

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA Hoof Prints

Merry Christmas

December 2024

Issue 77

San Joaquin Sierra Unit, BCHC
PO Box 25693
Fresno, CA 93729-5693

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

Max & Irene Cochran
Newsletter
Award Winner

3rd - 2022

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



OF CALIFORNIA

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

Presidents Message



As many of you have already heard, It is with a heavy heart that I announce what was shared by the family, that Joe Kaminski walked through Heaven's gates Thursday night Nov 21 at 11:52 pm. The family has announced a Memorial Service for Joe Tuesday December 17, 2024, at 2pm, at

the Gateway Church of Visalia located at; 1100 S Sowell St, Visalia, CA 93277 (Corner of Tulare Ave and Sowell St). Joe alongside Carol led our unit as President for 10 years and served in many capacities including Public Lands and Past President. He will surely be missed as we go forward for his faith, devotion to Carol and family, friendship, humor, storytelling, and his work ethic. We, without the huge knowledge base he had with the Sierra National Forest and The Sequoia National Forest have a yeoman's task of documenting and carrying on the legacy of what he meant to our unit and its history before it is lost to time.

In honor of Joe's memory, we as a unit will suspend

activities until the board comes together on January 21, 2025, to plan our path forward. There was a ride and work party listed in upcoming events for the San Joaquin River Gorge, and they are cancelled or TBD at this time.

We did have a great Holiday Party which included a phone call to Joe, and you can read all about it inside. Hope to see you soon on the trail in the middle of the saddle on top. Have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Your President, Jim Laber

In This Issue

- | | |
|---------|---------------------------------|
| Pg. 2 | 2024 Calendar |
| Pg. 3 | Recipe of the Month |
| Pg. 4-5 | Holiday Dinner |
| Pg. 7 | 2024 Officers & Directors |
| Pg. 8-9 | High Country Manners |
| Pg. 10 | Sunshine Corner/Lighter Side |
| Pg. 11 | Call to Serve |
| Pg. 12 | BCHCSJSU Shirt Order Form |
| Pg. 13 | Kids Corner |
| Pg. 14 | Membership Application |
| Pg. 15 | Big Meadows Horse Camp Sponsors |

2025 Calendar

Board Meetings are now on the 3rd. 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

2025

Jan 21	Board of Directors
Feb 18	Board of Directors
March 18	Board of Directors
April 12	Desensitizing Clinic, Luck of the Irish Ranch
April 15	Board of Directors
April 26	Clovis Parade

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. 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 for the San Joaquin/Sierra Unit,

www.bhcalifornia.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.

SMOKY PINTO BEANS

It seems all too often black beans steal the spotlight from the slightly less popular pinto bean. We're here to say: give pintos a chance! They're ultra creamy, a little smoky, and super versatile. This bacon-infused recipe works wonders on both canned and dried beans, so you can make them in under 30 minutes if you're short on time.

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb. dried pinto beans
- 2 thick-cut bacon slices
- 1 small onion, quartered
- 2 sprigs fresh oregano
- 1 bay leaf
- 2 tsp. ground cumin
- 2 tsp. smoked paprika
- Kosher salt



INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Pour beans into a colander and rinse under cold water. Pick through beans and discard any broken beans and debris. Transfer to a large, heavy-bottomed pot.
2. To soak overnight (optional): cover beans with 4" of cold water and place in the refrigerator and let soak overnight, or up to 12 hours. Drain beans and return to pot.
3. Add enough cold water to your pot to cover your beans by 2". Add bacon, onion, oregano, and bay leaf. Bring the beans up to a rolling boil, and let boil on high for 10 minutes before reducing to a simmer. Stir in cumin and paprika and cover, with the lid ajar. Cook, stirring occasionally, until beans are tender, 1 to 2 hours, depending on how long the beans were soaked.
4. When beans are tender, remove onion, oregano, and bay leaf. Remove bacon, coarsely chop, and return to pot. Season beans to taste with salt and serve.

HOLIDAY DINNER PARTY

By: Jim Laber

On the evening of November 9th, we all met at El Pueblito Mexican Restaurant for our annual Holiday Dinner Party. This was the first time I had been there and was pleased that we would be indoors in a nice banquet room with good lighting and acoustics as Country western and holiday tunes provided by Jan Mikkelson played in the background. We had good attendance and great fellowship and visiting around the tables and this year we had choices, so our orders were taken separately, and the staff were friendly and very attentive. Before we got too carried away Jim Dixon made a call to Joe Kaminski and we were all able to say hello and make comments of encouragement.

We had a dessert auction to take home or to have there and quite a few enjoyed those desserts at the dinner. We had a 50/50 raffle, won by Jan Mikkelson, and Rifle Raffle of a Henry 22, that was won by Steve Naylor. The top of the night was our unit's Top Hand Awardee. Marcee Hansen was recognized for her volunteerism in our unit behind the scenes and out on the trail. Marcee has been with our unit several years and has been working on unit events and trail projects all over from the San Joaquin River Gorge, Shaver Raffle Ride, Thomas A Edison Lake, Badger Flats, Rancheria Trailhead, Crown, and various projects throughout the Sierras giving her all to our mission year in and year out.

Our unit board has been challenged over the last couple of years to find a Venue and or volunteer cooks that could help make this event better for our unit membership while keeping costs down. If you have any ideas or can help with the work that draws this event together, please reach out to a board member or attend one of our monthly meetings to share your ideas. Thanks to all who helped put this event together and we hope everyone has a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.





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 or upload them through the website: www.visaliaidea.com

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, or website (bchcsjsu.org) 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

Will Get A Free

BCHCSJSU Long Sleeve Color T-Shirt

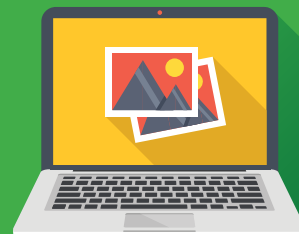
GOOD LUCK!

**Congratulations to
Carol Kaminski
for being the first one to find the
hoof print last issue!**

HOWDY

If you have attended any BCHC San Joaquine Sierra Unit events and have pictures, it would be deeply appreciated if you would send them to wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net. As the webmaster, I like to keep the webpage up to date with photos of our events. Since I am not at the event, this is the only way to keep page current. You may also text via my phone number located on the webpage under webwrangler. Thanks in advance. Visit the webpage at bchcsjsu.org Happy Trails.

William Duane Peverill
Web Wrangler and Past President



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Past President

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BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

HIGH COUNTRY MANNERS

A COMMON SENSE GUIDE FOR GENTLE USE OF THE BACKCOUNTRY

TRAILHEAD MANNERS

- Leave your vehicle parked with other visitors able to exit, park, load and unload around you.
- Be sure to lock your vehicle doors, camper shells and tool boxes.
- Clean up all food scraps. Bears will break into your vehicle, if they suspect it contains food.
- Do your part in keeping the trailhead clean and accessible to others. Bring a rake and shovel.
- Use proper sanitary facilities at the trailhead.



TRAIL MANNERS

- Be polite and helpful when meeting livestock, backpackers, hikers, and other users of the wilderness.
- Always yield the trail to faster hikers or riders. Move aside as soon as you can and let them go on ahead.
- Common sense and courtesy should prevail in matters of right-of-way on the trail. In most cases, riders and pack animals do have the right-of-way. Those traveling uphill have the right-of-way over those going downhill.
- To ease possible congestion, avoid stopping in the trail at a creek or trail junction. Move to the next available place to pull out and get completely off the trail.
- Loose herded livestock are difficult to control and, in many places, illegal. It is wise to lead all your animals to minimize the chance for trail conflicts.
- Remove obstacles from trails whenever possible rather than riding around them, as this creates a secondary trail.
- Stay on the trail. Cutting switchbacks creates erosion.
- Explain to those not accustomed to stock that a hiker can control his/her movements on and off the trail easier than a rider can control the movements of a string of pack animals.
- Some horses and mules can be skittish while on the trail, therefore, it is wise to give them some room.
- Explain to those not accustomed to stock, that it is safer for you, them and the resource, to step to the downhill side of the trail and to stay in sight. Be sure the person feels safe before you start to pass.

- Explain to hikers that it would be helpful to speak in a calm voice to the animals as they pass, thus assuring the stock that the colorful hiker is not a bear. Remind them not to touch the animals as they go by and to please wait a few seconds before starting along the trail.
- Leaving any equipment in the middle of the trail, near a water crossing or bridge is like leaving your suitcase in the middle of the highway. Your equipment may get run over.
- Dogs can be good companions where permitted on the trail. Dogs not familiar with livestock can be intimidated and scare the stock. Remember to keep dogs under control at all times so they are not a threat to the safety of other visitors or to wildlife.
- An “encounter” session with local llamas and their handlers before you enter the backcountry might be worthwhile.



CAMP MANNERS

- Set up camp on hard ground away from grass and marsh areas where you and your stock will appreciate being away from mosquitoes. Be sure the location is at least 100 feet from any water source.
- Proper sanitation practices are very important. Choose a site at least 100 feet away from any water source or campsite. Use a shovel or trowel to bury human waste.
- Choose a campsite that has plenty of feed or pack in pellets and grain.
- If you need to restrain the stock, tie to a high line located on durable ground, 100 feet away from any water source, and out of sight of other camps and trails.
- The use of a portable electric fence is encouraged as it is an excellent way to control grazing pack and saddle stock. It is important to train them to respect the wire or tape prior to setting up in the backcountry. Move the fence often to avoid excessive impact on the meadow.
- Use only dead and downed firewood for fuel. Conserve wood by using a propane or gas stove for cooking.
- Pack out all garbage and trash. This means food scraps too. Remember foil does not burn.
- Remove, scatter or bury all manure in the campsite and at the trailhead.

PROPER PREPARATION

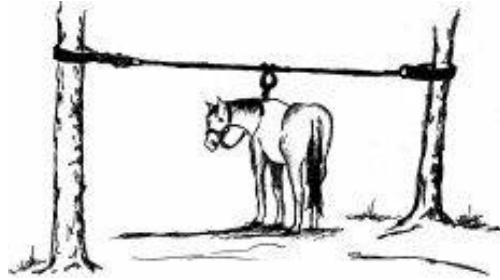
One of the most important aspects to consider when planning any trip is proper planning and preparation. This is especially true of backcountry trips. Try to be prepared for any eventuality.

- Consider the goals and needs of the group: scenery, lakes, fishing, moving camp, ages and experiences, etc.
- Know where you are going. Ask those who have been there before. Know how long it will take you to get to your destination each day of your trip.
- Know what maps you will need, study them and know how to use them. Have a compass along.
- Find out if you need to have a wilderness and/or campfire permit. Ask if there are any restricted areas you will be going through.
- Find out if you stay overnight at the trailhead. Learn what facilities are available: corrals, water, one night stay limit, manure dumps, etc.
- Know how many people are in your group and what kind of appetites/restrictions they may have.
- Determine if there is enough feed, water and proper campsite for each day's destination.
- Have first-aid kits for both people and animals, directions for use and a flashlight.
- Have at least one emergency light-weight meal along for the group.
- Be sure to have the appropriate clothing and equipment for the season.
- Have "strike anywhere matches" or a lighter in water-proof containers.

A MESSAGE TO HORSEMEN FROM YOUR FOREST SERVICE



Horses, Mules, Burros and Llamas too!



- Take only the minimum number of animals needed.
- During short stops, you may tie horses to trees which are at least eight inches in diameter.
- For long periods, tie horses to a high-line stretched between two sturdy trees. A good rule of thumb is 7 feet away from tree and 7 feet high.
- If you picket horses, move them often.
- Keep tied, picketed, and hobbled horses well away from camp, lakes and streams.
- Tie, picket, or hobble horses only in dry areas to minimize trampling.

WHO ARE THE BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA?

Backcountry Horsemen of California is a group of dedicated men and women working to preserve the historic use of trails with recreational pack and saddle stock. They perform public service activities for numerous land management agencies and they are continually working to educate their members on how to be "Gentle Users."

The use of livestock has played an important role in the American culture. California and the western states have particularly had a long tradition of using pack and saddle stock in the backcountry. The Backcountry Horsemen of California carry on this tradition in modern times. With this use comes the responsibility and obligation to care for our public lands and to ensure their use for generations.

Backcountry Horsemen of California works in cooperation with government agencies to help clear trails, maintain historic sites, construct new facilities, sponsor educational seminars and clinics, and assist with service projects as requested. They also strive to stay current on relevant issues and to provide input on management plans and activities that pertain to backcountry trails on public lands.

Backcountry Horsemen of California focuses its efforts in three key areas:

- Service Projects
- Education
- Public Lands Issues.



Approved for distribution by

Backcountry Horsemen of California

13061 Rosedale Hwy., Suite G B

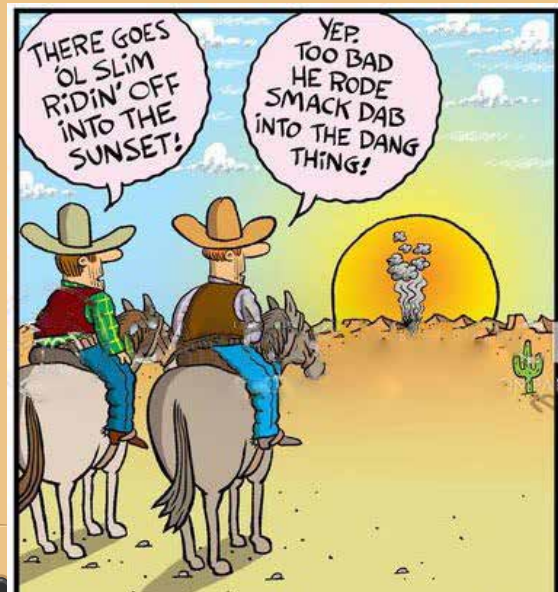
www.bchcalifornia.org 4/11

SUNSHINE CORNER

Stay Safe Everyone
and Happy Trails



The Lighter Side



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Patricia Achilly, Downey

Sheila Emery, Tehachapi

Pat Plume, Sanger

Kaitlen Betchel, Lemoore

Jason & Anne Nikolakakis, Templeton

Morgan Wukodinsvich, Kingburg

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San Joaquin Sierra Unit

ATTENTION MEMBERS

We greatly appreciate your membership regardless of involvement. Although if willing, we would love to help you get more involved. Our unit needs more members to participate in our events, sponsorships, and work parties for us to continue to take on projects as we have in the past. Our group, like many other groups, has been ageing out in the last few years and some are passing the torch to the next generation.

We are a volunteer group that gives when we can, and no one is expected to do anything they can't, or have no desire to. Maybe now is your time to get a little more involved. We would love to hear from you if you do.

- Event Organizer
- Writer
- Equipment Manager
- Trail Recon
- Public Lands Liaison
- Education
- Newsletter
- Sign Up Tables
- Directors
- Officers
- Trail Work
- Ticket Sales
- Food Prep & Service
- Committees
- Shaver Camp Host
- Membership
- Base Camp Radio Monitor
- Ride Coordinator
- Grant Proposals
- Decorator
- Sun Shine
- Web Wrangler
- Much Much More

If you might be interested, feel free to ask any of us. Jim Laber 559-250-7906

Ruth Cramer 559-417-3878 Steve Naylon 559-284-7478 Doug Laber 559-786-6634

Marcee Hansen 559.977.9472 Karen Daughrity 559-903-5552

Lois Patten 559-970-2548 Loni Langdon 760-920-5159

BCHCSJSU SHIRTS

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

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

Order you BCHCSJSU Trail Work/Riding Shirt

To order call Gary Van Sickle with size and quantity.

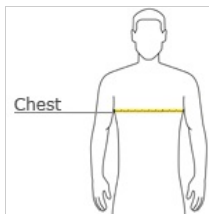
_____ X \$14.65 each _____
 (Qty) (Total)

Make checks payable to BCHCSJUS and send to:

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



HOW TO MEASURE



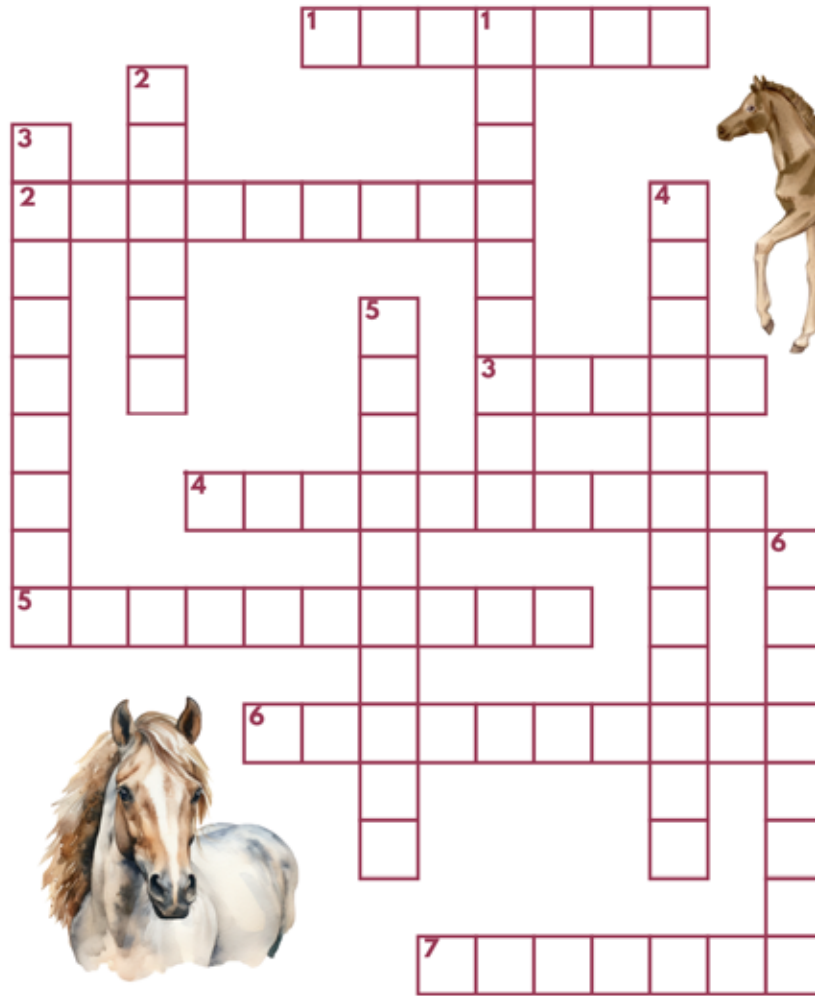
CHEST
 Measure under the arm and around the fullest part of the chest with arms down, keeping tape horizontal.

SIZE CHART

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

KIDS CORNER

Horse Breeds



Across

1. These horses are said to be wild but are actually feral.
2. A draft breed that originated near Paris, France. The horses are usually black or grey.
3. King Henry V and King Henry VIII influenced this draft breed.
4. An American ___ was proposed as a gift to Marie Antoinette.
5. Carthusian Monks were the primary breeders of these horses.
6. A ___ could be a Belgian, Breton, etc.
7. Ancient breed famous for its endurance.

Down

1. The ___ walker is known for its unique running walk gait.
2. These horse breed is said to be America's first horse breed.
3. Known for its spotted coat and calm demeanor.
4. The American ___ got part of its name from the distance they usually ran in Colonial racing.
5. Originally from Scotland this distinctive draft breed has a distinctive bay coat and white markings.
6. Originally from the Netherlands this breed is know for its black coat.

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)

A Family & Youth Oriented organization
 New Renewal
 Change

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

DCTR (Your Membership Number): _____

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: _____

Email Address: _____

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (Tax deductible) _____ Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No. _____

Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

- | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual \$50 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family \$60 | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual \$90 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family \$110 | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old) \$15* | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family \$150 | *Youth members MUST fill out BOTH Youth Membership forms (available online) | |
| | | | <input type="checkbox"/> 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/Unit
 Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: _____ \$15/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 if 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.

Youth Memberships

Youth Memberships MUST be accompanied by a signed Youth Membership Permission Release and Youth Parent Permission Form. A Youth Membership is NOT valid until BCHC or the Parent Unit has received signed copies of these forms.

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"/> 1 Year Individual | \$50 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual | \$90 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual | \$125 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family | \$60 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family | \$110 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family | \$150 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) | \$15 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old) | \$15* |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor | \$100 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron | \$250 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney | \$500 |

On that form, I also requested: _____ Associate Memberships \$ _____

My Total Remittance: \$ _____

My Check Number: _____

Date Mailed: _____

Verification of BCHC Membership

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
- 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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for all who have served

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Salsar & Dillard Funeral Chapel - FD 1781
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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.