

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA Hoof Prints

November 2018

Issue 9

San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC
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Email: membership@bchcalifornia.org (membership email only)
On the WEB: www.bchcsjsu.org (SJS Unit) or
www.bchcalifornia.org (State)

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



OF CALIFORNIA

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

Presidents Message



It is that time of year, the weather is changing and we all are getting ready for the holidays. As we gear up for the holidays and the cold weather don't forget about all of our four legged fur kids. We held elections meeting and had a great turn out. It was held at Luna's in Clovis. Thirty members enjoyed the food, camaraderie and a great presentation by Kristianne Morrison. The new elected

officers are President- Joe Kaminski, Vice President- Ruth Cramer, Treasurer- Gary Van Sickle, Secretary-Carol Kaminski. The new Directors are Kristianne Morrison, Sue Van Sickle, Jim Knapke and Muriel Holland. We have two great functions coming up over the next few months. In December we have our annual Christmas Dinner at the Elks Lodge on December 8. January 12 we have the The Ted Fischer Memorial Dave Stamey Dessert Concert held at the Elks Lodge in Clovis. Watch your emails and web page for information on these great upcoming events. Please contact me with any concerns you might have and also about any activities you would like to see the club sponsor. Remember...this is your club. Get Involved!!!!

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

William Duane Peverill
President, BCHCSJSU

EAGLE POINT, A SPECTACULAR PLACE

By Cara Peterson

The glory of the Lord was shining through the magnificent clouds hovering over the blue water of Shaver Lake.

Riders with me that day were Jim Dixon, Ruth Cramer, Jim Laber, Doug Laber, Barbara Stewart, Debbie Davis, Bill Chilson, and Pete Parkin. I want to thank my friends behind the



scene, who were praying to Jesus for our safety, peace, joy, and parking. Thanks also to Richard and Tami Telles who rode the complete trail with me in advance. They also helped me with trail clearing and trash pick-



up. Prayers were answered as we had the whole parking lot to ourselves and all 5 of our rigs fit just fine. SCE Rd. 72 starts at the gate with a welcoming trail

sign. As the Lake came into view we left the trail road and proceeded downhill onto a power road, at dirt cut off. Once we made it happily to paved road, we were done with 1 -1/2 miles of steepness. A little distance, another short cut and then we were on Lakeview Trail. We found Doris Cove with Eagle Point just on the other side. Eagle Point used to be called Shell Isle. There is a toilet building, with several picnic tables on the beach and barbeques. It's a boat rest stop, because the main back road is closed to general traffic, however, Adaptive Sports Center was given permission to set up camp for special need campers, who enjoyed canoeing, and fishing in Doris Cove, and water craft sports last summer until the



end of Sept. Way to go Edison! Getting back on trail after lunch, we continued along Lake View until we reached the paved road again. Then we quickly turned onto another short cut, and we got back on SCE Rd. 72. The loop back to the trailers continued

at an even grade. We all stayed together for the full 8 miles, making it back safe and sound. The choir boys, Jim, Jim and Doug sang to me Happy Birthday. Back at my cabin, Ruth built a fire and fell asleep on the couch. The rain came down softly and so our day of adventure ended peacefully.





San Joaquin Sierra Unit

Board Meeting August 1, 2018

Call to order: 6:30

Flag salute: Gary VanSickle

Roll Taken: President: William Duane Peverill, Vice President: , Secretary: Carol Kaminski, Treasurer: Gary Van Sickle

Directors: Pat Peverill, Debbie McFarren, Jim Knabke, Joe Kaminski-Past President, Guest: Pete Parkin, Wanda Caradonna

Minutes review and approved: 1st Gary VS., 2nd Pat.

Correspondence: Donations for Big Meadows

Treasurer Report:

Committee reports:

Education:

Membership:

Newsletter: Articles due Oct. 20.

Public lands. Booth at Fresno Fair for education for Dinkey Coll. BCHC-no conclusion on proposals for forest. Do agree on no bikes in the wilderness. Want more forest.

Sunshine: .

Shaver Lake:

OLD BUSINESS. 1. Shaver Lake camp- 2 groups used. Close by end of month

2. Big Meadows closed. Need to pick up supplies and radio. Jim K. to e-mail thank yous to camp hosts. Notify Kyle at USFS.

3. Christmas Party - No John Pemberton. Do have Grant the cowboy poet. Joe checked into illusionist but very pricey.

Will check with Ron Jefferson to see if he knows of anyone.

4. Election meeting - Luna's. Seating limited to 40. Kristianna Morrison BCHC summer intern will speak. Carol to print ballots. Add Joe K. for president.

5. Flag poles and holders - not yet.

6. Trail Challenge - obstacles sheet handed out. Set for Nov. 10. Who is cooking - Steve or Joe. SJSU only event.

7. Memorial Service - BCHCSJSU well represented. Nice service.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Dave Stamey Dessert concert - Duane has contacted Dave. Will be paid \$1,800 as per contract.

Set for Jan. 12. Ticket sales to start at Christmas Party. Possibly raffle 4 tickets at party.

2. Wolverton Camp Site - Dedicated new campsite. 2 sites, 2 trailers per site. \$22 per day. 1st of four sites to be improved. Great opportunity to use new trailheads. BCH helped to build (Visalia and Porterville units).

3. Duane needs reports for work parties and rides. Calendar review - ride at Eagle Point.

Board meeting Nov. 7, 2018

General election meeting Oct. 27, 2018

Adjorn: 7:30 Pat. 1st, Debbie McF 2nd

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

April 4	Board Meeting
April 7	Desensitizing Clinic CANCELLED
April 13-15	Rendezvous Shirley Rasmussen shirleyjras@gmail.com
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 PartyJoe 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 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 carasblueprint@sbcglobal.net
Oct 4-8	CCMA Poker Ride/Camp out MDO (Non Unit)
Oct 27	Elections/General Meeting Guest Speaker Kristianne Morrison BCHC Intern Scholarship Winner. Contact wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net for reservations. Limited Space. Must make reservations
Oct 27	Bob Frisch Memorial Ride Walk Click for info
Nov 7	Board Meeting

2018 Calendar (continued)

- Nov 10 Trail Trial Cancelled
December 5 Board Meeting
December 8 Christmas Party Entertainment Any Board Member

2019

- Jan 12 Ted Fischer Memorial Dave Stamey Dessert Concert Tickets Go On Sale (TBA)
Contact William Peverill wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

Work Parties TBA

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

William Duane Peverill
President

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

ONE POT DUTCH-OVEN BREAKFAST

Why dirty several pans for breakfast when you can make the entire meal in one Dutch oven?

Prep Time: 10 minutes Cook Time: 25 minutes Servings: 4-5

INGREDIENTS:

1/2 pound bacon	3 cups spinach leaves
1/2 pound sausage links	5-6 eggs
1 cup broccoli slaw	1/2 cup shredded cheddar cheese
	Salt and pepper to taste

INSTRUCTIONS:

In a 12 or 14 inch Dutch oven, partially fry bacon over a bed of coals.
Move bacon to the edge and fully cook sausages. Remove bacon and sausage, set aside.
Sauté broccoli slaw in pan drippings until tender. Salt and pepper to taste.
Add spinach and cover for 1 minute.
Move vegetables to one edge of the Dutch oven and add bacon and sausage to the opposite edge.
Crack five to six eggs into the middle of the Dutch oven and partially scramble. Salt and pepper to taste.
Place Dutch oven over five evenly spaced coals and cover. Place 10 to 12 coals on top of the lid.
Cook 5-7 minutes or until eggs begin to set.
Uncover and sprinkle shredded cheese over eggs. Cover and continue to cook an additional 3-5 minutes or until eggs are fully cooked and cheese is melted.
Using only three to five coals on the lid of the Dutch oven, keep warm until ready to serve.



THE CHESTNUT



Less than 2 years ago some people whom I've forgotten talked me into taking a 12 year old X racehorse whom nobody wanted or had been able to do anything with including trail ride because of his fiery energy and hyper sensitivity. The horse was dropped off in a state of severe neglect

and had no post track training to build upon. Once I got him healthy and going decently well under saddle, I tried to give him away to quality homes but nobody wants a quirky, hot, smaller horse that moves like a piston and expresses exuberance with explosive "airs above the ground" Since I was "stuck" with him the training continued and I discovered not only did he still love to run after 59 races, he also enjoyed jumping which more resembled hurling himself at and over anything I presented him with. He was however such a clever and athletic overachiever that I named him Real Genius and decided to "combine train" him for the sport of 3 Day Eventing which is considered a sort of equine ironman triathlon including Dressage, Show Jumping, Cross Country Jumping and even Steeplechase in it's long format version. For his downtime we would trail ride. We made



our Eventing debut last year and though he started out as much of a runaway bronc as an actual show horse, we have somehow managed to be consistently in the ribbons against some really nice and very expensive horses, many of which are imported from overseas specifically bred for their lovely gaits and extreme jumping aptitude. Genius improved with every outing and moved quickly through the lower levels. Last month my little red pistol exceeded all expectations at Twin Rivers Ranch in Paso Robles where we added no jump or time faults over the weekend to our best ever dressage score of 25.2 and won the division.



2 weeks later he was leading a group of SJSU riders at Shaver Lake on a scenic 9 mile loop quietly but enthusiastically. He even kept his cool when 3 riders repeated trotted past him toward the trailers while he was required to only walk. This is the hardest thing of all for a super fit Thoroughbred former racehorse winner who's sole purpose of existence was blazing his way to the front! My lifelong career has been training horses, ponies and mules and I regularly witness extreme equine makeovers but Genius teaches me the poignant lesson daily to never pre-judge and form an opinion of potential without giving even the most unlikely individuals a chance to show us what they can and will do with the right opportunity. My "war horse" inspires me to keep pressing on toward my dreams and goals without letting my perceived shortcomings of age related limitations, old injuries and artificial joints stand in the way. If he can do it all, in spite of all odds then so can I!





The Lighter Side

It was spring in the old west. The cowboys rode the still snow-choked trails looking for cattle that survived the winter. As one cowboy's horse went around the narrow trail, it came upon a rattlesnake warming itself in the spring sunshine.

The horse reared and the cowboy drew his six-gun to shoot the snake. "Hold on there, partner," said the snake, "don't shoot - I'm an enchanted rattlesnake, and if you don't shoot me, I'll give you any three wishes you want."

The cowboy decided to take a chance. He knew he was safely out of the snake's striking range. He said, "Okay, first, I'd like to have a face like Clark Gable, then, I'd like a build like Arnold Schwarzenegger, and finally, I'd like sexual equipment like this here horse I'm riding."

The rattlesnake said, "All right, when you get back to the bunk house you'll have all three wishes." The cowboy turned his horse around and galloped at full speed all the way to the bunk house. He dismounted on the run and went straight inside to the mirror.

Staring back at him in the mirror was the face of Clark Gable. He ripped the shirt off his back and revealed bulging, rippling muscles, just like Arnold Schwarzenegger. Really excited now, he tore down his jeans, looked at his crotch and shouted, "Oh my God, I was riding the mare!"

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www.bchcsjsu.org

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

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

www.bchcsjsu.org

Advertising Rates

Classified Ads

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

Display Ad Rate per issue

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

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

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

Attention

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

Respectfully,
Joe Kaminski
Past President



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

"Travel Advantage"

Dear BCHC Members

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

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

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

C.J. Hargreaves
BCHC Editor/Travel Site Coordinator
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jjknabke@comcast.net

ADVISORS: Rick Preen

Past President

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

SJS Unit Fund Raisers For Sale

"There's a Mule Under My Saddle Cookbook" by Jean Brown of Idaho \$10.00

Hats \$15.00

Khaki with a maroon or forest green bill are embroidered with one horse, two mules and says Backcountry Horsemen of California.

Scarf \$13.00

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

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

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

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

**Backcountry Horsemen
of California**



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

**MEMBERSHIP
APPLICATION**

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

New **Renewal**
 Change

(indicate change)

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

DCTR (your Membership)

MEMBER'S NAME – No Business Names, Print Clearly SPOUSE/Co-MEMBER'S NAME – MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address/PO Box

City _____ State _____ Zip Code (full 9 digits if known) _____ Area Code _____ Phone number _____

Email Address: _____ (please print legibly)

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

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check one)

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

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

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

Associate Memberships Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

Associate Membership for: _____ \$15.00/Unit
Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: _____ \$15.00/Unit
Unit Name (from above list)

Add additional choices here

Please clip form along dashed line and keep the below portion for your records

Parent BCHC Membership Types

Individual, Family, (Shared*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt. Whitney

A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit. BCHC members may NOT hold more than ONE active Parent Membership.

*A SHARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names who share a common address.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS

These special Memberships are only available to persons already holding Parent BCHC Membership. No one may sign up for an Associate Membership without 1) having registered one of the Parent Membership types, and 2) having selected Parent Unit affiliation.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at bchcalifornia.org or call (775) 463-3634

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

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

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

Verification of BCHC membership

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

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

- rope under the tail
- crossing downed trees and other obstacles
- crossing boggy areas
- crinkling noise of maps or plastic rain gear
- fly repellent spray bottles
- sudden movement of birds, wildlife and dogs
- sudden appearance of hikers with large bright packs
- motorcycles
- tolerating other animals on the trail, including Llamas

HAULING STOCK

Unless horses have had a bad experience, they are normally good travelers. Horses being transported should be tied short and lower than is usual in other situations. This will prevent them from rearing or getting a foot over the rope. Horses should be tied to the sides of the truck, alternating head to rump. Hauling a load of horses requires extra driving care. Take corners slowly and avoid quick starts and sudden stops. Whatever you use to convey horses should have a floor with good footing. Two inches of sand works well in a stock truck, while rubber mats with a non-slip tread should be used in a pickup bed or trailer. Never haul a horse in a pickup truck with a metal floor without using a rubber mat or sand. A green horse will load better if preceded by an experienced animal. Practice with them before you plan to start your trip. In practicing, just load them the first time, don't move the truck. A horse must always have good footing when loading or unloading, never leave a crack that it can get its foot through. The important point to remember about loading is to practice at home, again and again.....

SADDLES AND TACK

Before you start your trip, all gear should be checked. Your saddle should fit you and the horse. All leather should be oiled periodically to protect it. Latigos, cinches and reins should be checked for wear. It's advisable to adjust all packsaddles before you leave on your trip. This will save time at the trailhead, and reduce the time a packhorse will have to stand loaded before the whole string is ready. Once adjusted, the saddles should be labeled so the same animal always uses them. If you're using borrowed equipment, masking tape can be used for labels. If packs are manted or boxed loaded before you leave home, they should be labeled in pairs of equal weights.

Tack used in the mountains must fit the horse and the rider. A horse with a bad saddle sore isn't much of an asset. A saddle tree with quarter horse bars is made for a broad backed low withered horse and would probably be unsuitable for a slim horse with Thoroughbred-type conformation. Many of these problems can be corrected with extra pads, but a saddle must have adequate clearance over the backbone and be built wide enough so the lower edges of the tree don't dig into the back.

Double-rigged saddles have some advantages on mountain trails. They should be rigged so the cinch is a little farther back to prevent sores behind the front leg, the strap between the cinches should be adjusted and the back cinch in contact with the horse's stomach to prevent sideways movement and to help keep the pads in place. Some people prefer a saddle with a high cantle for mountain use. However, the higher cantle shouldn't be used to brace against when riding uphill, keep your weight forward and help your horse.

Stirrups should be adjusted so that you can place just three fingers between your crotch and the saddle when standing in the stirrups. Ride relaxed but alert, with the ball of your foot in the stirrup and about 1/3 of your weight on your feet.

A properly adjusted breast collar is an advantage when riding in rugged country. Breast collars should be fastened to the rings installed for that purpose or off the 'D' rings, and in a manner so there is no possibility of interference with the horse's breathing. A crupper or britchin can also be added and is recommended for a horse with poor withers or round back. A horse can be ridden with a looser cinch if a breast collar and crupper or britchin are used. A cinch that is too tight is one of the chief causes of cinch sores. On a properly saddled horse, you should be able to insert your fingers between the cinch and the horse's body without undue trouble but you should feel pressure from both. Breast collars must be kept soft so they won't cut. Roper style breast collars are a good choice.

Fabric covered foam pads or "Kodel" fleece pads are excellent and have the advantage of being washable. They should be a firm consistency and two inches thick. If hair pads are used, a packhorse

should have two pads and a saddle horse a pad and a blanket. Don't ever lay a pad or blanket directly on the ground as it will pick up debris that could sore a horse's back.

Any good nylon halter is adequate. Flat nylon has the advantage of not creasing a horse's nose and has a larger bearing surface over the poll. The halter should be adjusted so that it can't be rubbed off. It's unsafe to turn a shod horse loose wearing a halter, it could get its hoof caught while trying to scratch with a back leg.

For most people, a nine-to ten-foot lead rope seems to be about right. If ropes are attached through the halter ring and around the animal's neck they must be longer. Manila 1/2" in diameter would be minimum, but soft nylon or multi-filament polypropylene is much better. These ropes are stronger and won't rot, and can be stored when wet. Make your lead rope from a length a little over a foot longer than the finished product. Braid a small eye in one end for attaching the snap and braid the other end back.

If pack stock are used, a spare cinch, latigo and lead rope should be carried. In an emergency, the lead rope from your saddle horse can be used on a packhorse. A knife with a leather punch, pliers, small rolls of stove wire and electrical tape, and nylon or leather boot laces will make most emergency tack repairs.

PACK SADDLES

At first, man packed his animals without the use of a saddle, but as time passed different types of saddle were developed. Today the two most popular styles are the "sawbuck" and the "decker". Which one is best? There are arguments for both, but what works best for you is the type to use. Either type usually has a britchin and breast collar, which must be adjusted so the tree is held in the proper position, just behind the withers. Each should have two straps (called "quarter straps"), one from the britchin to the tree and the other to the cinch. "Quarter straps" keep the britchin from hiking up under the tail of the pack animal. The rigging should never be adjusted so tight that it galls the animal.

The sawbuck usually has two girths (double rigged). There are two basic types of sawbuck trees. The "Tehama" which is wider and fits mules and quarter-type horses the best, and the "Humane" which fits slimmer horses. A sawbuck saddle is less expensive, lighter and a bit more stable on the animal's back because of the double rigging. It does not have the wide range of adjustment found on the decker since there is no adjustment on the placement of the rigging rings nor on the angle of the bars of the saddle. The decker has a padded cover (called a half-breed) that is placed over the "Ds" of the tree. Near the bottom of the half-breed there is usually 1" x 4" board that helps to spread the load on the side of the animal. Usually single rigged, the latigo passes over the sideboard in cinching the single girth around the animal. The rigging ring may be moved forward or backward on the animal, and the "Ds" may be heated and bent to achieve the optimum fit of the wooden bars to the backs of individual animals. The decker is usually heavier, and more expensive than a sawbuck.

The appendix lists books that are a good source for additional information on how to select the right packsaddle for your use.

PACK EQUIPMENT

The equipment used to pack horses and mules varies from region to region, and it would be impossible in the space available to describe it all. This selection will be devoted to the basic equipment.

Side loads on pack animals use one of the following four basic kinds of equipment:

1. Pack Boxes - are used in almost all systems of packing. They are used in pairs, and vary in size with an average of about 22" in length, 11" in depth and 16" in height. Larger animals can carry proportionally larger boxes. They are hung from the pack tree either with loops or hooks or in suspended with slings of rope or "pack slings". Boxes are used to protect breakable items, to provide better organization of small items, to provide storage while in camp, and to be used as tables or seats. Pack boxes made of aluminum or steel with locking lids can be used for bear-proof storage of food.
2. Pack Slings - May be of rope as in the decker packing system or made of leather straps attached to a bar that is slung from the pack saddles with loops. At the bar they are usually 22" wide and have straps up to 7' in length. They are useful to sling pack boxes, duffel bags, bales of hay and anything else too large for pack bags or boxes.
3. Pack Bags - made of leather, canvas, man made fabric or a combination of these, and use loops to suspend them from the pack tree. They may be open-topped or covered. Pack bags are soft sided, making them more flexible to use than a box. They are useful for packing small items, duffel bags, sacks of grain, etc.

4. Mantied Packs - Usually used on decker saddles - are bundles of camp gear and equipment that are wrapped in canvas and tied into equally weighted pairs to be slung with rope from the pack saddle. Unusual shaped items, bales of hay, and wide assortment of items may be side loaded in this manner.

Other equipment needed for most systems follows:

1. Lash Rope - A rope with a lash cinch that is used to tie the "diamond hitch" to secure loads to pack animals. Depending on the kind of hitch tied the rope can vary in length from 35' to 50' and usually either 3/8" to 1/2" in diameter. Manila, multi-filament polypropylene, nylon or cotton may be used. Nylon is the strongest and stays soft when wet, but tends to stretch when new. Cotton is easiest on the hands, but is least durable and is miserable when wet. The lash cinch is made with a ring in one end and a specially designed hook in the other. The cinch body can be made of leather, canvas or mohair; they may vary in length from 25" to 35".
2. Pack Cover (Mantie) - This is used to protect the pack from water or dust. It is usually made of canvas or cotton duck and varies in size with the smallest about 5' x 7'. They sometimes have grommets in corners to facilitate use in setting up camp. A mantie is also useful cover saddles and pack equipment while in camp.
3. Integrated System - There are several packing systems on the market that integrate side load and top load together in a combination of boxes and bags that are secured to the animal with a system of nylon straps and buckles. This system can be useful to those who do not wish to master the various rope hitches used.
4. Over the Saddle Pack Bags - There are two pack bags that are fastened together at the top and are designed to be used with an ordinary Western saddle. They usually have openings for the pommel and cantle. Over the saddle pack bags are handy to use when an additional riding saddle is needed after camp is set up.

The appendix lists several useful books that list equipment in much greater detail, and also illustrates the various hitches used in packing animals.

PERSONAL EQUIPMENT

The comfort and well being of the horseman is fundamental to a safe and pleasurable trip into the backcountry. Clothing and personal effects must be adequate enough to protect from weather extremes and practical enough to serve one's needs well.

Wear clothes that are soft and will not rub. A Western hat has many advantages in the mountains. It will protect you from the sun, rain, or snow, and small branches. A straw hat is ideal in warm weather, a felt hat in cold weather. A plastic hat cover is useful. Gloves, preferably leather, are a must. A sharp knife should be carried by everyone in his or her front pocket or on his or her belt. A cased folding knife with a locking blade is a good choice.

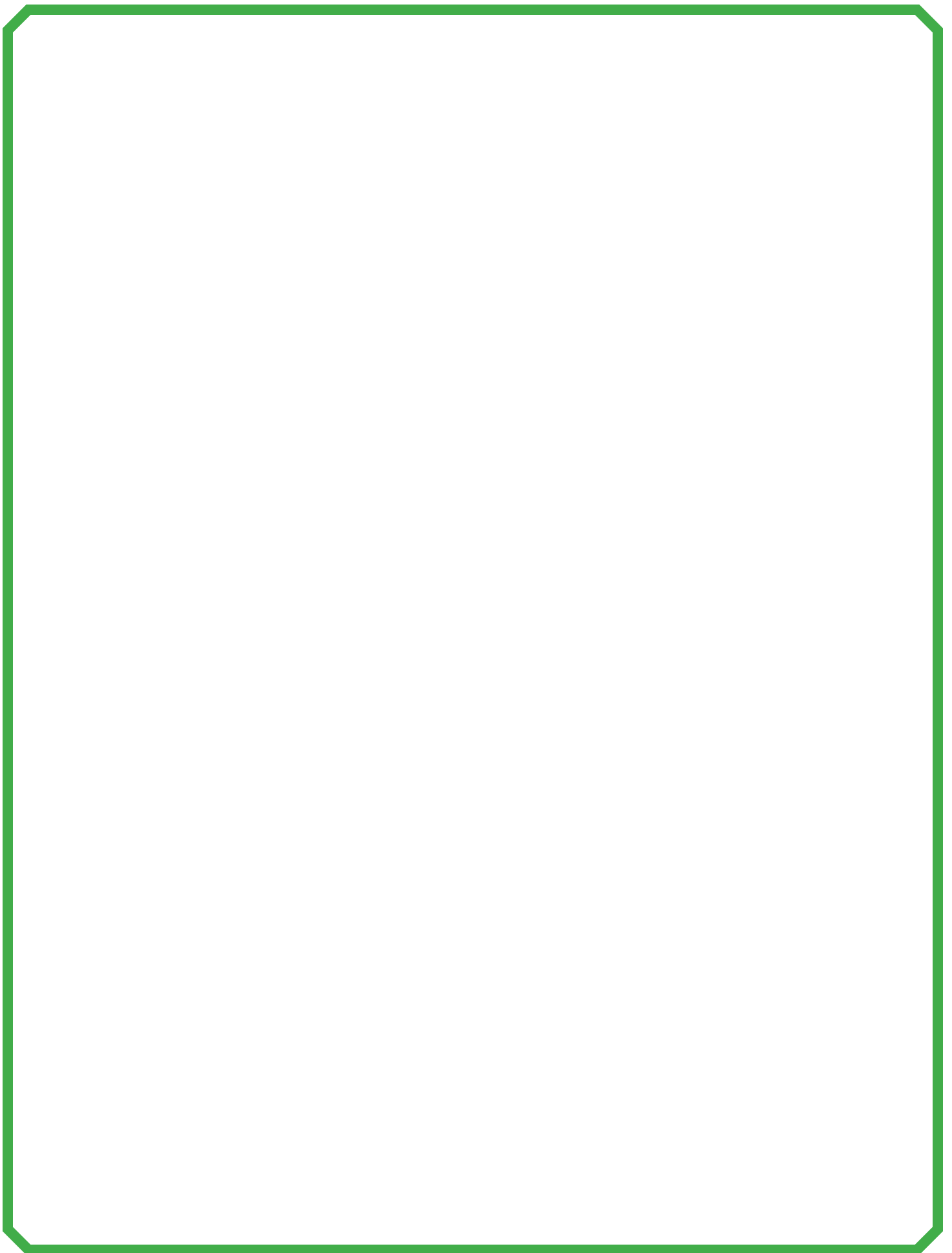
A good plan for your clothing is to use the "layering" method used by mountaineers. This allows you to remove or add clothing to suit weather conditions.

A slicker should be carried on your saddle horse. Weather changes rapidly in the mountains. Accustom your horse to you putting on a slicker. A warm jacket should be carried even in warm weather, chaps are useful; they'll turn a lot of water, protect your legs, provide warmth, and have the added advantage of not bunching up in the saddle. The nylon rain chaps worn by hikers are handy because they can be rolled up and kept in the saddlebag when not being used. **Remember**, don't wait until you are wet to put on rain gear.

Wear some type of boot with a riding heel. If much hiking or mountain climbing is planned, extra footwear should be taken for the purpose. Tennis shoes are handy around camp but should never be placed in a stirrup. Vibram soles are also dangerous because they tend to hang up in a stirrup. If tapaderos are used, they should have solid bottoms. Tapaderos are advised for all youngsters.

HORSE CARE

Your horse will provide many pleasurable trips into the backcountry. It deserves consideration and care to keep it healthy and satisfied. There are many fine books on the market which provide excellent tips and instructions in keeping and caring for stock. In this section we will only cover a few items which pertain to horse use in the backcountry.





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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.