

# SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA Hoof Prints

September 2018

Issue 7

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



**OF CALIFORNIA**

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

## Presidents Message



Winter is on its way and the temps are starting to drop. We still have plenty of time to ride and the air quality is getting better. Our next ride is a members only ride sponsored by Cara. It will be at Eagle Point Shaver Lake. Please contact Cara to let her know you will be attending. It is October 6 and her contact information is [carasblueprint@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carasblueprint@sbcglobal.net) (559) 901-3936. We are in

need of members to run for office. We have four directors positions open and all of the officers. Right now we have: Kristianne Morrison, Sue Van Sickle and Jim Knapke running for directors. Gary Van Sickle for Treasurer and Carol Kaminski for Secretary. We had a great response for members waiting to be in a parade unit and we will be contacting them to start getting the group organized. Check the web page calendar for information and dates. 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](http://bchcsjsu.org) for all updates on the unit and activities. We have a calendar that lets you know about the upcoming activities. Hope to see you on the trail. Remember, He who procrastinates is a murder of time-SADDLE UP!

William Duane Peverill  
President, BCHCSJSU

# CROWN LAKE TRAIL WORK CAMP

By Melanie Mackenzie

The sun was well up when Jim Dixon and I trudged down the dusty slope, our hiking boots leaving deep tractor treads in the soft dirt. We had just finished unloading the stock in a shady spot and tied to Cara Peterson's rig. Jim pointed out that we were at the Rancheria Trailhead, many miles above Lake Wishon in California's high sierras. I took a deep breath of the new air and gazed about at the azure sky and stately pines that surrounded us. I looked back uphill to see Eli, Cara's big, beautiful buckskin gelding standing hip shot and watching us intently. I smiled and shook my head with the memory of last year's Chamberlain trip and Eli's constant surveillance of "his people".



Below us, amongst the trucks and trailers, heads popped up from nuzzling feed and ears pricked as the horses and mules took stock of our arrival then, losing interest, tucked their muzzles back into the feed at their feet. I smiled as I recognized Carol Kaminski and gave her a hug then briefly whispered a short greeting to Rosebud as I passed. I gripped Bob Skinner's outstretched hand, and grinned at his warm welcome. He dipped his head under his crusty old cowboy hat, his eyes crinkled as a smile lit his face.

We wove our way through the animals, road apples and trailers to where everyone had gathered around Joe Kaminski for the meeting. New faces turned toward me as we joined the group and I was introduced to the rest of the team: Jim Laber and his brother Doug; Stephen Naylon and Jim Knabke. With Jim Dixon's arrival the meeting started in earnest. Cara, sat cross-legged on a boulder, fiddling with a twig. She listened intently to Joe Kaminski as he went through the overall goals for the work party and assignments for people. He reminded us of trail and camp rules and his specific instructions for today to get us safely to our work camp approximately half way to Crown Lake.

With a prayer, the meeting broke up and everyone went to work packing mules and saddling horses. Jim, Cara and I headed back up the slope to start saddling our stock and grinned at each other as we realized we were tasked with the recon tomorrow of the trail from the work camp to Crown Lake. About 6 miles of relocating lost trail and marking deadfall for clearing - one night of primitive camping included in the package and the joy of experiencing Crown Lake...no phone; no pool; no pets. I grinned like an idiot because I had no idea what I'd gotten myself into, but seeing as Jim and Cara were pretty jazzed, I figured it was all good.

Her big head almost knocked me over and I replanted my feet solidly as Jim's paint mare Annie greeted me by rubbing her head against my back. "Ow...Nice to see you again too, sweetie...now cut it out!" I exclaimed. But I indulged her and rubbed her eyes thoroughly, much to her obvious satisfaction. Her antics elicited a smile from me as I tied the last of my gear on the saddle. Lastly we turned our attention to packing Toby, the mule, as his was the heaviest burden. He stood steady and quiet as we loaded him up. I remembered him as being skittish and green last year, but he'd matured into such a Good Boy.

We mounted up. Cara and Eli took the lead with Annie and I close behind. Jim brought up the rear on his big creamello, Luke as he towed Toby, the Good Boy. The trailhead disappeared behind us and our adventure began, 1st stop, Crown Lake work camp, about half way to Crown Lake. We cut across on a narrow trail bordered by buck brush and bracken fern. I looked down to my right and the hillside fell away dangerously steep, deceptively dressed in layers of delicate wildflowers and fern and dotted with hummocks of boulders. Huge pines threw up their massive boles, but it was so steep here that we looked across the tops of the trees. I took a deep breath and felt gratitude and a huge surge of warmth and total confidence in Annie, "That's my good girl!" I murmured. She flicked one ear back briefly in acknowledgement and I imagined her rolling her eyes as she thought, of course I am! I leaned over and stroked her neck.

The terrain leveled out and we picked our way along trails that wove in and out of lush meadows threaded with water courses to harsh areas of rocky scree. Miles added up as we traveled up one rise and down the next. We passed through lonely stands of burned out forest, sad, but full of light and burgeoning with hope for the future as young trees filled in to take the place of their lost parents.

Eli was suddenly on alert and Annie's ears were pinned forward. I saw nothing ahead, then Cara called out, "Stop! Horses! It was the part of our team who had gone out ahead of us. They were blocking the trail as they made adjustments to one of the mule's loads. Without a fuss they eased their horses off the trail and we moved quietly past them and on through the still forest. Then it was our turn. Crossing a

steep and rough spot of slippery scree Toby stumbled and his pack shifted. So we too stopped to make adjustments and then we moved on. Our friends still followed somewhere in our wake.

6 miles of trail had passed along with the morning. Afternoon brought us to where the trail cut through a huge deadfall. We turned a corner in the bracken fern and the forest stepped back and we were greeted with our first glimpse of the magnificent alpine valley where we were to set up our work camp. Our eyes swept across a huge open meadow of alpine grasses and wildflowers with running water slicing the valley floor. Pine trees marched down the steep slopes above and to stand silent guard along the meadow periphery. Wow...our hearts soared as we made our way over to a place to tie up the stock. I was just starting to understand that this is why we do what we do.

I dismounted and immediately stumbled and had difficulty with my balance. I plopped down next to Annie confused. She nosed me curiously then tore a few mouthfuls of grass. I realized that I had eaten very little and had forgotten to drink extra water on the ride in even though Joe had reminded all of us to hydrate. I had let myself get distracted by the ride and not taken care of myself.

“You OK?” Jim asked.

“Yeah, I think so; give me just a minute here.” I responded.

He left me alone as I chugged water and gobbled a fruit bar. I got up feeling a little better and we unsaddled our stock. I trudged slowly back from the saddle shed still a little wobbly and Jim stepped in beside me.

“You can stay here tomorrow, you don’t have to go on the recon to Crown Lake if you don’t feel up to it” Jim offered.

“No Way, I’m not quitting! I want to go! I’ll be fine...I just need water and food.” I said unequivocally.

He looked me in the eye, nodded and with a knowing smile said, “OK...Good.”



“Way to learn the hard way, Melanie”, I scolded myself. I never let that happen again.

We were just starting to wonder where the others were when we looked up to see Joe Kaminiski and his mule train coming into camp. The rest of the team followed close behind. We smiled, waved and they tied up. Mules stood patiently as they were relieved of their burdens. Horses were unsaddled and groomed. Next, layout and set up of the electric wire wall pasture in the meadow was on the agenda. We hobbled our stock and let them roam the meadow to water and graze. Others let their stock out in the pastured area. We all stood back and laughed at the antics of the horses and mules as they established herd hierarchy.



While the stock enjoyed some of the best grazing in the world we built our camp. Tents popped up and high lines were strung from tree to tree. The dinner bell pealed. What a welcome sound! We all gathered for dinner and conversation. Carol and Joe always amaze and delight me with the wholesome good food they produce out in the wilderness. After dinner Joe called another meeting to discuss tomorrow’s agenda and what work was to be done and where. It was decided that Jim Laber and his palomino, Dallas, would accompany us on our recon trip to Crown Lake tomorrow. We all scattered as the meeting ended to collect our stock and put them up for the night.

I was exhausted and sunk gratefully into my sleeping bag. As I drifted off to sleep I considered how much human and animal labor was required to get this work crew up here... and we hadn’t even started the real work yet.

Cara’s rustling woke me. Slashes of coral pink along the horizon hinted of the suns imminent arrival. “Get up”, I told myself and blinked the cobwebs away. It was time to get the stock to the meadow to graze. “Where’s the coffee?” I wondered as I stared into my cold and empty coffee mug. Care for the stock first, coffee second, I admonished myself as I yanked on my boots and stumbled after Cara tucking in my shirttails. Everybody was up getting their stock to the meadow. We splashed through the creek and led our stock out to the meadow for breakfast. Soon they were happily

ripping mouthfuls of deliciousness. I got that coffee reward along with my own plate of deliciousness - a hot breakfast prepared by our camp chefs - Joe and Carol.

Our appetites sated, we took a small crew with hand saws and lopping shears out and cleared a way out of camp so we could access the trail and leave for Crown Lake. We returned to camp and collected our stock, broke camp and repacked for the trip to Crown Lake.

Jim Laber and Dallas took the lead. The mountain scenery and terrain was similar to our ride in yesterday, but the big difference was that deadfall littered the forest and many very large trees had fallen across the trail, forcing traffic around the obstacles.



This always happens, but the trails below camp were well maintained so it was our job to note the locations of these blockages on the GPS for clearing and clear what we could. In many places the trail could still be read by our trail boss, but at times the real trail would disappear and bypasses wandered off or led to dead ends. There was a constant dialogue between us as we rode through the forest and scanned up ahead looking for sign or trail ducks to help guide us. Many times we lost the trail and trekked cross country toward where the trail should be, frequently funneled into areas knee deep in grass with boggy mud and narrow watercourses all around us.

Some of these crossings were very challenging and thank God for our amazing mountain horses and Toby, the Good Boy. This is what they are trained for and I felt such respect, amazement and joy to participate in this with them. Annie rarely needed persuasion, but I never failed to encourage or express my pleasure and persuade her when needed.

About 4 miles out of base camp, we found our campsite for the night. We stopped and off loaded Toby's gear and any other extra items we did not need to take on the last 2 mile push to Crown Lake. We mounted back up with a grateful mule tagging along. Those last miles proved to be the most challenging. This stretch was riddled with obstacles. Hidden water courses with fallen tree limbs abounded. Rocky waterfalls crashed down boggy meadows - all in a day's work for our mighty beasties. The forest stepped back out of the



way and Crown Lake was spread out before us in all her pristine glory. I felt like the first person to ever see this place and was overwhelmed by the sheer wonder and beauty. I slid off Annie and dropped to my knees, swallowed the lump in my throat and thanked God for the blessing to see his perfect creation... then the tears came.

Jim caught a fish.

He actually packed in a small, crappy rod and reel, but he caught that poor unsuspecting fish anyway. I'm sure that fish had never seen a spinner before and it looked delicious. Live and learn! Jim let that fish off the hook and it plopped back into the lake, darting off, delighted in his reprieve. The horses and mule unimpressed contentedly tore at the grass at their feet. Jim Laber kicked back in the spongy turf along the shore and propped his booted feet on a boulder, cowboy hat shading his eyes. Cara went down the shoreline trying to catch a fish too and I was busy absorbing the scenery and trying, unsuccessfully to capture a picture of a dragonfly with black and white striped wings as it darted haphazardly.

Jim wandered over to the boulder where I sat on the shore. I had rolled my jeans up and dangled my feet in the surprisingly warm water. He gazed out over the lake and asked, "Well, are you glad you came?"

"No", I said flatly, "I always fall to my knees and pray and cry when I go to new places."

We both burst out laughing and he said, "It is amazing, huh?"

"Yeah, words just fall short, Jim. Thank you so much for inviting me and letting me ride Annie, she's so amazing!. And, by the way, I'll NEVER, EVER take a clear forest service trail for granted again in my life!" He nodded knowingly and we were reminded that we still had a lot of work to do. We couldn't stay long; early afternoon prompted us to mount up.

Seeing as all we had to do was simply back track and follow our hoof prints back to camp, Jim designated me as trail boss. I sat up a little straighter in the saddle, but I shortly got fired as I lost the trail in the rocks. Dang! So much to learn! Jim on Luke with Toby went out in front and with only a few mishaps we found our way back to our camp spot

where we had unloaded Toby. It was a perfect spot by a creek with a lovely water fall to lull us to sleep. We made lots of new friends of the locals... millions in fact. Mosquito netting and repellent do come in handy! More work to do to set up tents our camp and highline the stock. We set Toby free to wander and he never went far. Social butterfly that he is he hung out with us as we munched on tri tip and pork that Joe had provided. Toby wandered through camp and he sniffed and inspected all the tents, the water filter, Cara's bedroll and the rest of the gear. He kept so close to us that he earned the nickname "Camp Dog". I think that moniker will stick.

We sat around after dinner and Jim shared parts of the story of the Mt Whitney rescue that Warner had not shared on the Chamberlain trip. It was strange that Warner was not on this trip and I know we all missed his presence. Plus, he tells great stories! I hit the sack and fell asleep looking out through the mesh top of my tent at the Milky Way. Life is good...

I heard movement in camp and opened one eye. It was the chill hour before dawn and the stars were gone. I rolled over and closed my eyes again. That didn't work - morning came anyway and it was time to get up and let the stock graze for a few hours before we set off. I stumbled out of my tent and joined the others near the high line. Toby (AKA Camp Dog) who was free all night to go wherever, was standing asleep in his usual spot next to Luke on the highline. We all snickered. Old habits die hard even for mules. So we hobbled Annie and let everybody have a go at grazing around camp. I dug out the breakfast burritos from my saddlepacks and we all tucked in to breakfast. Then we broke camp...again, packed Toby and saddled up.



Like yesterday when we left Crown Lake, we mostly followed our hoof prints, but we still needed GPS to find the trail on occasion. A steep slope covered in rocky scree, boulders and buck brush stood in our way. I did not remember it from yesterday, but Jim insisted that the GPS showed the trail at the top. I wondered if Toby could manage it, for about one second as Jim and Luke scrambled up, Toby right behind. Jim was right again, the trail was at the top clear as a bell. We stopped in a perfect area to clear trail and spent a few hours sawing logs and branches and tossing them aside. Small encroaching pine trees succumbed to the loppers. Satisfied, we mounted and continued down the trail.

The ring of an axe and laughter caught our attention. Jim hailed the men ahead and we rode through the work crew as they labored to remove a huge log from the trail. It was good to see them. They had cleared an amazing amount of trail while we were away. We got teased about our perfect timing as they were ready to wrap up their work for the day. We picked our way past them and their horses and mule and on down the trail. Whinnies and dust greeting us as we straggled back into camp for another night of hard work, hot food and good company in the wilderness.

Next morning after breakfast we were off with the work crew to clear trail. Cara and I worked with Mickey and Glenn of the US Forest Service clearing a 42" diameter deadfall from the trail. After Mickey went over an initial safety review, we swung axes to clear a channel in the bark for the bucksaw and shovels to clear a trench under the tree. Dirt is the enemy of good saw and we all strived to be sure that the dirty bark was removed and the trench underneath was deep enough to protect the sharp edge. Sounds easy...it's not. With reverence we were introduced to "Huson" a 100 year old vintage bucksaw. Next Mickey and Glenn showed us how to use it. We all took our turns sawing, a dance of cooperation and strangely satisfying. The altitude insisted we pace ourselves and we did not overlook our water breaks. I had learned my lesson. Once Huson broke through and after a little more shovel work, we positioned ourselves side by side along the uphill side of the log and rocked it back and forth until, gaining momentum, it rolled into the meadow and out of the trail. Forest critter scattered to the sound of our high fives and hoots of victory.

And so went the day. The rest of the crew was killing it with a HUGE deadfall up trail while Cara and I cleared a creek crossing with axes and silky saws. We cheered the men as they rolled that massive trunk out of the trail. What a monster! We straggled into camp that afternoon hungry and exhausted. I was not looking forward to the work left that must be done to care for the stock, and trudged along. Three days in the mountains were starting to tell on me and I was cheered by the thought that tonight we did not have to set up another camp.

The peal of the dinner bell was music to our ears. Everybody had worked up a huge appetite and we enjoyed a massive meal and great conversation. It was our last night in the mountains and Mickey and Glenn came down from their campsite to visit and we laughed and shared our stories. I'll not forget their shining faces.

Morning came all too soon and we broke camp and packed up. We were the only ones heading out today. Me, Cara and Jim... I took a last look around and smiled to myself at the memories. I would never forget this place or the people or the reason that were here doing what we do. If not us, who? Who would or could assist the over stretched Forest Service to clear these high mountain trails that if not cleared may

be closed to future visitors? I cringed at the thought that my Grandkids or yours might not be able to have the opportunity to visit Crown Lake and enjoy the beauty that I was blessed to see unless people like us were willing to help. I asked myself, with all the exhausting work to get here, set up camp, care for the animals and then clear forest, would I do it again??

Oh yes, yes indeed.

We said our goodbyes and Jim gave me another chance at trail boss and this time I made sure I did not get fired! But hey, its clear trail all the way back to the trail head, right? So how could I blow it? I think I did pretty good... we made it back didn't we?



## ELECTIONS

We are in need of members to run for office. It is time to get some new faces around the governing table. All of our past directors and officers have done a great job and kept the club alive. Some of them are getting burned out and need a little down time. They will always be active in the unit and eventually run again for a governing position. If you want to know what is involved, give one of the existing officers/directors a call. We have four directors positions open and all of the officers. Right now we have: Kristianne Morrison, Sue Van Sickle, Jim Knapke and Fredi Chrisman running for directors. Gary Van Sickle for Treasurer and Carol Kaminski for Secretary.

The elections meeting will be held at Luna's Restaurant in Clovis on October 27, 2018 at 5:30 pm.. There is limited space so you will have to confirm your attendance with the President of the unit. His contact is [wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net](mailto:wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net) or leave a voice message at 559 908-3138. Have a great month and hope to see your name on the ballot.

## SAW PROGRAM MANAGERS

On past calls we have discussed getting the word out to your saw users that the use of "bow bars" is prohibited. I need your help in spreading the word that bow bars should not be being used in any situation.

Specifically the NWCG Chainsaw training course (S-212 2012 version page 2.13) states:

"Bow bars are no longer approved for use on Stihl or Husqvarna chain saws (see owner's manuals; web addresses are listed in Appendix A). One of the primary reasons is that the bow bar changes the saw's center of gravity, preventing the chain brake from engaging properly during kickback. Bow bars should be removed from service."

The Stihl owner's manual (for all types of saws) specifically warn against doing this :

"Warning! Do not mount a bow guide on any STIHL chain saw. Any chain saw equipped with a bow guide is potentially very dangerous. The risk of kickback is increased with a bow guide because of the increased kickback contact area. Low kickback chain will not significantly reduce the risk of kickback injury when used on a bow guide."

While OSHA and ANSI are silent on the subject and there is no specific current FS policy which prohibits the use of bow bars – we should always follow the intent of training materials and only use the equipment in a manner it was designed for by following the Manufacturer's guidelines.

I have consulted with our Office of General Counsel (OGC) lawyer and their council was to immediately remove all bow bars from service to reduce the risk of liability should there be an accident resulting in injury or property damage. I am asking that each of you contact your Forest Saw Coordinators to assure that bow bars are no longer being used.

Thanks for your attention to this issue. Call if you have questions - Pete

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Board Meeting July 11, 2018  
Elks Lodge, Clovis, CA.

Call to order: 6:31 pm.

Roll Taken: President: Duane Peverill, Vice President: Ted Fischer,  
Treasurer: Gary Van Sickle

Directors: Fredi Chrisman, Jim Knabke, Steve Naylor, Debbie McDougald, Pat Peverill, Debbie McFarren

Others: Alan Fry

The president declared a quorum present. He then asked for any additions to the minutes. Ted requested discussion on a deposit for the Elks Lodge. Alan requested discussion on Recovery in the Wild.

**Minutes reviewed and approved:** 1st Ted, 2nd Pat, unanimous vote.

**Correspondence:** Two Big Meadows donations received and a certificate of appreciation from the Elks Lodge for donation.

**Treasurer Report:** See Treasurer

Debbie McDougald pointed out the need to document the miles of trails maintained by the work parties. Also, tree removal numbers.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

**Education:** No report.

**Membership:** Two new members, Sarah Muzquiz and Kristianne Morrison (the new intern). The President informed there is 156 members in the unit. He also related that Jan requested the unit pay the membership dues for Carol Patterson for use of her ranch for the DS clinic. 1<sup>st</sup> Ted, 2<sup>nd</sup> Fredi, unanimous vote to pay her dues.

**Newsletter:** Duane stated that articles are due July 20.

**Public lands.** Debbie reported that some forest land has been added to the Wilderness areas. For Sierra, it was not very much.

**Sunshine:** Appreciation letters sent for donations. Debbie McFarren reported that Jan lost her horse.



**Shaver Lake:** Camp is now open. Recently had a work party there. The road has been repaired. Jim Dixon was able to get it done for \$200 vs. the original estimate of \$2,000. Call Wanda for reservations.

**OLD BUSINESS.** 1. Big Meadows – Jim K: Going well. Need to have someone check the donation box periodically. Ted indicated the need to let Jim know if a director is going up to the camp. Short discussion on # of sites and vehicles allowed. Duane summarized that if Big Meadows is limited, there could be more dispersed camping and more impact on the nearby area.

2. Diana Sorensen Memorial Ride – Duane indicated it would be Aug 10-12 at Tamarack. Check the website for details. Ted is getting the insurance and noted it is only good from dawn to dusk.

3. Montana de Oro – Duane reviewed who attended and said it was a good outing.

**New Business:** 1. Christmas Party – Duane indicated the need to get people lined up to help organize the event. Decorations, tickets, entertainment, etc. Alan said it may not be necessary to have a DJ this time. A sound system can be brought in for the evening. Fredi suggested a cowboy entertainer. Ted said he would get the cowboy poet again. Duane asked that information be brought back to the next board meeting.

2. Election Meeting – Duane indicated the best day is October 27. Ted reminded that the unit paid the first \$12 for each member's dinner. He also said there is a need for a guest speaker, such as Jerry Jones or a vet. Also suggested was a gun regulation (CCW aspects) person or a driver license person.

3. Flag Poles – Duane indicated the need to discuss the unit's flag poles. He said currently they are on wooden poles with no toppers. Should have a nice pole with an eagle topper for the US flag. (Our flags are in good shape.) Need to get 3 poles and covers/cases for storage. Also, 3 flag boots are needed. He thought \$60 per pole would be the cost. He did indicate the California flag needs to be updated to a double-sided flag. Ted thought it might be good to have for riding in more parades. 1<sup>st</sup>: Ted, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Steve, to upgrade the poles with cases; and new flag if needed, not to exceed \$500. Unanimously passed.

4. Recovery in the Wild – Alan: He explained this was a project to take wounded vets into the high country, such as the John Muir Trail, and asked if the unit should offer assistance? He was not sure about the dates. He noted two other groups are helping. Debbie suggested an offer for a food supply drop. Consensus was to have Alan contact the group to see what is needed.

5. Elks Lodge Deposit -Ted: He stated there might be a \$200 deposit needed for the Stamey concert. Alan will confirm.

#### **Calendar:**

Duane announced the next Board meeting would be on Aug 1 and there would be a general meeting on August 15.

Adjourn 8:12 pm, Pat P 1st, Jim K 2<sup>nd</sup>, unanimous vote.

# 2018 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)

April 4	Board Meeting
April 7	Desensitizing Clinic CANCELLED
April 13-15	Rendezvous Shirley Rasmussen <a href="mailto:shirleyjras@gmail.com">shirleyjras@gmail.com</a>
April 28	Clovis Parade
April 27-30	Clovis Rodeo (Non Unit)
May 2	Board Meeting
May 4-6	Jose Basin Camp Out ...Joe Kaminski 559 733-9170
May 16	General Meeting Guest Speaker Ted Fischer Chainsaw Safety and how to Become certified
June 6	Board Meeting
June 16,17	Buck saw Clinic.....Joe/Carol 559-909-0505
June 25-July2	Edison Work Party .....Joe Kaminski 559 733-9170
July 11	Board Meeting
July 6-8	Montana De Oro Camp Out Pete Parkin Click for Flyer/Application
July 16-23	Crown Valley Work Party Contact Joe/Carol 559-733-9170
August 1	Board Meeting
August 10-12	Diana Sorensen Memorial Tamarack Camp Out/Ride Click For Flyer Joe Kaminski 559 733-9170
August 15	General Meeting
Sept 5	Board Meeting
Oct 1	Board Meeting (Monday)
Oct 6	Eagle Point Ride Shaver Lake (members Only) Cara (559) 901-3936 <a href="mailto:carasblueprint@sbcglobal.net">carasblueprint@sbcglobal.net</a>
Oct 4-8	CCMA Poker Ride/Camp out MDO (Non Unit)
Oct 27	Elections/General Meeting Guest Speaker Kristianne Morrison BCHC Intern Scholarship Winner. Details to follow
Nov 7	Board Meeting
Nov (TBA)	Trail Trial
December 5	Board Meeting

## 2018 Calendar (continued)

December 8 Christmas Party Entertainment John Pemberton. Any Board Member

## 2019

Jan 12 Dave Stamey Concert Tickets Go On Sale (TBA) Contact Ted Fischer 559 855-8599

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.bhcalifornia.org](http://www.bhcalifornia.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.*

### Stuffed Bell Pepper Soup In The Dutch Oven

When we are camping in the fall, all we want is comfort food to keep us warm. Fall camping is on of my absolute favorite times of the year to be out. But it can get chilly so we tend to make a lot of stews, rice and soups during that time. This Stuffed Bell Pepper Soup is always a hit plus it is a very filling soup on a small grocery budget!

Prep time 10 mins Cook time 15 mins Total time 25 mins

#### **INGREDIENTS:**

1 lb ground beef	¾ onion, minced
1 cup uncooked instant rice	1 tbsp minced garlic
2 cups beef broth	12 oz can tomato sauce
1 green pepper, diced	28 oz can diced tomatoes with green chilies, undrained
1 red pepper, diced	Salt & Pepper to taste

#### **INSTRUCTIONS:**

1. In your dutch oven, brown ground beef, onion, garlic and peppers Add salt and pepper to taste
2. You can then heat beef broth with the hamburger mixture. Add tomato sauce and diced tomatoes. Stir well and make sure that it is heated through.
3. Once hot, add uncooked rice and simmer until rice is done – it will only take a few minutes. You do have to watch this a bit as it can be hard to tell. I always test it a few times to make sure the rice is how I like it.



## **ALERT FOR ALL BCHC MEMBERS – PLEASE TAKE ACTION**

There has been a new bill introduced into the U.S. House of Representatives. The bill is called the “Restore our Public Lands Act” HR 6510. It currently has 66 co-signers and 5 are from California – Cook, Castro, Panetta, Takano and Garamendi. This bipartisan bill allocates funds to pay for high-priority deferred maintenance that is needed to support critical infrastructure and visitor service at our nation parks, wildlife refuges and other public lands. This backlog totals \$16 billion.

The fund would draw from all sources of federal energy revenue onshore and offshore, including alternative and renewable energy sources such as wind, solar geothermal and hydropower; as well as private donations.

As Backcountry Horsemen of California, we all need to support this bill, however it does not address the needs of our National Forests. The National Forests have many high-priority items where maintenance has been delayed. For example, there are many roads and trails which need attention. We would like to suggest that the bill be amended to include support for the Forest Service to address their maintenance backlog.

Please write, call or email your Congressman and tell them you support HR 6510 and that you would like to see it include the Forest Service.

You can contact your Congressman here:

<https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>

## **DO YOU KNOW YOU'RE ON PRIVATE PROPERTY?**

By: Cara Peterson

Private property is my order,  
Do you know you're in my border?  
If you say yes, I win this game,  
Avoid the question, it's all the same.  
You know it doesn't matter much,  
How you respond, you're in my clutch.  
And just how did you enter in?  
Your trespass where did it begin?  
Stout is just my thinking way,  
Didn't you read the sign today?  
The welcome sign is not what's posted,  
Your friends and you are surely toasted.  
I'm telling you, so you will know,  
Others too, will have to go.  
For I am wise and oh so haughty,  
You're just a fool and very naughty.  
I will shame you with my gate,  
So next time you might hesitate.  
Private property is my pen,  
I won't be seeing you again.

[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)

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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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**"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)

# TAMARACK MEMORIAL 2018

On August 11, the second annual Diana Sorenson Ride was held at Tamarack. The weather was picture perfect and even the smoke cooperated by staying away for the weekend. Campfires were not allowed. However, thanks to campfire in a can we were still legal to have a propane campfire and enjoy the ambiance of the flames. Thanks to the many donations that have come in, the ride was free to enjoy by the many who came up for the weekend.

Two rides were offered after a breakfast of biscuits and gravy or coffee cake with of course large pots of coffee. The first ride went out led by Doug Laber to the fire lookout at Bald Mountain. The ride took approximately three hours with a view enjoyed by all who chose that route. The second ride was the meadow ride led by Carol Kaminski and Cara Peterson. We followed many old jeep and cattle trails through meadows and trees. There was a creek, albeit almost dry, to cross and a bridge over another creek. The ride was nice and cool because it was mostly shaded and enjoyed by both horse and rider.

As we were coming back into camp we could smell lunch of deep pit barbecue. Joe made beans and Fredi brought her famous potato salad. Cookies were available for dessert. We were so thankful for Fredi coming up to help with setup, serving and cleanup. She is so appreciated with her willingness to jump in and get things done. The lunch was followed up with a raffle consisting of gift cards and other items. Cara Peterson won the grand prize of a 2018 Best Ride Ever belt buckle.

What a great time of fellowship and camaraderie as the riders were joined by some members who came up just for the day and returned home later that afternoon. Some of the riders came in on Friday and stayed until Sunday. What a great place to camp and ride.

How privileged we were this year to have Chance Sorenson join us for the weekend. He made the trip from Pennsylvania to join his dad for this event.

Thanks Chance for joining us this year. We are looking forward next year to another great ride.



# SUNSHINE CORNER

A big Ye Haw to the following people that  
have made a donation to Big Meadows

Horse Camp.

Kathy Grbac

Linda Fitzgerald

Winston and Joleen Kasparian

Karen Kniffen

Pam and Jody Hammond

Ashley and Brian Ross

THANK YOU.....THANK YOU

Condolence

Jan Mikkelson for loss of her horse.



## 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!"

## General Meeting

October 15, 2018

The members that attending had the opportunity to hear a great presentation by John Mikkelson. Johns topic was the California Real ID. Because of the presenters knowledge of what is going on in today's society he was able to enlighten all of us to the reason behind the Real ID. For those of you that missed out on this presentation you need to go to the California DMV Web page and read the information. There is a lot information on the web page and it lets you know what you need to take with you to the DMV, It is recommended that you get this done before it goes into effect because of the time you might have to spend t the DMV. Again, a big THANK YOU to John for giving up his time to do this presentation.

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### **ADVISORS: Rick Pereen**

### **Past President**

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## **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

# Bare Bottom Basics

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE FOR  
PROPER SANITATION

Imagine— it's late afternoon, high in the backcountry. You gently check the heat beneath your cook pot in drooling anticipation of your evening feast as you begin to relax with a sense of achievement in the extra effort it required to get here. The awe-inspiring vista laid out before you is truly splendid as the sun gently dips behind the magnificent granite peaks. The serenity of the mountain meadow, the beauty of the alpine lake, the majestic grandeur of the stately pines and the errant strand of double-ply toilet tissue wafting delicately in the breeze through your camp! HUH!!?

Sadly, this scenario (or one equally disgusting) is played out all too frequently. In many areas there is no such thing as complete isolation in our backcountry any longer. If you are there, chances are someone else has been there too and how we deal with our waste is of prime concern.

Many folks don't have a clue when it comes to dealing with the most basic of human functions in the backcountry, away from the friendly confines of their personal, porcelain throne! While difficult and uncomfortable for many to discuss, the subject of bowels is one that is common to us all.

Please take the time to learn these Gentle Use Techniques to properly dispose of your waste and toilet items. They are easy to master and will help to make you a better backcountry visitor. Everyone will appreciate the proper disposal of human waste as we enjoy our time in the backcountry.

Whether you use the term *Gentle Use*, *Tread Lightly*, *Minimum Impact*, or *Leave No Trace*, the principles are all the same.

It is a simple fact that humans regularly consume both food and water and the end product is the production of urine and feces .

Urine attracts wildlife. Animals may defoliate plants because of salt in urine. Therefore, urinating on non-vegetated soils away from any water source is a simple solution.

Solid waste is a bit different. The problem is that fecal waste is the medium for disease. Some of the most common means of transmission are direct contact with feces, contact with a contaminated insect, or ingestion of contaminated water. Improper disposal of human waste can produce significant health hazards. The most common problem being a severe diarrhea with dehydration. This can be very dangerous to you and others.

Proper disposal should ultimately accomplish the following objectives:

*Avoid pollution of the  
water source*

*Avoid negative response of  
others finding it*

*Minimize the possibility of  
spreading disease*

*Maximize the rate of  
feces decomposition*

No means of human waste disposal is without problems. No single recommendation is correct for every situation. Use toilets where they have been provided. If these are not available, then you must consider all factors and use other methods: catholes, latrine, or pack it out.

In popular areas one method to consider is the use of catholes. Decomposition is slow, but the prime objective is to decrease contact with others. The main idea behind the use of catholes is to disperse the waste, not concentrate it. Always choose a site out of the way, where others are unlikely to walk, and more than 200 feet from any water source, trails and camps. Dig your hole six to eight inches deep. It should have at least two inches of topsoil. Camouflage the surface when you are finished.

Latrines are another suitable option of human waste disposal. They may be necessary when disposal sites are limited. They are appropriate for large groups in popular areas during long stays. This is especially true if you have inexperienced campers or young children. If you dig a latrine, make it wider than it is deep, but a minimum of twelve inches deep. After each use cover the feces with soil and compress with shovel to help with decomposition. When the waste is four inches from the surface, fill it in.

For group use during an extended stay, modification of the latrine is advisable. Dig a shallow trench or a series of catholes. The advantages are an appropriate site and the feces are not concentrated in one hole. This should only be used in an area which is non-vegetated or has exposed mineral soil.



Now for the toilet paper (T.P.) topic. Toilet paper that is discarded or uncovered can linger. This is disgusting to others and a health hazard. When you use T.P. try to get by with the smallest amount possible. Please consider non-perfumed and non-ink printed products. The best option is to put it in a plastic zip-lock bag and pack it out. One alternative is to burn it later in a hot fire. (A hot fire does sterilize and incinerate). At the bare minimum, bury it deep in the cathole with the feces. Remember in a dry or cold environment the paper lasts a long time. At some point you may run out of that great modern invention! At that time you may have to consider another source such as leaves, grass, rocks, pine cones, sticks or snow.

Feminine hygiene articles are another story. The best solution is to double or triple bag them and carry them out with your trash. You may pack them with crushed aspirin, used tea bag, baking soda to reduce odor. Never bury them in latrines or catholes as animals will dig them up. They are difficult to burn and you need a really hot campfire for complete combustion. Ladies — your cycle may begin one week earlier due to change in altitude, increase in exercise or change in daily routine. Please go prepared! Extra precautions are needed in bear country.

Sometimes it is uncomfortable for people to talk about these subject so we hope this information has been of help and that you will take the time to consider how you have managed your waste in the past and how you will in the future.

## Please Be A Gentle User



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 rev. 4/11



## Shaver Lake, Eagle Point Ride, Saturday Oct. 6, 2018



Directions: Hwy 168 East 2.3 miles past the Sierra Marina turn off.

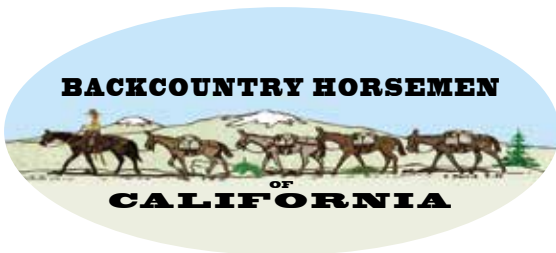
Watch for signs, nice parking for 5 trailers.  
Ride starts at 10:00 am.

Sorry, no dogs. Bring a sack lunch.



One mile of steep downhill, mostly dirt road, some gravel road, some paved road, some trail.  
Seven Mile Loop

Cara Peterson (559) 901-5364 [carasblueprint@sbcglobal.net](mailto:carasblueprint@sbcglobal.net)



*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.