for structural parts and control the weight issue by using the lighter aluminum and other materials in non-structural parts. Many hybrid trailers compare favorably with all-aluminum trailers for weight, and may be stronger pound for pound.

There are many different manufacturers of horse trailers and all have different methods and quality, whichever material is used. The decision to buy a trailer should not be made because of inaccurate information about the true properties of the metals involved, but the overall quality.

### **USING STEEL AND ALUMINUM TOGETHER CAUSES THE METALS TO REACT TO EACH OTHER.**

True. However, most manufacturers who build "hybrid" trailers of steel and aluminum together understand how to keep the metals from touching each other by using Mylar tape or a protective coating. Even "all-aluminum" trailers must have steel transition parts where the couplers and axles are attached to the frame because aluminum is not strong enough to hold these important parts onto the trailer. So, in reality, there is no such thing as an "all-aluminum" trailer.

### **GOOSENECKS ARE SAFER THAN TAG-ALONG TRAILERS**

Yes and No. Problems generally attributed to tag-along trailers are trailer sway and instability, and a higher incidence of trailers coming unhitched. There are more ways to make a mistake when hitching to a tag-along than hitching up a gooseneck. It's obvious that a pick up truck is needed to haul a gooseneck and not a lot can go wrong when placing the gooseneck ball in the bed by a qualified installer. However, hitching a tag-along can be done in many ways and there are more ways to make a mistake. A tag-along trailer must be hitched with a frame mounted equalizing hitch

that is rated to tow the weight of the trailer fully loaded. I always recommend weight distribution bars especially for vehicles with a shorter wheelbase or to increase the capacity of the hitch. A properly hitched two-horse trailer, even with a dressing room, towed by an adequate vehicle, can be just as safe and stable as a gooseneck. For more than two horses, a gooseneck is recommended.

### **REAR RAMPs ARE SLIPPERY, STEEP, AND HEAVY, AND A STEP UP REAR ENTRY IS BETTER.**

There are many bad ramps out there. So many, in fact, that it's quite reasonable for people to assume that all ramps are equal. If the ramp is unsteady or steep and slippery, most horses will be reluctant to load and it's quite possible for a horse to slip when unloading. A ramp can be too heavy for many people to lift without back strain. However, a good ramp is safer than a step up entry. It isn't so much for the loading, but for the unloading. A low, steady, non-skid ramp prevents a horse from slipping under the trailer by miscalculating the landing surface or height of the step when backing out. If a horse slips under a ramp, the ramp can be lifted to get him out and the chance of severe injury is less than if he gets under the trailer itself. Slipping under a step up trailer is more common than most people believe, and such an accident can be severe enough to result in the loss of the horse. A step up can be made safer if the horse can turn around and walk out head first, or if the trailer is equipped with a front unload ramp. Most newer ramps are spring loaded and are very easy to lift.

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**THIS HORSE TRAILER SAFETY ARTICLE IS PROVIDED BY EQUISPIRIT HORSE TRAILERS.**

## **GREAT RESOURCES**

Happy New Year to all. Our Unit website (<http://bchcsjsu.org/education.html>), and our State organization website (<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/index.htm>) are great resources for Educational flyers that we post throughout the year, having to do with safety, first aid, stock use and tips for the backcountry, along with educational videos. Some of this, especially the videos are too large to publish in the newsletter but all of it can be useful for educating and updating us all. I hope during these winter months and year ahead you may find the links below useful for getting ready for the busy riding/packing/trail work season. Great reminders to the experienced stock users and a must for us who are new or novice to the use of stock in the back country.

*(Click on the links below)*

<http://bchcsjsu.org/education.html>

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/membersite.html>

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/safety.html>

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/library.htm#eduflyers>

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/library.htm#links>





**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)

☐ Antelope Valley

☐ Eastern Sierra

☐ High Country

☐ High Sierra

☐ Kern River Valley

☐ Kern Sierra

☐ Lake-Mendo

☐ Los Padres

☐ Mid Valley

☐ Mother Lode

☐ North Bay

☐ Pacific Crest

☐ Redshank Riders

☐ Redwood

☐ San Diego

☐ San Joaquin Sierra

☐ Santa Ana River

☐ Sequoia

☐ Shasta Trinity

☐ Sierra Freepackers

☐ Sutter Buttes

☐ 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	<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

# BCHCSJSU SHIRTS

On the trails we work and ride we share the trail with others, that at times have trouble seeing us because of shadows and various modes of transportation used, especially in non wilderness designated areas.

For that reason your unit board of directors has made this shirt available for safety on trail rides and work parties as well as a way to promote our unit and its activities.

## Order you BCHCSJSU Trail Work/Riding Shirt

To order call Gary Van Sickle with size and quantity.

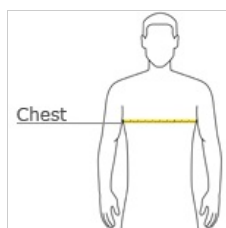
\_\_\_\_\_ X \$14.65 each \_\_\_\_\_  
(Qty) (Total)

Make checks payable to BCHCSJUS and send to:

Attn: Gary Van Sickle  
BCHCSJSU  
P.O. Box 25693  
Fresno, CA 93729-5693



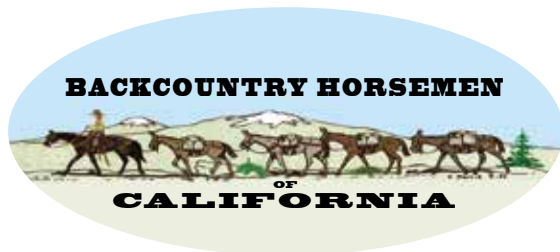
### HOW TO MEASURE



**CHEST**  
Measure under the arm and around the fullest part of the chest with arms down, keeping tape horizontal.

### SIZE CHART

	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL	4XL	5XL
Chest	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-56	58-60	62-64



***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.