

# SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

## Hoof Prints

February 2024

Issue 67

**San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC**  
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[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) (State)

Max & Irene Cochran  
Newsletter  
Award Winner

3rd - 2022

### BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



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

## Presidents Message



First I would like to thank all of you for your membership in our unit. Each and everyone of you are important to the running of our unit and all the tasks and planning that go into our rides, work parties, and meetings. I am excited about the calendar of events being planned by your board and hope that all of you will find events that interest you. On that note the year is not completely planned so plenty

of time to bend the ear of your board and let us know if there is something you would like to include. We have a general meeting coming up Feb 20th at our new meeting place, the American Legion Hall. Member, John Mikkelson Post Range Master, will be speaking on State Senate bill SB2 effecting firearm rules, CCW, and firearm insurance with special guest who is a US CCA insurance representative for gun owners. We have the Desert ride coming up in March, Desense clinic and Clovis parade in April, and our first work party of the year in May. Rendezvous is in Ceres this year and flyer inside and links to registration packet on our web site. Raffle tickets for Rendezvous are here and will be available for purchase at the general meeting or by calling me. In July we have reserved a group site at MDO with the High Sierra unit and hope this will be a great time to come together as BCHC units. Your board is working with Reedley College and Fresno State packing

programs and is looking forward to working together with these programs to involve students in our work parties and packing trips. We as a board believe our organizations future statewide is in the youth attending these programs while our membership helps in mentoring the next generation of Back Country Men and Women. Hope to see you at the General meeting and or Redezvous in Ceres.

Stay safe out there and hope to see you soon on the trail in the middle of the saddle on top.

Your President, Jim Laber

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# 2024 Calendar

Board Meetings are now on the 4th Tuesday of the month. All members are welcome to attend. Board meetings start at 6:30 pm and for now we are meeting at the American Legion Hall, 508 4th Street, Clovis, CA 93612.

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)

## 2024

Feb 20	Board of Directors/General Meeting - 5:30 Board 6:30 General
Mar 22-23	Rendezvous Ceres CA
Mar 19	Board of Directors
Mar 15-17	Desert Ride Starlight Ranch Jim& Doug Laber
Apr 20	Desensitization Clinic – Steve Naylons
Apr 16	Board of Directors
Apr 27	Clovis Parade
May 3-5	San Joaquin River Gorge Camp out Work Party General Meeting
May TBD	Big Meadows Work Party
May 22-27	Bishop Mule Days
May 21	Board of Directors
Jun TBD	Raffle Ride Shaver Lake
Jun TDB	Edison Work Party
Jun 18	Board of Directors
Jul TBD	Crown Valley Work Party
Jul 16	Board of Directors
Jul 25-29	Montana De Oro
Aug 20	Board of Directors
Sept 7	Memorial Ride Big Meadows
Sept 17	Board of Directors
Sept 19-22	Badger Flats Work Party
Sept 24	Tamarack
Oct 3-7	Coastal Mounted Assistance/SJSU MDO
Oct 15	Board of Directors
Oct 16	General Meeting/Election Meeting
Oct 19	Board of Directors
Oct 25-27	San Joaquin River Gorge Work Party
Nov TBD	Holiday Dinner
Nov 19	Board of Directors
Dec 17	Board of Directors

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, [jim@visaliaidea.com](mailto:jim@visaliaidea.com). You may call 559.250.7906 and I will get back to you.

Jim Laber  
President

Remember to check for any Unit updates at our Web Site:

[www.bchcsjsu.org](http://www.bchcsjsu.org) for the San Joaquin/Sierra Unit,

[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) for the State Web Site

*The purpose of this publication is to keep its members in- formed on important issues that affect all horsemen and to inform the membership on up-coming events within the unit. The views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the editor & authors and not necessarily shared by BCHC.*

## HAM AND LENTIL SOUP

*Perfect for those cold winter nights!*

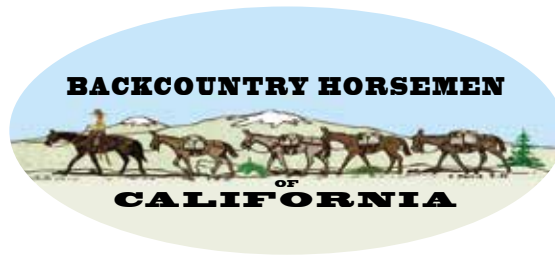
### INGREDIENTS:

- 1 meaty ham bone
- 6 cups water
- 1-1/4 cups dried lentils, rinsed
- 1 can (28 ounces) diced tomatoes, undrained
- 2 to 3 carrots, sliced
- 2 celery ribs, sliced
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/8 teaspoon pepper
- 12 ounces bulk pork sausage, cooked and drained
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. In a Dutch oven, bring ham bone and water to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 1-1/2 hours.
2. Remove ham bone. To broth, add the lentils, tomatoes, carrots, celery, onions and seasonings; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer until lentils and vegetables are tender, 30-40 minutes.
3. Meanwhile, remove ham from bone; coarsely chop. Add the ham, sausage and parsley to soup; heat through.





### *San Joaquin Sierra Unit*

Board Meeting Jan. 2, 2024

Call to order: 6:30

Flag salute

Roll Taken: President: Jim Laber, Vice President: Ruth Cramer-absent Secretary: Carol Kaminski, Treasurer: Gary Van Sickle

Directors: Doug Laber, Sue VanSickle, Jan Mikkelson, Marcee Hansen, Loni Langdon, Past President: Joe Kaminski

**Minutes review and approved:** 1st Doug, 2nd Joe

**Correspondence:**

**Committee reports:**

**Education:** See newsletter. Looking chairperson to bring speakers for education, animal care, youth. Jan to seek person for new trailer law. Looking at moving newsletter earlier.

**Membership:**

**Newsletter:** Articles due Jan. 20.

**Sunshine:** Ruth Cramer and Jim Dixon.

**Public lands:** Burning in progress. Discussed RAC monies reimbursement.

**Shaver Lake:** Camp closed.

**Big Meadows:** SJSU out for season. 2024 host sign ups out.

**OLD BUSINESS.** 1. EVENTS for 2024

January 2 Board of Directors

11-15 Montana De Oro

February 6 Board of Directors • TBAGeneral Meeting

March 5 Board of Directors • 15-17 Desert ride – Jim and Doug Laber • 22-23 Rendezvous Ceres, Ca

April 2 Board of Directors • 20 Desentizing clinic • 27 Clovis Parade

May 3-5 San Joaquin River Gorge work party - Marcee • 7 Board of Directors

May TBD Big Meadows work party • 22-2 Bishop Mule Days

June 4 Board od Directors • TBD Raffle Ride – Shaver • TBD Edison work party

July 2 Board of Directors

2. Location of meetings – Jan to look in to different locations for meetings.

**NEW BUSINESS:** 1. Reedley College – could help us bridge the gap. Huge campaign for Bishop Mule Days, Rendezvous.

June and July key timing.

2. Website – List of expenses discussed. Tabled. Marcee exploring Facebook links

3. Clean up Tamarack – Jan.

4. Budget Audit – discussed

**Next meeting:** January 23, 2024

**Adjorn:** 8:00 1st Marcee, 2nd Doug



**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA  
PRESENTS**

# **IT'S RENDEZVOUS TIME IN CERES !**

**MARCH 22nd - 23rd 2024**

**DIAMOND BAR ARENA**



**This Year's Theme : TRAILS AND TALES**

**Food , Contests , Clinicians , Vendors , Educational  
Classes, and BLM Adopt a Horse or Burro!**

**SEE YOU THERE !**



# MONTANA DE ORO

## JANUARY 11-15

By Jim Laber

Well Last year it snowed on the coastal range for beautiful scenery on the way home, and this year matched the temperatures but, when all was said and done, we had 6 campers with horses who braved the wet weather forecast and it paid off with no rain. We did have cold and damp nights and mornings. On the first night we were down to 31 degrees, and it was warmer each night after, but we had great fires that were appreciated. Those Present for the camping were Karen Daughrity, Marcee Hansen, Joe & Carol Kaminsky, Doug Laber, and Jim Laber. Cara and Dave Petersen visited and attended our Potluck, as well as Bob Skinner and Michelle Callarman. We had a great time of visiting all nights, but Saturday was special with great food and fellowship with all our visitors. Cara did come and ride with Carol, and Megan from the Pines Resort came and rode as well on Sunday. Every time we camp and ride at MDO we find something new to try on the trail. We rode around the point going along the road through the canopy and down to the beach. We have done this ride a lot but on this occasion with the higher surf, footing was slippery for horses and riders so be careful when wet. The rocks are slicker than they look. Can't wait for our coming July ride.







BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

# ARE YOU A Mountain Lion LUNCH?

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE TO UNDERSTANDING MOUNTAIN LIONS

*Pumas are like a light breeze:  
When one is present, you know it;  
You can feel it, but you don't see it.      John Seidensticker, 1991*

The mountain lion, also known as puma, panther or cougar, is the largest carnivore (meat eater) of California. The generally secretive and solitary nature of lions makes it possible for humans to live in mountain lion country without ever seeing a mountain lion. The chance of being attacked is quite low compared to many other natural hazards. Attacks to humans are rare. A dozen people have been killed in the U.S. since 1890—though over half have occurred in the last fifteen years, indicating they are on the rise.

Generally, mountain lions are calm, quiet and elusive. They are usually found in areas that have adequate cover for ambushing and plentiful prey. These conditions exist in mountain subdivisions, urban fringes and open spaces, from deserts to coastal areas and to 10,000 foot elevations in the mountains. About half of California is prime mountain lion country!

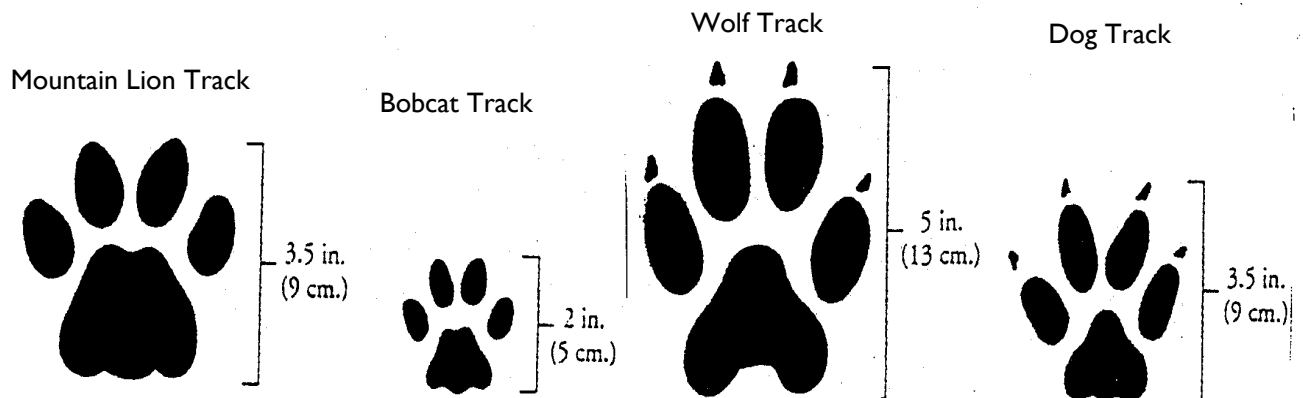
The coloration of these lions is usually a tawny-yellowish but may also be a gray-brown to red-brown with black tipped ears and tail. The kittens, or cubs, are covered with blackish-brown spots and have dark rings around their tails. Adult males may be more than eight feet long from nose to end of tail and an average weight between 130 and 150 pounds. Adult females can be seven feet long and average between 65 and 90 pounds.

Think how quick, athletic and strong these animals are! They must be in excellent physical condition to survive. Lions are very powerful and normally prey upon large animals, such as deer, bighorn sheep and elk. However, they will prey on smaller animals as well, such as coyotes, skunks, raccoons and opossum. Domestic animals are also acceptable to their pallet, such as sheep, goats, cattle, horses, llamas, dogs, cats, ducks, and chickens. Mountain lions have excellent night vision and depth perception, prefer to stalk and ambush their prey, often from behind. The usual attack is with a powerful bite below the base of the skull, breaking the neck, or by suffocation. The carcass is often covered with dirt, leaves or snow and the lion comes back to feed on it over a course of a few days.

A lion's home range will often span over 100 square miles with many adults occupying the same area. Lion populations appear to be regulated not by social interactions but by the density of their principal prey. Competition for habitat is intense, especially in the western Sierra-Nevada where as many as 10 adult lions per 100 square miles has been recorded. The lion population has grown from an estimate of 600 in 1920 to a better field study of 2,000 in 1970. The 1990's show a population estimate ranging from 4,000 to 6,000.

Despite differences in opinions about mountain lions there is a common desire for proper scientific management of this magnificent animal. We must consider the regional diversity of the animals habitat, prey availability and human populations. Conflicts between mountain lions and humans vary regionally for different reasons. Minimizing your risk of becoming a mountain lion lunch is the main objective.





## Mountain Lion Essentials To Remember

**The following are some helpful hints to remember while visiting the forests and parks or maybe your own backyard.**

**You Must Be Alert**

**Remember Wild Animals Can Be Dangerous**

**Each Situation is Different**

**Hiking Alone Can Be Dangerous.** Statistics show that nearly all recorded attacks in California involved lone trail runners and children.

**Keep Children Close To You.** Mountain lions seem especially drawn to children. Keep children within your sight at all times.

**Avoid Confrontations.** Most lions will try to avoid you approaching them. Give them a way to escape. Never corner a wild animal.

**If You Smell A Dead Carcass,** be extremely alert and get out of the area. Animals will protect their food supply.

**Please Do Not Crouch or Bend Over.** A person squatting or bending over looks a lot like a four-legged prey animal. If you must bend over, get quickly back to an up-right position.

**Please Do Not Run.** Running stimulates the lion's instinct to chase. Stand still and face the animal. Maintain constant eye contact. If you have children with you, pick them up if possible so they do not panic and run.

**Try To Look Big.** Raise your arms and speak firmly in a loud voice. Throw rocks or branches without crouching or turning your back.

**Fight Back If Attacked.** Protect your head and neck area. Remain standing and face the animal.

**We hope this information gives you a better understanding of how the California Mountain Lion thinks and appreciate the animal's abilities.**



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[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) 12/08

**[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 Jim at [jim@visaliaidea.com](mailto:jim@visaliaidea.com) or upload them through the website: [www.visaliaidea.com](http://www.visaliaidea.com)

## **Advertising Rates**

### **Classified Ads**

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

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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,  
Jim Laber

## **CONTEST TIME**

***Find the Hidden Hoof Print!*** 

First person to find the hidden hoof print in this newsletter and email Jim Laber @ [jim@visaliaidea.com](mailto:jim@visaliaidea.com)

***Will Get A Free***

**BCHCSJSU Long Sleeve Color T-Shirt**

***GOOD LUCK!***

***Congratulations to  
Sonya Prys  
for being the first one to find the  
hoof print last issue!***

**1/4 Page Ad**

**\$20 per Month**

**AVAILABLE  
ADVERTISING  
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# DESERT RIDE AT STARLIGHT RANCH NW OF ROSAMOND CA



**March 15-17, 2024**

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 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 March 8th.** Need to bring water for you and your horse 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 outhouse on the property and a flush toilet in the house. May want to bring your own toiletries to be safe.

The gate at the ranch will be open at noon on the 15th and property will be cleared and gate closed by 2pm Sunday the 17st.

**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. Hope to see you there!

Jim Laber, Cell: 559-250-7906,  
Doug laber, Cell 559-786-6634

LAT: 34.92479 LON: 118.382792

**Note: Google tries to get you to turn prior to Rd 140. Do not take that turn. That's the hard way.**

# SUNSHINE CORNER

Stay Safe Everyone  
and Happy Trails



## The Lighter Side

A man was driving into town and he fell in a big ditch in the middle of the road. A farmer came up and said, "My horse Sebastian can pull you out," the man said ok and the farmer got Sebastian. When Sebastian was hooked up, the farmer said, "Pull Ranger! C'mon Benny! Lets go Delilah!!!!" Then the farmer said, "Pull Sebastian, pull!" When the car was out of the ditch, the man said, "I have a question, why did you say the wrong name three times?" And the farmer said, "Because Sebastian is blind, if he knew the other horses weren't pulling, he wouldn't even try..."

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Andrea McFadden, Clovis

Brian & Kimberly Jones, Mariposa

Doug & Cathy Dollarhide, Escalon (Associate)

Cindy Suarez, Sanger



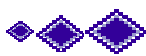
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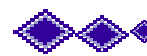
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# LOST RIDER PLAN



*"If you don't know how to get where you are going, or how to return from where you came; YOU ARE LOST"*  
*"Being lost can be a state of mind; denial and panic are your enemies."*

## PLANNING

- ♦ Research the area using maps, guidebooks, and various online and computer-based resources, to become familiar with trails, streams, mountains, roads, and other features.
- ♦ Plan your route using US Geological Survey (USGS) topographical maps – especially if you are traveling long distances through wilderness - bring the map with you.
- ♦ Just prior to leaving obtain current locations for livestock water and safe/unsafe water crossings, trails to avoid, and any potential new hazards. Know the hazards in the area you are going into: animals that could be dangerous, edible and poisonous plants, etc.
- ♦ Get a current weather forecast for the area, and wear appropriate clothes and equipment. Bring additional clothing layers for unexpected weather.
- ♦ Leave your trip information, including the time you're planning to return, with a responsible person and/or with the local Ranger Station. Don't change the route without notifying your contacts.
- ♦ It's wise to travel with a friend and sign the register at trailheads.
- ♦ **BE PREPARED!**
- ♦ Communications can save a life. Carry a list of emergency and contact phone numbers for that area. Consider these options:
  - ◊ Bring a cell phone, you might be able to get a signal. Text messages and GPS phone signals can be picked up by satellite.
  - ◊ Consider a satellite phone in the backcountry, where there is often no cell service.
  - ◊ Stay in touch with others in your group using FRS or GMRS 2-way radios.
  - ◊ If venturing into a remote area, consider renting a PLB (Personal Locator Beacon), which allows you to activate a satellite-based distress signal to send help.
- ♦ Accidents, injury, and illness may need to be addressed. Consider, at minimum:
  - ◊ First Aid or Wilderness First Aid training.
  - ◊ Basic survival training, such as building a shelter.
- ♦ Are the **CHILDREN** in the group prepared?
  - ◊ Provide children with camp and trail safety instructions, including what to do if lost. (Lost is an exception where they ARE allowed to talk with a stranger.) Provide appropriate gear, with training on use.
  - ◊ Consider participating in the **Hug-A-Tree** program, providing training for children lost in the wilderness. [www.hugatree.com](http://www.hugatree.com)

## BASIC SURVIVAL!

Consider carrying basic survival items on you, not your horse. Lightweight essential items can fit in a small waist pack, be attached to your belt, etc. Don't leave camp without them, even for a short walk!

### Child waist pack (minimum):

1. Water
2. Clean, bright color bandana (dust blocker, scarf, bandage or sling, washing, signal flag, etc.)
3. Pack of gum, hard candy, energy bar (replenish as needed)
4. 2 trash bags (use as emergency rain gear or groundsheet)
5. A plastic whistle (three regular repeated tones means help)
6. Pocket size emergency blanket (great for shelter, warmth or light-reflecting signal)
7. Small palm size flash light (with fresh batteries)
8. Chemical light stick(s)
9. 2-way radio (with fresh batteries)

### Adult waist pack (add to the above):

1. Compass (and map of the area)
2. Knife
3. Condoms (un-lubricated) for water storage
4. Water proof matches, flint and steel or a metal match
5. Water purification tablets or water bottle with filtration
6. Long strip of folded aluminum foil for cooking
7. Fishing kit (hooks, sinkers, and some line)
8. Small back-packing first aid kit (with instructions)
9. Cell phone and other communications devices (turn on if lost)
10. Spare fresh batteries for GPS, flashlight, cell phone, radio, etc.



## REDUCE THE POTENTIAL FOR BECOMING LOST!

- ♦ Know how to use the topographical map and compass to locate yourself, and to navigate.
- ♦ Carry a GPS and know how to use it.
- ♦ Orient yourself to landmarks when you start your trip, and continue to orient yourself throughout the trip. Turn often to look at your back trail so a return on that trail will look familiar, particularly at trail junctions.
- ♦ Learn some tracking basics so you can follow your own shoe prints or horse's hoof prints on your own back trail.
- ♦ Stay on the trail.

## LOST and SEPARATED FROM YOUR HORSE?

- ♦ **STOP!** (Stop, Think, Observe, Plan.)
- ♦ If injured, apply first aid. Clean off blood as much as possible. Bury anything with blood on it, away from your location.
- ♦ Don't go looking for your horse. **STAY** where you are!
- ♦ Take inventory of what you have for food, water, etc.
- ♦ Try to get your bearings using map and compass, GPS.
- ♦ Try to backtrack yourself to a familiar location. **STOP** if you lose your back trail or not sure of your route.
- ♦ Your biggest threats are probably dehydration and hypothermia. Find water (be prepared to purify/filter), and stay warm and dry.
- ♦ Water is a priority— you can go a longer time without food. Do not eat anything you are unsure of. Wild berries, fruit, mushrooms, etc., may make you sick.
- ♦ Try to stay as clean as you can. (Dirty clothing loses insulating properties. Good sanitary conditions will assist your body in fighting infections from cuts.)
- ♦ **Help rescuers find you!**
  - ◊ **Stay put** after you find water and shelter. If you keep moving, you will be harder to find.
  - ◊ Gather wood and start a small fire (use extreme caution in the dry season.)
  - ◊ **Be visible.** Find an open space, make a sign of wood 'SOS' or 'HELP'. Spread out the reflective emergency blanket and secure the corners.
  - ◊ If circumstances *force* you to move, leave obvious **CLUES** such as frequent clear footprints, directional arrow made of rock or sticks, a message with name, date and time, break some branches along the trail (particularly at an intersection), etc.
  - ◊ **Stay on the trail**, since searchers will usually search trails first, or others may be traveling that trail who can provide help.
  - ◊ **Make noise**—use your whistle (3 long blows) —to help rescuers locate you. Listen for voices calling, helicopters, vehicles, etc.

## LOST and YOUR HORSE IS STILL WITH YOU? (Do all of the above, plus):

- ♦ Stay calm. Your panic can panic your horse.
- ♦ Injured horse? Apply equine first aid.
- ♦ If you turn your horse and start on your back trail, the horse may instinctively return to the camp or trailer area. Mark the trail as you go. While riding, look ahead 20-40 feet to try and spot your own back trail. If the route doesn't look familiar soon, **STOP**.
- ♦ Secure your horse.
- ♦ Find food and water for your horse, after you have taken care of yourself.
- ♦ Pay attention to your horse. His behavior may tell you if someone is nearby before you hear or see them, or locate a water source.



A Rider is Overdue?

## STOP! THINK!

Be part of the SOLUTION, not part of the Problem!

- ◆ **Stay calm, get organized, and HAVE A PLAN before you act!** Someone needs to take charge. Perhaps the Trail Boss? Does anyone there have training as a Search Manager? Your objective is to help, not inadvertently cause problems. Do NOT simply dash off to start searching. Assess the situation. Plan!
- ◆ **Attempt to Communicate!** Can you reach that overdue person by cell phone, 2-way radio, etc., to determine status? If you yell, blow a whistle, and try to draw attention to your location, is there a response? If at a vehicle, try honking the horn periodically to act as an audible guide back to that location.
- ◆ **Assess the Situation!** If communications efforts fail, information must be gathered and assessed before any search is planned or performed by the riding group or by Search and Rescue (SAR) professionals.
  - ◇ **Who, What, When, Where?** When and where was the person last seen, and what was the direction of travel? What was the destination, by what route? When was this person due back? How long would it take this person to ride ... or hike if dismounted ... to the most likely destination if there are problems? How prepared and experienced is this person, and what survival gear is carried? Are horse and rider experienced in this terrain? What else might be pertinent?
  - ◇ Is there anything to suggest a *life threatening situation* to create a high level of urgency? Are there any known major health issues that require medicine ... and where is the medicine? Are there potential problems based on the *current* weather forecast, or new hazards in the vicinity?
  - ◇ Document known information for easy reference when reporting to local authorities, including name, age, description, and any available emergency contact information. It may also be advantageous to describe the missing rider's vehicle and location, or describe the horse and other livestock.
- ◆ **Protect Clues!** Trained searchers look for **CLUES**. Stay away from all areas where experienced trackers might find that person's shoe print, the horse's hoof print, etc. If a search dog is available, is there an item (clothing, sleeping bag, etc.) that would carry that specific person's scent? DO NOT TOUCH, simply know where it is for SAR personnel to collect.
- ◆ **Report the Incident!** *This is a great time to have emergency communication capabilities, like a satellite phone.* If necessary, travel to call the county Sheriff's department and report the overdue person. (Better to alert the authorities now, and cancel response later if the person is found safe!) Provide concise information. Use USGS map location names and latitude-longitude when available. Provide your call-back number. Be prepared to meet responding agency or SAR personnel at a designated location.

### To Search, or Not to Search? Every situation is different!

A critical concern is the potential destruction of **CLUES**. If valuable clues are destroyed by untrained searchers, this can seriously handicap the SAR professionals later. If the decision is to search anyway, understanding the problems this action is likely to create, minimize the damage by minimizing the number of untrained searchers involved.

**Limit to people with some tracking experience. Do NOT allow uncontrolled or mass searching!**

- ◆ **Assess available resources.** How many people are there, available to search, appropriately equipped and physically capable? Does anyone there have SAR training, or substantial tracking experience, or training in protecting **CLUES**? In case of injury, what medical supplies are available? What is the highest level of medical training present? Is anyone there trained to perform mounted rescue or evacuation using a saddled horse or mule? What survival supplies, food, water, etc., are available if people from the group go search? What methods of communication are available within the group, and with outside resources? What other issues should be addressed?
- ◆ **Would it make more sense to wait for trained searchers, or quickly perform your own untrained search?** Reach logical, safe, and common sense decisions regarding performing any initial search. Consider the known degree of urgency (injury not assumed), capabilities and preparedness of the overdue person, available resources, safety issues for searchers, weather, **time** estimated to follow the most likely trail to the known destination, etc. If you don't have a known destination, or if a loose horse returned, do you have at least one experienced tracker available to track or back track the horse?
- ◆ **PLAN the search** based on available resources. If circumstances appear to require an immediate preliminary search, key locations to quickly check are the known destination using the most obvious route (stay on the trail!), and to monitor the most likely destinations in case the loose horse and/or rider go there.
  - ◇ Can you **safely** send a team of people out (minimum 2), or should the search wait until daylight? Should the searchers go on foot, by vehicle, or riding? Do you have riders and livestock experienced traveling in that terrain after dark, or in inclement weather, with appropriate gear and equipment to *also* perform a search? What extra gear or supplies should you send with them? Should you send along an extra saddled mount? A pack animal? **Remember the more new hoof prints there are on that trail, the harder it will be to track the overdue rider later!**
  - ◇ **Prioritize search missions.** Everyone deployed—even to monitor elsewhere—is considered a searcher. Are all aware of the critical importance of spotting and protecting possible **CLUES** found on the trail and at monitoring locations? (On the trail, flag and protect any found clue, note the latitude and longitude or triangulate an approximate location to report to SAR management.)
  - ◇ **Coordinate** communications and rendezvous plans **before** deployment. Keep a record of what searchers are assigned where, and other pertinent information to share with SAR management. Leave at least 2 people (buddy system) at the initial rendezvous point, or an obvious note for the overdue person to stay there until you return. Can you safely leave a method of communication and some basic supplies?

### LOST PERSON or LOST RIDER?

- ◆ Did the horse come back without the rider?
  - ◇ If so, the rider may be injured.
  - ◇ Definitely he/she is on foot.
  - ◇ Any **CLUES** from the horse's direction of travel, or condition of the horse or tack?
  - ◇ Where is the closest "help" destination for the overdue rider?
- ◆ Are horse and rider **both** missing?
  - ◇ The horse might still bring the lost rider back to ... where?
  - ◇ The rider, horse, or both could be injured.
  - ◇ The horse may have a problem resulting in the rider hiking to ... where?
  - ◇ Horse and rider may be separated.
  - ◇ The rider may be looking for his/her horse.
  - ◇ A loose horse may return to ... where?



The horse is a search partner. The horse is indicating someone or something is straight ahead. Pay attention!

Searchers look for **CLUES**! Hoof prints, boot prints, small or large items that may/may not belong to the overdue person, etc. A *trained professional can see what the untrained eye won't see.* **Don't trample those clues!**

**NEVER put others in jeopardy!** Search team of up to 4 people. For safety, all searchers must be appropriately skilled, equipped, and experienced in that terrain. **You don't want any missing searchers!**

When searching, be alert for **CLUES**. Continue to try to contact that person using communications devices, shouting his/her name, blowing a whistle, etc. **Make NOISE, then LISTEN and LOOK!**



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

*Does SAR interest you? Ask your Sheriff's department about joining local volunteer Mounted SAR, or assisting SAR as Packers.*

## 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.

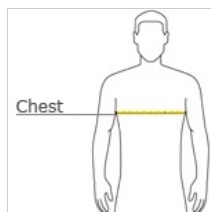
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Make checks payable to BCHCSJUS and send to:

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

# KIDS CORNER

## All about Horses

W	S	H	E	T	L	A	N	D	B	I	T	R	O
O	O	I	S	T	R	A	W	O	T	R	A	R	G
H	C	L	T	E	N	N	E	S	S	E	E	T	R
S	Q	U	A	R	T	E	R	P	C	B	L	S	A
A	E	P	A	P	P	A	L	O	O	S	A	G	S
A	P	R	A	N	A	G	R	O	M	A	L	W	S
O	L	D	L	A	P	R	A	W	R	W	A	A	R
B	R	E	T	N	A	C	E	E	E	L	L	S	S
R	N	P	E	L	S	S	A	R	K	B	A	P	T
I	T	L	H	S	T	T	I	I	L	A	S	M	L
D	T	O	O	E	U	L	N	R	R	E	R	H	I
L	T	S	R	A	R	G	A	N	R	A	B	A	E
E	S	N	T	H	E	Y	O	T	N	I	P	Y	O
E	W	T	N	I	A	P	S	I	T	O	R	T	Q

BARN  
 WALKING  
 PASTURE  
 APPALOOSA  
 SHOW  
 STRAW  
 BIT  
 TENNESSEE  
 PAINT  
 GRASS  
 CORRAL  
 QUARTER  
 PINTO  
 WESTERN  
 BRIDLE  
 SHETLAND  
 HAY  
 TROT  
 CANTER  
 MORGAN



# 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 -

☐ Individual Membership **\$ 50.00**  
☐ Family (Shared) Membership **\$ 60.00**  
☐ Young Adult (18-25 years old) **\$ 15.00**  
☐ 2 Year Individual **\$ 90.00**  
☐ 2 Year Family **\$110.00**  
☐ 3 Year Individual **\$125.00**  
☐ 3 Year Family **\$150.00**  
☐ Benefactor Membership **\$100.00**  
☐ Patron Membership **\$250.00**  
☐ 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



## Big Meadows Horse Camp Sponsors



Your unit pays the cost of maintaining and hosting the Big Meadows horse camp. We are seeking sponsors (10) in total that will be exclusive to the Business/Industry type. Sponsorships are \$500 each per calendar year. Sponsors will be advertised on our web page, our facebook page, at the camp, and in our monthly newsletter. Please show your support to these sponsors. If you or someone you know would like to be a sponsor please contact Joe Kaminski at (559) 909-0505. If interested in being a camp host for this season, contact Jim Knabke at (559) 779-4715.

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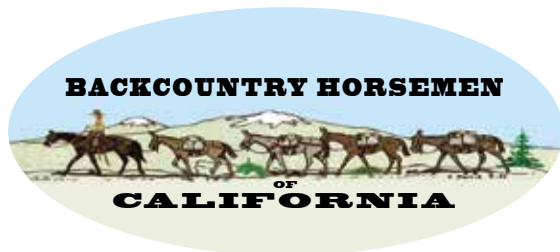
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*San Joaquin Sierra Unit*

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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.