

# SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

## Hoof Prints

April 2021

Issue 36

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

**Email:** [membership@bchcalifornia.org](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org) (membership email only)  
**On the WEB:** [www.bchcsjsu.org](http://www.bchcsjsu.org) (SJS Unit) or  
[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) (State)

### BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



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

## Presidents Message



Spring is upon us with a vengeance. Buds are already turning into fruit and the leaves are out. Riding time is here. Be sure to take time now to check out your gear. Don't forget to include your trailer in that check list. Tires and wheel bearings are very important to maintain.

Be sure that not only your stock is ready to ride but that you have done your part also to be ready to ride. Be sure that both you and your stock stay hydrated. Start with shorter rides and build up to the longer more strenuous rides. Take time to enjoy your surroundings. We are working on putting something together so be on the lookout for an upcoming campout.

Montana de Oro is on the calendar. Be sure to get your reservations in early to reserve your spot. This ride is popular and always fills up.

Please let me know soon if you need your first aid, chainsaw or bucksaw certifications updated. We need to take advantage of this opportunity to recertify while things are not super busy.

Thanks to all who continue to participate and those of you who continue to be part of our unit. Don't forget if you would like to sponsor a ride we would be glad to have your input.

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

Joe Kaminski  
President

## 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!**

## ***Cabin Camping and Ride***

*Shaver Lake, California*

Two nights – June 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup>.

Members only. Accommodates 7 guests.

One horse per guest. Water hose and forage hay available at highline.

One dog per family. No stallions.

Minors must have BCHC Liability Waiver with parent's signature.

Breakfast and dinner provided.

Bring your drinks in ice chest, and saddle bag snacks.

**RESERVE YOUR BUNK.**

*Cara Peterson (559) 901-5364*

*Carasblueprint2@gmail.com*





## *San Joaquin Sierra Unit*

Board Meeting Feb.2, 2021

Call to order: 6:30

Flag salute

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

Directors: Jim Laber, Sue Van Sickle, Debbie McDougald, Jan Mikkelsen, Steve Naylor, Past President Duane Peverill

**Minutes review and approved:** 1st Jim Laber, 2nd Debbie

**Correspondence:** Cara renewed sponsorship. Jim Laber renewed sponsorship.

**Committee reports:**

**Education:**

**Membership:**

**Newsletter:** Articles due Feb.20. Looking for articles.

**Public lands:** Great American Wilderness Act- backlogged projects. Maybe in 2023. Bathroom for Rancheria Trailhead maybe in 2023.

**Sunshine:**

**Shaver Lake:** Closed. March 1 permit due.

**Big Meadows:** Jim K. will recruit hosts. Donation envelopes needed.

**OLD BUSINESS.** 1. 2021 Events -

General Meeting Mar. 17

April 10 - Desensitizing Steve Naylor's. Jan to bring obstacles.

April 24 - Clovis Rodeo Parade

May - Beginning pack and Ride May 1 - Cara's ride and camp

May 1 - Shaver Camp to open May 22-23 Big Meadow work days

June 12-13 Maxium Causeway work party

June23-28 Edison Work Party July 8-12 Montana de Oro

Aug. 1-7 Crown Valley Work Party

Aug. 21 Shaver Lake Poker Ride

Sept. 11 Memorial Ride location- TBD

Oct. 7-11 Coastal Mounted Ride (non-club)

RENDEZVOUS Oct. 29-31.

Nov. 6 Election meeting/ playday Steve Naylor's Luck o' the Irish

Dec. 11 Christmas dinner

2. Horse evacuation- Central Calif. Disaster Team is where to volunteer. Duane to write article for newsletter.

3. Rendezvous- Volunteers- Steve N., Jim and Doug, Ruth. Clamshells to be used for serving.

4. Proxy vote- Issue to be addressed at state meeting in Oct.

**NEW BUSINESS:** 1. Vote at state meeting.

2. Unit financial audit- Ruth, Gary and Carol to complete.

3. Grants- Ruth- BCHC grant from committee available. Could be used for Maxom Dome. National Stewardship Wilderness Act available this year for workparties. (To be shared with other clubs)

4. Joe to check with Chip on Katie's lifetime membership.

Next meeting Mar. 2

**Adjourn** 7:17 Ruth 1st, Duane 2nd



# 2021 Calendar

Board Meetings are on the 1st Tuesday of the month. All members are welcome to attend. Board meetings start at 6:30 pm at the Clovis Elks Lodge, 535 Woodworth Ave. (Bullard & Woodworth).

Calendar & Ride schedule is on-going, and new events and rides will be published when confirmed.

Note: Dates and events are subject to change or cancellation; calling the contact person is recommended or checking [www.bchcsjsu.org](http://www.bchcsjsu.org)

## 2021

April 6	Board Meeting
April	Jody Collins Mule and Donkey Clinic(horses welcome)
April 10	Trail Trial-Desensitization-Fun Day
April 24	<del>Clovis Parade</del>
May 1	Shaver Camp Opening
May	Begining Packing and Ride
May 4	Board Meeting
May 19	General Meeting
May 22-23	Big Meadows Work Party Contact Joe 559 909-0505
May 25-30	Bishop Mule Days (non BCHC event)
June 8	Board Meeting
June 10-11	Cara Ride. Limit 7
June 12-13	Maxson Meadows Work Party Contact Joe 559 909-0505
June 23-28	Edison work party Contact Joe 559 909-0505
July 6	Board Meeting
July	Wishon work party Contact Joe 559 909-0505
July 8-12	MDO Coast Ride/Camp Out Click for Info/Reservation Form
Aug 1-7	Crown Valley Work Party
Aug 3	Board Meeting
Aug 21	Poker Ride Shaver Lake Fishing Camp access road.
Sept 7	Board Meeting
Sept 11	BCHC SJSU Memorial Ride Location TBA
Oct 5	Board Meeting
October	Coastal Mounted Unit MDO (non BCHC event)
Oct 29-31	Rendezous
November 2	Board Meeting
November 6	Play Day/General Meeting Elections Meeting.
December 7	Board Meeting
December 11	Christmas Dinner

Is there any activity that you would like to sponsor? We are always looking to improve the club and making it fun for all members. Please submit your ideas, [kaminskiclan@gmail.com](mailto:kaminskiclan@gmail.com). You may call 559.909 0505 and I will get back to you.

Joe Kaminski  
President

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

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

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

*The purpose of this publication is to keep its members 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.*

## DUTCH OVEN PORK CHOPS AND POTATOES

*This is a throw-it-together, one kettle dish that is delicious and hearty for the campsite. If you want to get "fancy" about 15 minutes before it's done, sprinkle the top with a few more breadcrumbs to brown at the last.*

### INGREDIENTS:

4 Pork Chops	¾ cup water, divided
2 tbsp Olive Oil	3 medium potatoes, cubed
2 tbsp butter	1 can Cream Of Mushroom soup
2 cups seasoned bread crumbs	Salt & Pepper to taste

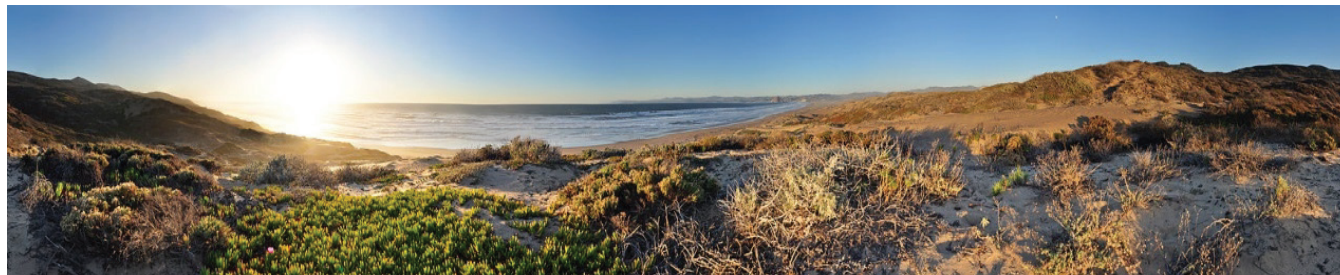


### INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Heat the Dutch oven on the campfire. Add the olive oil.
2. Season your pork chops with salt and pepper.
3. When the oil is hot, lightly brown the pork chops.
4. Melt the butter in a separate pan. In a bowl mix together butter, bread crumbs, and a ¼ cup of water.
5. Spoon that mixture over the pork chops and turn them to coat.
6. Place the cubed potatoes on top of your pork chop mixture.
7. Cover the entire thing with the cream of mushroom soup mixed with the remaining ½ cup water.
8. Assemble coals under and on top of Dutch oven, then bake for 1 hour at around 350 degrees.



## San Joaquin Sierra Unit



Come and enjoy Horse Camping at the Madrone Group Horse Camp at

## Montana De Oro State Park

*The park's name, "Mountain of Gold," comes from the golden wildflowers that bloom in spring. The Park features over 8,000 acres of rugged cliffs, secluded sandy beaches, coastal plains, streams, canyons, and hills, including 1,347-foot Valencia Peak. No dogs are allowed on trails.*

**July 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 2021**

Camp is available from 2:00pm Thursday 7/8/21 until noon Monday 7/12/21.

There are miles of horse trails along the beach and in the foothills for all levels of riding.

**Potluck:** Join us for a potluck dinner Saturday night. Bring an item to be shared and your own meat item for our grill.

**Cost:** Horse and rider for 4 days is \$ 45.00; Additional individuals \$ 3.00

Madrone Group Camp has 18 corrals, pit toilets, water for horses only, no showers, and no hook-ups.

Contact Information: Gary Van Sickle (559) 288-0301

This is a BCHC-SJSU sponsored event and you must be a member of BCHC to attend.

Reservations are limited and will only be taken upon receipt of signed check with reservation form below.

NAME:		PHONE:	
ADDRESS:			
Please make check payable to <b>BCHC-SJSU</b> and mail with completed reservation form to:  Gary Van Sickle 31831 Road 132 Visalia, CA 93292	EMAIL:		Amount
	Number of Horses with rider		@ \$ 45.00 ea. \$
	Additional individuals		@ \$ 3.00 ea. \$
	<b>TOTAL:</b>		\$

# SUNSHINE CORNER

Speedy recovery for  
Katie Horst on her surgery.

Speedy recovery for  
Jo Johnson from her injury.

Stay Safe Everyone and Happy Trails



## The Lighter Side

An old cowboy walks into the barbershop for a shave and a haircut and he tells the barber he can't get all his whiskers off because his cheeks are wrinkled from age.

The barber gets a little wooden ball from a cup on the shelf and tells the old cowboy to put it inside his cheek to spread out the skin.

When he's finished, the old cowboy tells the barber that was the cleanest shave he's had in years.

But he wanted to know what would have happened if he had swallowed that little ball.

The barber replied, "Just bring it back in a couple of days like everyone else does".

## WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS!

Kristine Kassahn, Fresno

Renee Badertscher, Fresno

Amy Crawford and Terlinde Hannes, Brentwood

Cheryl Bernard, Lemoore

James & Nicky Henderson, Woodlake

Lupe Ibarra, Merced

Calli Shanley, Bakersfield

Susan Hamar, Prather

Lisa Curry, Prather

David Stout, Auberry

James and Nicky Henderson, Woodlake

Kevin Meikle, Clovis

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# Dogs on Trails

## 4 Reasons not to take them on a trail ride 5 Skills they need to know if they must go

Dogs are truly man's best friend and joy to be around. I've belonged to numerous canids throughout my life and I have a soft spot for these most loyal of critters. And, although I love my dogs, they don't accompany me on trail rides nor do they venture out on wilderness trips with the horses.

Here's the four reasons why as well as 5 things your dog should know if you do choose to take them on a trail ride.

### **To protect your dog from other animals**

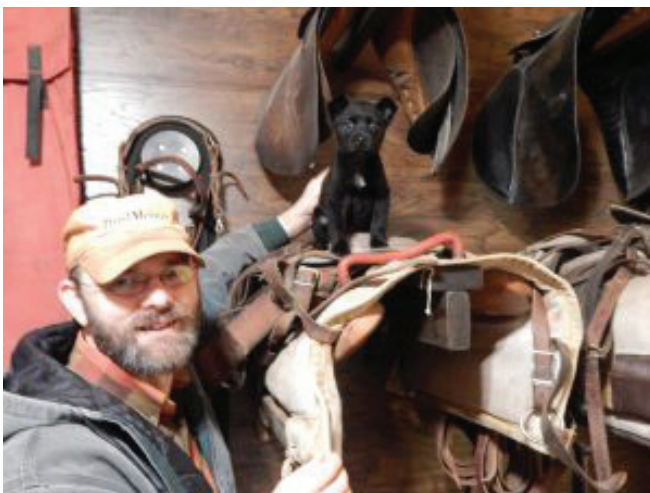
Sure, your pooch might be a descendant of the mighty wolf, but allowing them to travel the trail off-leash still

poses a number of threats. One major threat is that domesticated animals are often targeted by predators. Coyotes, cougars, and others pose threats to off-leash dogs. These predators are brash and often not fazed by a dog's size. Other less thought of, but equally real, threats include porcupines and snakes. Keeping your dog at home also helps to avoid the risk of your dog triggering a predator (think bear) while off-leash before fleeing back to you with said predator close behind.

The animals your dog may encounter don't have to be wild to be a danger. There's also the issue of other domestic dogs, especially poorly trained ones wandering off-leash. The aftermath of two strange dogs getting into a rumble isn't pretty. Topping the list of trail dangers are our own livestock. Untold numbers of dogs that have encountered a horse, or mule, that wasn't keen on their attention, and suffered for it. A well-aimed kick from a 1,000 lb equine can make for a very unpleasant trip to the emergency vet.

### **To protect your dog from trail hazards**

Every year you'll find stories about dog rescues that could have been avoided entirely had the animal simply been kept at home or on a leash. Natural spaces pose a number of risks to our less than wilderness savvy





companions, from hidden mine shafts to cliffs, getting lost, and beyond. Keeping your dog on leash helps keep them away from these hazards that their canine brain may not fully understand as they follow their nose. Other trail and wilderness hazards include various parasites including giardia and plague.

### **For the safety of other trail users**

It seems that every dog owner thinks their dog “isn’t aggressive”. However a dog doesn’t have to be aggressive to be a problem. Many of the people that we share our trails with have well founded fears of dogs. Your pups bounding, happy, barking, greeting may well be interpreted as aggression by a stranger. There’s also the instance of dogs running loose and causing horse accidents when they spooked another rider’s horse.

### **For the safety of the locals**

When a dog spots native wildlife, there’s a good chance they’ll want to chase it. When this happens, it stresses out the native animal, something that itself can lead to death. Your dog’s predatory behavior is normal. The chase prey drive is instinctual. The issue is that when prey animals are harassed they use up energy they may need to survive. It’s one thing for the locals to deal with each other, it’s entirely another for us to bring our dogs into the mix and cause further problems. Loose dogs chasing wildlife is such an issue that most states have laws that penalize owners of dogs chasing wildlife.

These are the four main reasons that my dog doesn’t accompany me on trail rides. That’s not saying that he doesn’t get to go out. We go on many hikes together where he can stay safely on leash and out of mischief, or go off leash, where legal, when I can keep an eye on him without also having to control one or more horses and mules.

This isn’t to say that there aren’t dogs that are great as trail riding companions, just that there are a lot of things to consider. If you insist on bringing another furry four legger with you on the trail I would suggest that your dog have an excellent grasp of these basic commands first.

### **Master These:**

**Come** – A recall command should be the most important word in a dog’s vocabulary. It’s critically important on the trail because you don’t know what distractions your dog is going to find.

**Stay** – You need to be able to stop your dog in his tracks. Your dog will encounter squirrels, rabbits, or other dogs. Without a solid stay he may dart after an animal, unaware of other hazards.

**Leave it** – From dead animals to porcupines, a dog will always find items of interest on the trail. Items that you may not be as enthralled with.

**Go ahead** – It is much easier to stay focused on your horse and riding if you can keep fido in your line of sight ahead of you.

**Go behind** – Sometimes you’ll want the dog following behind you at a safe distance.

dogs on trails Before you go check the rules for the area that you’re riding to be sure that off leash dogs are allowed and be painfully honest about your dog’s abilities: If your dog listens to your voice only some of the time, he or she is not ready to accompany the ponies on the trails. In the decades that I’ve been trail riding I’ve only seen one dog that was worthy of the title “Trail Dog”, and he wasn’t mine. Here’s looking at you Bandit!

For more practical information on trail riding and camping with horses visit us at [www.TrailMeister.com](http://www.TrailMeister.com). We’re also the world’s largest guide to horse trails and camps! Until next time Happy Trails!



# UPHOLD THE INTEGRITY OF THE WILDERNESS ACT

## Voice Your Opposition to H.R. 1349

### *Mountain bikes in designated Wilderness?*

For over 50 years it's been prohibited by the landmark Wilderness Act. But a new group, the Sustainable Trails Coalition (STC), intends to change that. The STC's president proclaimed that legalizing mountain bikes in wilderness is inevitable.

***We need your help to ensure that this won't happen. Please contact your member of Congress today to say they should not support H.R. 1349.***

Importantly, the International Mountain Bicycling Association does not support the STC's goals or tactics. That makes the cries of the STC sound very isolated within the mountain biking community. The STC currently is "shopping" among Congress for support for H.R. 1349. They claim that bikes were always intended to be included in the Wilderness vision.

***Back Country horsemen, we need your help! Please educate your member of Congress on why mountain bikes in Wilderness is a bad idea.***

The infant STC organization, formed in 2015, thinks they can dictate the terms of how people access and enjoy Wilderness. Yet Section 4(c) of the 1964 Wilderness Act states: "...there shall be...no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment"...and **"no other form of mechanical transport..."** Clearly, bikes are mechanical transport.

The STC claims that the Wilderness Act has become the victim of outdated thinking and bureaucratic "lethargy and inertia." That's far from the truth. It just doesn't fit with the STC's wishful thinking. The vision behind this celebrated act of Congress is just as relevant today—if not more so—than it was over 50 years ago.

**Why oppose mountain bikes in Wilderness?** In the continental U.S., less than 3% of the land is designated wilderness. That's just 3% of the landscape to which horseman can escape and be assured of a relatively primitive recreational experience. Further, according to the U.S. Forest Service, 98 percent of all the trails on land it manages outside of designated wilderness are open to bicycles. It and other agencies continue to create and open new mountain biking trails across the country. So it's hard for folks to argue that not allowing bikes in wilderness is restricting or harming public access.

### ***Other reasons bike use would be problematic include:***

- The rapid speeds at which mountain bikes are capable of traveling, combined with their often silent approach, would create significant safety hazards for horsemen on steep, narrow or winding trails.
- Worse still would be safety hazards for persons leading a pack string, where a bike startling the least-trained horse or mule among the pack string could bolt and/or endanger the entire party.
- Solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreational experience would be lost if horsemen were forced to constantly scan the trail ahead and over their shoulder for rapidly approaching bikes.

*Please join BCHA in voicing opposition to H.R. 1349, which would authorize bikes in Wilderness. Call your member of Congress today.*

The Capitol Switchboard can connect you to your legislator in Washington DC.

Call: (202) 224-3121. **But please call today!**

# KIDS CORNER



Unicorns are pretend creatures with the body of a horse and a head with a horn. Can you find all of these real horse breeds in the letters below? Look up, down, sideways, backward, and diagonally.



Appaloosa  
Arabian  
Ardenes  
Azteca  
Bashkir  
Clydesdale  
Fleuve  
Holsteiner  
Konik  
Lokai  
Morgan  
Mustang  
Noriker  
Palomino  
Percheron  
Salerno  
Sardinian  
Thoroughbred  
Tinker  
Walkaloosa

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



## **BIG MEADOWS HORSE CAMP – Open and Still Free Horse Camping**

Open 2021 courtesy of Backcountry Horsemen of California – San Joaquin Sierra Unit

### **BACKGROUND**

Big Meadows Horse camp is located in the Sequoia National Forest at about the 7000 foot elevation. The camp is for horse camping. There are about 16 pipe corrals with campsites with fire rings. This camp has been open to the horse-public for many years on a no reservation, no fee basis. However, the US Forest Service (USFS) was scheduled to have a vendor take over this site and have it run as a fee, reservation only horse campground in 2016. Because of the long association of Backcountry Horsemen of California (BCHC) with this site, the USFS agreed to let BCHC run the site. Our club has operated the campsite since 2016 and has had a BCHC host as well. The camp will be run pretty much as it always has – no fees, first come – first serve.

### **KEEPING THE BIG MEADOWS HORSE CAMP OPEN**

If you are a horseman and like to ride in the Sierras and have not been to this camp, this is a great venue. If you are a veteran of the camp and have enjoyed staying, you can keep enjoying the camp. Our club unit is a volunteer organization and the camp will stay open if we can afford the expense of maintaining the camp (we have to pay for trash pick-up, lavatory supplies, etc.). **Donations are what will keep the camp open and running as it always been run** – otherwise it could become a very expensive outing with all the reservations gone on January 1. So if you like the camp, help keep it the way it is!

**Donations can be sent to :** **BCHC San Joaquin Sierra Unit**

**P.O. Box 25693, Fresno, California 93729-5693**

**Mark Donations for Big Meadow Horse Camp**

### **LOCATION**

The camp is in Sequoia National Forest on the edge of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park (you have to enter the park to get here). From Fresno, CA, take highway 180 eastward to The Generals Highway (highway 198) and turn right onto 198; go about 7 miles to forest road 14S11 and turn left. There is a Big Meadows sign there; road 14S11 is paved; the camp is about 4 miles up the road (camp co-ordinates are 36°43'01.76N 118°50'57.71W).

**There is no drinking water at the camp – bring your own.** Early season may have some stock water available, but you should plan on the need to have water for your stock.

There is a good, maintained pit toilet at the site.

Fire rings are at the campsites; weather, drought, and USFS control whether fires are allowed or not.

**Will be open in 2021 starting when weather permits (probably sometime in late May)**

### **BIG MEADOWS 2021**

Our Club will again be in charge of the Big Meadows Horse Camp in 2021. We need

**Volunteer Camp Hosts** for the upcoming season. If you are a host you get a guaranteed camp site and two corrals for your animals. There are some host duties but they are not burdensome. The season runs from about the end of May to the end on September. Savvy members will snap up their preferred dates. Enjoy the High Sierras and help your club. Call (559-779-4715) or email ([jjknabke@comcast.net](mailto:jjknabke@comcast.net)) Jim for more info.

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

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

If you have any photos send them to Duane at [wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net](mailto:wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net)

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

## **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



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

## **"Travel Advantage"**

Dear BCHC Members

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

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

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

C.J. Hargreaves  
BCHC Editor/Travel Site Coordinator  
[cjhargreaves@verizon.net](mailto:cjhargreaves@verizon.net)

## 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

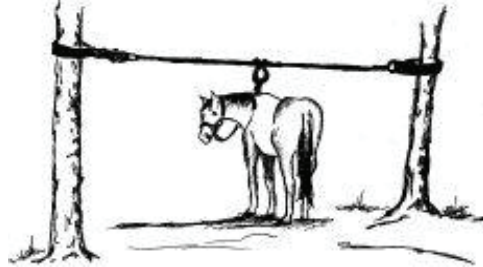
One of the most important aspects to consider when planning any trip is proper planning and preparation. This is especially true of backcountry trips. Try to be prepared for any eventuality.

- 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](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) 4/11

## **2021 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS**

### **President**

Joe Kaminski, 559.909 0505  
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

### **Vice President**

Ruth Cramer, 559 417 3878  
racramer@outlook.com

### **Secretary**

Carol Kaminski, 559-733-9170  
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

### **Treasurer**

Gary Van Sickle, 559-288-0301  
gwvansickle@outlook.com

### **DIRECTORS**

Term Expires at end of year:

Marcee Hansen, 559-977-9472  
jamn4jabez@yahoo.com  
2021

Susan Van Sickle 559-779-4105  
gwvansickle@gmail.com  
2021

Jan Mikkelson,  
jessecowboy@comcast.net  
2021

Jim Laber, 559-250-7906  
jimlaber218@gmail.com  
2022

Doug Laber, 559-786-6634  
douglaber@gmail.com  
2022

Steve Naylor, 559 284-7478  
scnaylom@hotmail.com  
2022

Debbie McDougald, 559 905 268  
ladypacker@netptc.net  
2022

## **COORDINATORS**

### **Membership/Mailing Coordinator**

Jan Mikkelson,  
jessecowboy@comcast.net

### **Public Lands Liaison**

Joe Kaminski, 559-733-9170  
kaminskiclan@gmail.com

### **Newsletter Editor**

Jim Laber, 559-250-7906  
jim@visaliaidea.com

### **Education Coordinator**

OPEN

### **Sunshine**

Pat Peverill, 559-824-1119  
ppeverill@sebastiancorp.net

### **Shaver Lake Camp Host**

Ruth Cramer, 559-417-3878  
racramer@outlook.com

### **Web Wrangler**

Duane Peverill, 559-908-3138  
wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

### **Facebook**

Paige Stambach, 559-909-3930  
paigestambach@gmail.com

### **Big Meadows Horse Camp**

Jim Knabke, 559-299-3254  
jjknabke@comcast.net

## **ADVISORS**

### **Past President**

William Duane Peverill  
559-908-3138  
wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net

# 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.

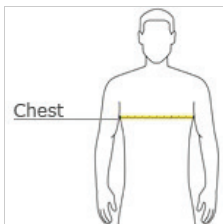
\_\_\_\_\_ X \$14.65 each \_\_\_\_\_  
(Qty) (Total)

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



**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](http://bchcalifornia.org)  
or call (775) 463-3634**

**KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS**

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

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

On that form, I also requested:

Associate Memberships \$

My Total Remittance: \$

My Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

**Verification of  
BCHC  
membership**

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



## Big Meadows Horse Camp Sponsors



Your unit pays the cost of maintaining and hosting the Big Meadows horse camp. We are seeking sponsors (8) 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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BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA  
**HIGH SIERRA UNIT**

**Dr. Karl J Pendegraft, DDS**  
 5415 w hillsdale vis 93291  
 559-733-1097

**Cathie Walker**  
**Riddle Ranch**

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**Clark's Leather Shop**  
 559-999-9861

**Available**

**Available**

**Available**



***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.