

SAN JOAQUIN SIERRA

Hoof Prints

June 2020

Issue 27

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)

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN



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

Presidents Message



Hope all is well with all of you. Big Meadows work party was a great time. Great to get out and enjoy our mountains while preparing the camp for the upcoming season. Thanks to all who participated in this endeavor. The Jose Basin ride went well with great weather and fellowship.

Work parties are coming together as well as rides. Stay posted as things are rapidly changing.

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

Joe Kaminski
President



JOSE BASIN

How nice to get out of isolation and go camping with friends. The forest had opened camping to dispersed campers and we took advantage of the opportunity. Although we didn't share any meals it was still nice to be in each others company with our rides. Off highway vehicles were present but very courteous. Even the group that was camping and target shooting came over to let us know what their intentions were. We had a great time camping and enjoying the mountain weather. There were eleven of us that braved the weekend which turned out to be great weather and no bugs. The creeks were flowing and gave opportunity to work on water crossings. Everyone was able to pick the ride that best suited them, long ride, short ride, road ride or just enjoying camping with friends. It is always nice to get the first ride of the season in hopefully with more to come in the coming weeks. It was a good opportunity to try out the new club out-house that was donated through an acquaintance of Jim and Doug Laber. A great big THANK YOU goes out to them also with the help of Joe with the installation on the trailer.

This was a great opportunity to start the season off right for the animals and to check out equipment for needed repairs or items missing. Hope to see you in the saddle soon. Keep checking the website for upcoming events or give us a call for more information.





San Joaquin Sierra Unit

Board Meeting Feb. 4, 2020

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, Debbie McDougald, Muriel Holland, Paige Stambach, Steve Naylon, Sue VanSickle, Doug Laber,
Past President-Duane Peverill

Minutes review and approved: 1st Ruth Cramer, 2nd Jim Laber

Correspondence: Thank you from Dave Stamey

Committee reports:

Education: Check on tax ID# that bank has. Compare to BCHC tax ID#. Membership is declining.

Need to work with all groups.

Membership: 1 new member

Newsletter: Articles due Feb 20.

Public lands: E-bikes maybe a done deal. Still in court. NEPA not followed. Call is in to Chris Tuttle for update on trailer bill.

Sunshine:

Shaver Lake: Ruth has signed agreement with San Joaquin River Gorge. Need to wear volunteer shirt or be on work party.

Contact Ruth or Summer. Insurance package received. Shaver Camp to open May 1. Requesting a TEP (Temporary Entrance Permit). Letter to be written for parking. "Thank You" sign for camp outhouse donation. Looking at 2 sites for Poker Ride Possibilities- Fishing Camp or Ely Mountain. Possible dates Aug.1, 15 or 22. Trail work for bridge maybe May or June.

Bicycle Club interested in opening Bear Highway Trail.

OLD BUSINESS. 1. Big Meadows sponsors- to add letterhead on sponsor letter. Page in newsletter to be added for Big Meadows sponsors.

2. Stamey Dessert concert- 90 attended, 10 unsold. Duane to pursue for next year.

3. Christmas 2020 - Board voted to book John Pemberton for entertainment. Ruth 1st, Duane 2nd Passed. Fredi to contact.

4. Ruth Cramer and Gary VanSickle to host MDO July 9-13. Oak Camp ground reserved.

5. Poker Ride- Ruth and Marcee to host. Flyer needed. Need help.

6. Elections - no absentee voting allowed except in family. Will check bylaws for absentee voting.

NEW BUSINESS: 1. Budget - Done

2. Audit - Scheduled Mar. 2.

3. Fresno State Pack Team - Alan Fry requesting \$750 to support team for FSU. Ruth 1st, Debbie 2nd. for \$500 for pack team sponsorship. Passed.

Adjourn: 7:55 Jim 1st, Sue 2nd

2019-20 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

2020

June	Edison work party TBD
July 23-30	Wishon work party
July 9-13	Coast Ride (Montana De Oro)
9/11-13	Diana Sorensen Memorial Ride
Oct	Shaver Ride TBD
10/8-12	Coastal Mounted Unit (non BCHC event)
12/12	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, wpeverill@sebastiancorp.net. You may call 559-908-3138 and I will get back to you.

Joe Kaminski
President

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

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

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BEST BEEF DUTCH OVEN STEW

This easy Dutch Oven stew is hearty & will bring you back to your childhood!

INGREDIENTS:

- 1 lb stew meat
- 1 onion sliced
- 3 carrots cut
- 1 can petite diced tomatoes 15 oz.
- 12 oz beef broth
- 8 oz tomato sauce
- 1/3 cup flour
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- 1 tbsp worchestershire sauce
- 1-1.5 lbs baby red potatoes quartered
- 1-2 cups mushrooms halved, optional
- 1/2 tsp oregano
- 1/2 tsp salt or more, may add additional when serving

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Put stew meat inside your dutch oven with onions, carrots, salt, oregano, w. sauce, and diced tomatoes.
2. Pour beef broth on top ensuring all beef is covered and most veggies too, add a bit more than 12 oz. if you are adding more ingredients.
3. Whisk together your flour and tomato sauce in a small bowl and pour it on top of your mixture in the dutch oven, stir until combined and coated.
4. Put lid on and put into your oven at 350 degrees for 90 minutes.
5. Take out, add quartered potatoes and mushrooms if you're adding those.
6. Recover and cook an additional 90 minutes.



SUNSHINE CORNER

Speedy recovery for
Debbie McDougald on her surgery.

Welcome New Member
Amy Crawford, Brentwood, CA.



The Lighter Side

Did you hear about the man who
was hospitalized with six plastic
horses inside him?

The doctor described his condition as stable.

A pony goes to the doctor and tells him,
"Doc, I think I'm dying. I have this
terrible sore throat."

The doctor assures him, "It's okay—
you're just a little horse."

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www.bchcsjsu.org

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

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

www.bchcsjsu.org

Advertising Rates

Classified Ads

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

Display Ad Rate per issue

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

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

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

Attention

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

Respectfully,
Joe Kaminski



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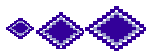
Dear BCHC Members

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

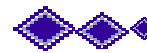
Please forward "Travel Advantage" newsletter to your friends and family and other BCHC supporters. The more we get the word out, the more people will use the BCHC Getaway travel site to take advantage of great rates on hotels, flights, rental cars and other travel-related items, the more BCHC will earn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

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

C.J. Hargreaves
BCHC Editor/Travel Site Coordinator
cjohargreaves@verizon.net



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

BASIC SURVIVAL!

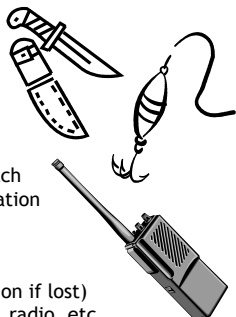
Consider carrying basic survival items on you, not your horse. Lightweight essential items can fit in a small waist pack, be attached to your belt, etc. Don't leave camp without them, even for a short walk!

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 4/11

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

Back Country Horsemen of California



San Joaquin Sierra Unit



Come and enjoy Horse Camping at the Oak 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 9, 10, 11, 12, & 13 2020

Camp is available from 2:00pm Thursday 7/9/20 until noon Monday 7/13/20.

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 5 days is \$45.00; Additional individuals \$ 3.00

Oak Group Camp has 16 corrals, pit toilets, water for horses only, no showers, and no hook-ups.

Contact Information: Ruth Cramer (559) 417-3878 or 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 BCHC-SJSU 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. \$
	TOTAL: \$		

2018 OFFICERS/DIRECTORS

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BIG MEADOWS HORSE CAMP WORK PARTY

By Jim Laber



Our Unit has a long history with this camp including use, annual maintenance & repair, and converting the old wooden corrals to steel pipe with the help of valley businesses and a Selma High School welding class, as well as other unit members of BCHC back in 1999-2000. In 2016 our unit took over operation, maintenance, and camp hosting Horse Camp. The Forest service at the time was looking at changing the first come first served free status of the camp, to a fee-based reservation system. As a unit we did not want this change and petitioned the forest service to take it over and they agreed. Of course, this comes at an expense which can stretch the budget. We pay for all the cleaning and toiletry supplies for the restroom, the trash and manure dumping for the three bins in camp, keep the restroom clean, and manage the hosting of camp for the volunteers who graciously fulfill the duties of host. Your board recently approved and started soliciting sponsors for horse camp to offset some of these costs. We made available 8 exclusive sponsor spots at \$500.00 annually of which we have two at this time. They are advertised in our newsletter and hopefully will be recognized in Horse Camp soon as well.



Each year we schedule a work party to get camp ready for what is normally a Memorial Day opening. Although camp is now ready, due to the pandemic the forest service has delayed opening until June 11th, but check before you head up. Most of the volunteers this year went up Friday the 15th of May and we finished the work and were out of camp on the 17th. As usual all the corrals (16), needed to be filled in and leveled out, and repairs were made to broken corral piping. With a small tractor from Joe Kaminski, and a dump trailer from Steve Naylor we were able to make runs back and forth to the quarry up the road for DG and Rick Pereen used the tractor to fill Steve's trailer. Patty



Pereen, Carol Kaminski, Muriel Holland headed up the crew on filling and leveling out the corrals. Danny Baumgardner and Phil Mirise from High Sierra unit helped on Sunday with corrals as well as running recon on the trails leading out of camp brushing and clearing some problem areas all the way to the bridge.



We also used the tractor for fill on a new ramp we built for the manure dump in the front of camp. Large 90 lb concrete blocks (80 of them) were procured from Katie Horst for this project and it took two loads from Auberry to camp with Joe's truck and trailer to get them there. Fred on Katie's end and Joe and Carol and their grandson Nathaniel and my-self lent our backs to the loading. This is a major improvement to the old ramp and wood shoring as the squirrels and time were taking their toll. Joe, TJ Smith, Steve Naylor, Doug Laber, Jim Laber, and Nathaniel worked this project for the better part of two days. One more ramp to rebuild but that's another story.



200-gallon trailer tank in the host site, this addition should minimize the impact on the creek and its banks, next to camp.



A lot of work was accomplished in the 3 days we had, and many more items were attended to as well and there will always be need for more. Although it was hard work it is very rewarding to pitch in with all those mentioned on a project that most of us will enjoy for another season and years to come. A labor of love for us and future generations. Hope to see you up there soon.

Water tanks were again brought up and propped up on rounds cut from local lumber on the forest floor. Again, we camouflaged the tanks with a large banner wrapped around them printed with a panoramic picture of camp. They are hard to see until you know where they are. These tank (4) have a total capacity of 1200 gallons and with the





Horsemen to Horsemen

We all need to work together to take care of the nice stock facility we have here at Horse Camp.

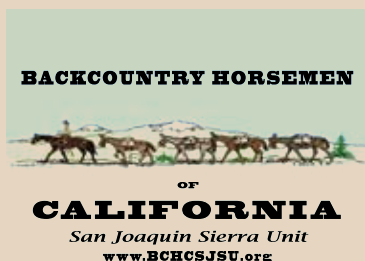


- U Please remove all manure, bedding, and left over forage to the manure bins for composting. Please do not pile manure around trees. Leave the pens stripped and clean for the next camper.
- U Please only tent camping between the stream and fence.
- U Should all the pens be taken, Please highline your stock at least 100 feet from the stream. Select trees that are at least 8 inches in diameter and use tree saver straps to protect the tree. We would appreciate horses not being tied directly to trees in camp.
- U Please park you trailers and rigs with consideration for others; leaving room to park, load and unload. Please do not block the manure bins.
- U Should this site be full, you may disperse camp throughout the Big Meadows area. Just remember to keep your stock 300 feet from campgrounds and 100 feet or more from streams.
- U Please bring water to your stock. Watering your stock in corrals will help to protect the stream banks.
- U Let's work together and take responsibility to make Horse Camp a well maintained and clean area for all of us who enjoy camping with our stock.

Thanks Partners!

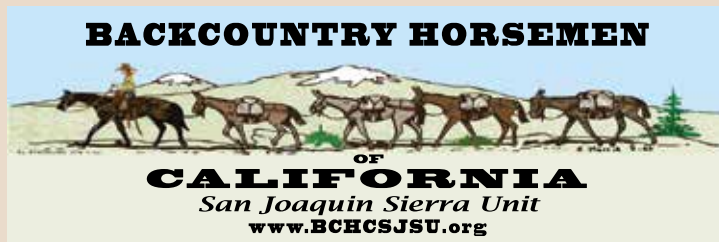
This camp was reconstructed in the fall of 1999 and spring of 2000 through the efforts of many dedicated volunteers. Many thanks to:

- U San Joaquin Sierra Unit of the Back Country Horsemen of California for project coordination, welding and more welding, general labor and sign.
- U G.D. Jones Services and Chowchilla Pipe & Supply for donating all the pipe.
- U California Land Management for general labor, coordination and the restroom.
- U Selma High School welding shop teacher and students for making the gates and hitching rails.
- U High Sierra Unit Back Country Horsemen of California for planning and general labor.
- U Sequoia National Forest Fee Demonstration Project for tables and grills.



Back Country Horsemen of California share a common interest with all people who love and enjoy the backcountry. We are dedicated to preserving and maintaining the backcountry for future generations. Through the historic and continued use of recreational pack and saddle stock, we are maintaining an important means of backcountry travel. The BCHC offers an opportunity for its members to get involved and participate in: volunteer service on public lands; education of pack and saddle stock users about "Leave No Trace" and "Gentle Use" camping methods; and land use planning. We are working to keep public lands open to recreational stock use, and continuing the common sense use and enjoyment of pack and saddle stock in America's roadless backcountry.

Thank you for being responsible Stock Users.



BIG MEADOWS HORSE CAMP- Open and Still Free Horse Camping

Open 2018 Courtesy of Back Country Horsemen of California – San Joaquin Sierra Unit

Background

Big Meadow Horse Camp is located in the Sequoia National Forest at about the 7000 foot elevation. The camp is exclusively for horse camping. There are 16 pipe corrals with campsites with fire rings. This camp has been open to the horse/stock public for many years on a no reservation no – fee basis. However recently, the US Forest Service (USFS) was scheduled to have a vendor take over the site and run it as a fee, reservation only horse campground in 2016. Because of the long association of Back Country Horsemen of California (BCHC) with this site, The USFS agreed to let BCHC run the site. The San Joaquin Sierra Unit of BCHC is volunteering to operate, maintain, and host the camp during the open season. The camp will run as in the past on a no fee, no reservation, first come first serve basis.

KEEPING THE BIG MEADOWS CAMP OPEN

If you are a horsemen/packer and like to ride in the sierras and have not been to this camp welcome, it is a great venue. If you are a veteran of the camp and have enjoyed staying, you can keep enjoying the camp. BCHC San Joaquin Sierra Unit is a volunteer organization and the camp will stay open as is, if we can continue to afford the expense of maintaining the camp. The Unit pays for Trash Pickup, lavatory supplies, grounds and stall upkeep etc., and through member volunteers to host the camp during the open season.

Donation are what would help most to keep the camp open and run as its always been run –

If you like the camp and would like to help our Unit with the hard expenses of keeping it as is please take the time to visit the camp host site for information on membership and opportunities to donate.

Donations can be sent to:

BCHC San Joaquin Sierra Unit

PO Box 25693

Fresno CA 93279-5693

Mark Donations for: BIG MEADOW HORSE CAMP

Location

The camp is located in the Sequoia National Forest on the edge of Sequoia-Kings Canyon National Park (you have to enter the park to get here). From Fresno take Highway 180 East to the Generals Highway (HIGHWAY 198). Turn right onto Highway 198 and proceed about 7 miles to Forest Road 14S11 and turn left. There is a sign for Big Meadows there. Road 14S11 is paved. Horse Camp is about 4 miles up the road on the left hand side. (camp co-ordinates: 36° 43'01.76N - 118°50'57.71W)

THERE IS NO DRINKING WATER AT THE CAMP-Please bring your own. Early in the season the creek may have water for stock available but you should plan on bringing water in for them.

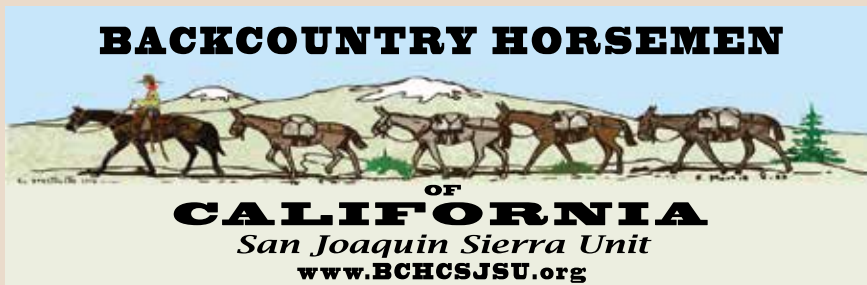
There is a good, well maintained enclosed pit toilet at the site

Fire Rings are at each campsite. Weather, drought, and the USFS controls and regulates whether fires are allowed. If in doubt check with camp host as fines apply during no fire allowed postings.

Big Meadows Horse Camp is hosted and maintained by the San Joaquin Sierra Unit of the Back Country Horseman of California in cooperation with the Sequoia National Forest.

BCHC BIG MEADOWS HORSE CAMP RULES

1. **Do Unto Others – Treat your fellow campers kindly.**
2. **Pick up after yourself.**
3. **Clean Manure in Stalls Daily and after you load up to depart.**
4. **No lunging stock in camp.**
5. **No trotting or loping stock in camp.**
6. **Dogs must be leashed at all times.**
7. **Generators are to be used for essential needs only; TV, games, etc., are not considered essential**
8. **Quiet Time: 10PM to 6AM**
9. **Campfires (check with camp host) and/or posted signs. Forest service will issue fines if you have campfire when prohibited.**
10. **No showering in latrine/Outhouse.**
11. **You are responsible for all your water needs – People and Stock. (See below)**
12. **Campsites cannot be reserved.**
13. **Overnight trips (If you pack out to Weaver or Jenny Lakes for example) must be approved by camp host.**
14. **Do not block roads. This is a safety issue.**
15. **Stock cannot be led to creek to be watered. (Forest Service Rules). Water when available may be bucketed from the creek to water stock. (No Pumping from the Creek)**
16. **You cannot camp or park your trailer and leave for an extended period (generally one day). Users of Horse Camp are intended to be active campers.**



Big Meadows Horse Camp is hosted and maintained by the San Joaquin Sierra Unit of the Back Country Horseman of California in cooperation with the Sequoia National Forest.

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.

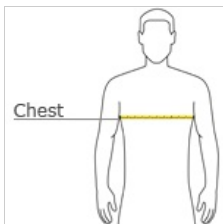
_____ X \$14.65 each _____
(Qty) (Total)

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
or call (775) 463-3634**

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

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

On that form, I also requested:

Associate Memberships \$

My Total Remittance: \$

My Check Number: _____

Date Mailed: _____

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



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.



CARA'S BLUEPRINT EXPRESS
559.901.3936
2109 East Main Street • Visalia, CA 93292
email: CarasBlueprint@sbcglobal.net
www.carasblueprint.com



www.visaliaidea.com
1921 E. Main St.
Visalia, CA 93292
PH 559-733-4149
FAX 559-636-3690



IDEA!
PRINTING & GRAPHICS INC.
orders@visaliaidea.com

Available

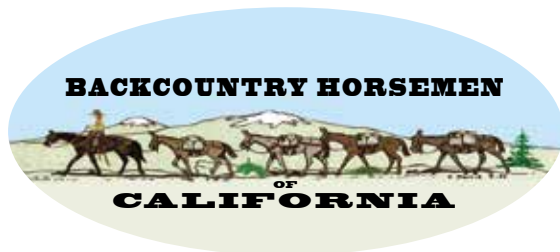
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San Joaquin Sierra Unit

**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.