Backcountry Horsemen of California - Mid Valley Unit

Mid Valley Monthly

Volume 37 Issue 1

January 2024

President's Message By Doug Dollarhide

Howdy members. Here I am once again, with my LAST President's Message. Cathy and I have watched our unit change over the past six years or so and have noticed more of our members are trail riders than packers of horses and mules. This is not good, bad, or indifferent, it is just a fact.

Backcountry Horsemen is the only organization that works with the Forest Service and uses pack stock to help clear trails in the backcountry. I believe the reason for this down trend is summed up to one reason.... expense. It is very expensive to have a horse in California and everything that usually goes with it. You must have a truck and a trailer, then you must have tack, feed and property, or board if you don't have property. I think you all know what I am talking about. As my pappy always said, "If you want something bad enough, you will find a way." I have done a lot of odd jobs through the years to be able to purchase my pack mule, riding mule, and tack. I have done welding for people, tractor work, selling firewood and the like. I have not regretted for one minute working for the chance to go on an adventure with our own stock. To be able to go into the high country and put my knowledge and our stock to the test is very rewarding for me. I wouldn't change it at all. This year is wide open for lots of chances to host a ride, participate on a work party, cook at one of our Dutch oven cookouts, ride in a parade, help at our yearly Rendezvous gathering, or come and watch Mid Valley Unit's Intercollegiate Pack Team practice for Bishop Mule Days in May.

Our new President is Dave Ramsey and I know he will do a good job leading our unit through the 2024 year. He has been my Vice President these past four years and has been a tremendous asset to me and the board.

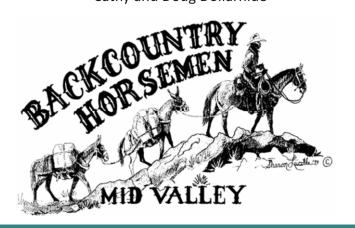
In closing, I would like to thank our past board for their help and assistance in leading the largest unit of Backcountry Horsemen in the nation.

And a big thank you to all our members for the volunteer hours you have put in. It has been a pleasure to meet all the new members. Also, it has been a pleasure to serve as Mid Valley Unit's President these past four years.

See you soon! Doug Dollarhide Psalm 119:133



Cathy and Doug Dollarhide



Mid Valley Monthly is the official monthly newsletter of Mid Valley Unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California. It is an independent publication containing news and information consistent with the mission of BCHC and of interest to its members. Circulation is approximately 360 copies per issue.

Editorial Team

Vicki Morales, Kathy Zumbrunn and Gail Jamieson

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Member submissions are encouraged and may be made by email or snail mail. We reserve the right to accept or refuse submissions and advertising that, in our opinion, do not reflect the standards of this newsletter, or are inconsistent with the objectives and purpose of the Backcountry Horsemen of California and/or Mid Valley Unit. Submissions may be edited for content, grammar, spelling, punctuation and length without

Mid Valley Monthly is not a creative writing outlet, however, all submissions that may be of interest to its readers and reflect the standards of the newsletter, will be considered for publication at the discretion of the editor. Submitted content may be forwarded to Backcountry News, or any other journal, for re-publication without consent unless specifically requested.

Deadline: All submissions are due by midnight of the Friday following the monthly board meeting but early submissions are highly appreciated and strongly encouraged. Be sure to type "Mid Valley Monthly newsletter" in the subject line of your email message and send to mvmonthly@gmail.com. The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or hold over late submissions.

Mid Valley Unit Website: www.bchcmidvalley.org

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Merchandise Sales

We have a lot of merchandise for everyone to choose from:



Phone (209) 402-4417 Email: HorseBiz66@yahoo.com

Are Your Membership Dues Due?

By Kathy Zumbrunn



In this crazy-busy life we lead sometimes it is too hard to remember all the things we need to do. So is the case of when our Mid Valley membership is due for renewal. So I have decided to help you out! Each month I will list everyone who is due for the next two months, and if your name is listed, please fill out the membership application in this newsletter, mark it "Renewal" and send it in. This will make sure your membership keeps up-to-date and you will also make Chip Herzig's iob a bit easier too!

BE SURE TO MAKE YOUR CHECK OUT TO: BCHC MEMBERSHIP, CHECK "RENEWAL" AND SEND IT TO THE ADDRESS ON THE APPLICATION FORM.

And if you have had any changes, such as email address, phone, etc., please note it on the renewal.

I have included the current month because if dues are not renewed, your membership will expire. Please do not let this happen. Thank you for your time and assistance.

JANUARY

Karen Fadley and Mike Woody Randy and Genell Powell Dan Fox Family Cindv Geer Michael and JeriAnn King

Robert and Karen Sayers Larry and Valerie Sterling Steve Tucker Jay and Kathryn Watt

FEBRUARY

Tony and Karyn Alamo Julie Doorepaal DeAnn Edwards Brenda McKay Sally Mole

Sandra Overholtzer Jay and Elizabeth Barnes Evan and Sandy Rahilly Mike and Lori Sala Ron and Dianne Stearns Cathy Suttles and Brent Kone

If you have already sent in your dues, please disregard, as it may have been posted after this information was sent to me for publication. Plus, if you ever have any questions or problems, please feel free to contact me and I'll help get answers for you, no matter what you need. Kathy: (209)765-4923 or runningzranch@gmail.com



Mr. and Mrs. Randy Mitchell

Congratulations to Christine Kaplan and Randy Mitchell who were married on December 21, 2023.



Quote of the Month



Many people have sighed for the "good old days" and regretted the "passing of the horse," but today, when only those who like horses own them, it is a far better time for horses.

—C.W. Anderson, The Complete Book of Horses and Horsemanship From the book, The Quotable Horse Lover



Happy New Year everyone. I am happy to take over Sunshine for Katherine, who did a wonderful job for the past few years. As we start this new year, we have only two bits of Sunshine to give.



By Crystal Dalby

Our new member, Steve Kellogg, was kicked by his horse. It was a minor kick, but since he is on blood pressure medication, this caused him some significant bleeding in his hand. He was a little sore but is doing fine.

And our heartfelt sympathy to Jerrie Ann Thomas, who lost her beloved horse, Walker. Walker lived a long and happy life of 37 years. He was the go-to horse that everyone loved to ride, and he always had taken care of all his riders. Walker had a wonderful work ethic, whether it was on a drill team, leading a string of pack mules, or just a nice ride on the trails. Walker will be greatly missed!

Some may recall Jerrie lost Raven, her black mule, last year at age 46. Maxine is still at home and will be turning 28 on March 1st!

If you know of anyone who needs some Sunshine, please contact me at: crystal_dalby322@yahoo.com or text me at: (209) 968-0483. Thank you and have a safe and happy day!

Star Bread Recipe

By Gail Jamieson

INGREDIENTS

3 tubes Crescent Dough Sheets 1/2 cup Nutella Powdered Sugar optional, for decoration

EQUIPMENT

parchment paper

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees.

Open and unroll the first crescent dough sheet on a piece of parchment paper. Fold it in half to create a square. Gently roll out and tug the dough

until you can cut a 9 inch circle from it. Repeat with the other two sheets of crescent dough so you have 3 dough circles, each on a piece of parchment paper.

Microwave the Nutella for 7 seconds to loosen it up. Spread half of it on one dough circle, stopping half an inch before the edge. Top with a second dough circle. Spread the remaining Nutella, then top with the third dough circle.

Press a small cup into the center of the top dough to create an indent. Starting at the indent, cut outward to divide the dough into 4 pieces, connected in the middle. Cut each quarter into 4 again, so you have 16 wedges. Pick up two adjacent pieces and twist them away from each other twice, then pinch the edges together. Move to the next two pieces and repeat, continuing all the way around. Slide the parchment paper onto a baking sheet.

Bake for approximately 24 minutes until top is golden brown and crescent dough seems cooked through. Cool 30 minutes before dusting with powdered sugar, if desired. Serve immediately. Bread tastes best the same day. Leftovers can be stored at room temperature.



By Vicki Whisler

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

The New Year's Red Hills ride and potluck was a great way to start the year! Around 90 people attended. The weather was great (clear and a little cool). The food was great but a little short on main dishes! I'm sending out THANK YOU's to those who helped set up and re-pack the trailer, you know who you are and how much I appreciate you! The only issue we had was with dogs stealing food off the tables!

On to new business. The Dutch Oven Group will be cooking desserts at The Polar Plunge on February 24 at the South shore of Lake Tulloch. This is a fund raiser for The Special Olympians of Tuolumne County. Several are members of our unit and have participated in parades and volunteered to help at the Rendezvous

We need to support them in return.

PLEASE RSVP BY FEBRUARY 15th!

The Rendezvous is getting closer all the time. Think about cooking in the Dutch Oven Event! Anyone wanting help or would need to borrow a Dutch oven, you can call me. Be safe!

Vicki Whisler (209) 480-0566 Call or text. If you call and get no answer, PLEASE leave a voice message! Or email vickiwhisler@sbcglobal.net



First Work Party of 2024

By Jim Westmoreland

We started this year off right with our January 1st ride up at Red Hills. We were told, and I knew beforehand, there was a large tree blocking one of the main trails. Carl Perry called me the night before and said he would bring a small chainsaw on his horse, and we were going to try to remove the tree that day. But it was too big of a job for that small chainsaw, so we decided to return another day. The following Friday, Vernon and Donna Storment, John Marshall, Chris and I returned to the site with Old Henry, my reliable pack mule, packing bigger saws with extra fuel, bar oil and chains. And boy did we need them! After several cuts and roll aways, we were able to complete the trail clearing. It's always a great day when you can clear trails and work with great people. I can't leave out the women who took up the loppers and trimmed up and down the trail while we were cutting the tree. Always a good day out on the trail, even if it's only in the foothills.



















Lessons Learned

By Terri Arington

I was extremely disappointed this year as the Columbia All Equestrian Christmas — Parade date was approaching. I had just put down the last of our mules a couple months prior and had to part with my beloved Ernie the year before. The end of an era for the Remington Mine Ranch mules spanning over forty years. I hadn't been riding my horse, Rocky, very much and just didn't feel comfortable plunking him in the middle of a Parade without one of his buddies alongside. When a few people suggested that I go as "Mrs. Claus" I promptly rejected that idea. After all, I was a cow/mule girl! Well, long story short, I decided to do it.

As we, Santa and Mrs. Claus, progressed through town in the beautiful vis a vis carriage driven by Jamie and Dennis Ponte, and pulled by a pair of magnificent Percheron horses, I immediately saw the wonderment and innocence in the eyes of so many children. These little kids truly believe in the magic of the season! I thought why can't we, the grownups, share in that spirit? I had never experienced that feeling in the many previous parades I had participated in.

So, the lesson I learned was DON'T be afraid to try something you've never done before. It can open your eyes and heart.

Thanks to my neighbors, Susie Perry and Kevin Kirschman (AKA Santa) for literally twisting my arms!!







Rainy Weather

By Rebecca Curry, DVM

This rainy weather presents some challenges for horse care. Here are a few points to consider:

- 1) Shelter- Wet horses have a tough time staying warm especially in the wind. Have a place your horse can get protection from the weather. Rain sheets are helpful to keep your horse from becoming soaked through if they are outdoors. A fleece cooler can be used to help dry out a wet horse.
- 2) Footing- Mud can be hazardous. Older horses particularly need places they can get out of the slippery mud so they do not get stuck down. If your horse's footing has become slippery, consider putting down some absorbent shavings.
- 3) Feeding- For those horses that are harder keepers, feed a little extra as they will burn more energy trying to stay warm. Giving an extra meal during the day can be helpful. Many horses will not eat hay that is wet, so try to feed in a dry place. Throw away any moldy hay.
- 4) Water- make sure your horse is drinking. Some horses drink less in cold weather which can lead to impaction colic. Feeding an electrolyte or a teaspoon each of salt and lite salt can help stimulate your horse to drink.
- 5) Hoof care- The mud causes soft feet that are prone to hoof abscess and thrush. It is very important to pick your horses feet out every day. Vetericyn Hoof Care Spray can be used to combat thrush. If your horse's feet have become soft, do not ride them on any hard footing/gravel until they dry out again. Contact your veterinarian or farrier if you suspect a hoof abscess has formed.

(Even though Dr. Curry is no longer in this area, we feel this information is important and are running it again from a previous newsletter.)

Ripon Almond Blossom Festival Parade

By John Marshall

Greetings Backcountry Horsemen. Our next parade will be the Ripon Almond Blossom Festival Parade. It will be held Saturday February 24th. We will line up at 11:00 am on Industrial. We will have coffee and donuts before the parade and hot dogs and burgers for lunch afterwards. I'll have more information in the February newsletter and a sign-up sheet for a headcount for our entry and food. For insurance everyone must be a member so invite your friends to join and ride with us. We have many activities, including the Rendezvous coming up soon for everyone to enjoy. John Marshall. (209) 968-3826

Here's Why I Ask For Old Jeans

By Kathy Zumbrunn

Several years ago, I stopped by The Mitchell Community Church's annual Christmas Bazaar and purchased a beautiful denim throw. As I remarked on how wonderful this throw was to one of the ladies running the bazaar, she told me they made their quilts and throws from used jeans. Bingo! I told her about our organization and asked if she would like some of our old castoffs. She said "YES!" and I promised I'd bring some by. I then put an article in our newsletter and jeans came pouring in! When I dropped off the first batch you would have thought I gave them a pile of gold! They asked if they could make a quilt for us to show their gratitude and I told them we would love that. I said we could raffle or auction it off and raise some money for our organization. And over the years I've continued collecting and dropping off jeans and they generously make us beautiful quilts and throws.

As a result of these beautiful quilts and throws, we have raised a lot of money for Mid Valley Unit. Last year, at our Winter Round-Up party, we raised \$1,000 after a huge bidding war over two beautiful quilts! I am so thankful for those wonderful and talented quilters at Mitchell Community Church for donating such fantastic quilts.

So please keep your old jeans and get them to me. If you can't bring them, I will arrange to pick them up. You can reach me by texting (209) 765-4923 or email: runningzranch@gmail.com.

Thank You!

A Big Thank You!

By Vicki Morales

Riders and campers have been donating money to BCH Mid Valley Unit as a thank you for maintaining Clark Fork Horse Camp since we took over. You might wonder what has been done with this money. Well, how about

improving the bathroom by replacing the linoleum, hauling and distributing rock, grading and leveling the entry road. That alone took many hours of volunteer work (Thank you, Royce). Some of the time, equipment had to be rented and supplies purchased. Other years the tables were sanded and painted. All this, in addition to clearing the trails. I almost forgot, another bear box was installed, too.

We thought you might like to know!



Winter Round-Up

By Carl Perry

The Mid Valley Winter Round-Up was held this year at the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Posse grounds in Jamestown. This is one of our two general meetings we are required to host annually. There were 120 people attending the event, despite the snowstorm coming in that evening. Two people left before dinner because snowflakes started falling. The heater in the building didn't work due to the lack of electricity to the unit, but when 100 plus people stepped into the hall, we created our own heater.

L & M Bloggett Catering served the BBQ ribs and chicken with red potatoes, beans, salad and rolls. Everything was delicious and plentiful. The hors d'oeuvres were brought in by half of the alphabet by their last names and the desserts were brought in by the other half. It was a great suggested idea and went over well. There was plenty of everything to go around, plus leftovers. We held our general meeting. It was longer than normal because we talked about the upcoming Rendezvous. A few complaints were heard about the length of time that took. We held our election of directors for the coming year. Afterwards, Terri Arington spoke about her late husband, Ron, and his support of youth activities. She then gave a generous donation to the youth division of our Backcountry Horsemen.

When I spoke at the general meeting, I asked for some help to fold up tables and chairs at the end of the night. The meeting took so long that when we were done with the meeting our guests thought that was it. Lance started singing to the tune of crashing hardware. Some people that were dancing were dodging the tables and chairs. Lance had people come up and sing and what a treat that was. We have several talented members amongst us. It all worked out perfectly and I'll give everyone a big thank you for their speedy work cleaning up and folding the tables and chairs.

Three couples stayed at the grounds overnight with their trailers. When we woke up the next morning everything was frozen solid. We couldn't even open the doors. Thank goodness for jumper cables as two of the three trucks would not start.

















New Year's Ride at Red Hills

By Kathy Zumbrunn

Well, the New Year is here, and it started out with a beautiful, sunshine day! The valley below was foggy and cold, but upon hitting the upper foothills, blue sky! Yay! By the time I arrived at 10:00 a.m. the parking lot was filled with trucks, trailers, horses and people! Horses were being saddled and ridden out on the trail, camp was being set up for the Dutch oven potluck and others were visiting and catching up with old friends and making new ones.

At 1:00 p.m. Doug Dollarhide gave the blessing and then everyone dug into the tableful of food! As in the past, there were plenty of dishes to choose from! Everything was delicious!

All in all, it was a wonderful way to begin 2024!























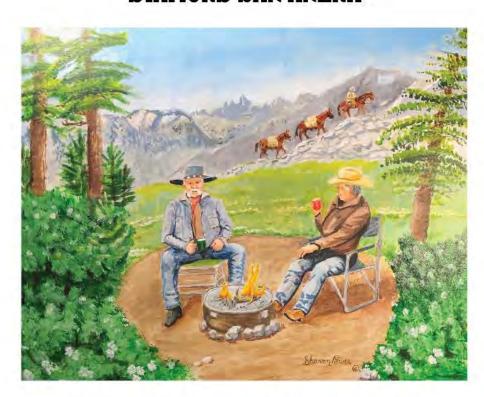


Backcountry Horsemen of California PRESENTS

IT'S RENDEZVOUS TIME IN CERES!

MARCH 22nd - 23rd 2024

DIAMOND BAR ARENA



This Year's Theme: TRAILS AND TALES

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

SEE YOU THERE!

MID VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For details and additional current events: www.bchcmidvalley.org/calendar.html

Note: All events subject to change

January 2024

23) Budget meeting at 6:00 p.m. Perko's, 2120 Patterson Road, Riverbank

Contact: Dave Rumsey

(209) 532-2681 davidsrumsey@yahoo.com

February 2024

9-10) BCHC State Board Meeting Wool Grower's Restaurant, Bakersfield, CA

13) Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Perko's, 2120 Patterson Road, Riverbank

Contact: Dave Rumsey

(209) 532-2681 davidsrumsey@yahoo.com

24) Ripon Almond Blossom Parade 1:00 -2:00 p.m.

Contact: John Marshall

(209) 968-3826 johnvmarshall@icloud.com

24) Dutch Oven Group cooks desserts at Polar Plunge Fundraiser for Special Olympians of Tuolumne Co. at South Shore Lake Tulloch

Contact: Vicki Whisler

(209) 480-0566 vickiwhisler@sbcglobal.net

March 2024

12) Board Meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Perko's, 2120 Patterson Road, Riverbank

Contact: Dave Rumsey

(209) 532-2681 davidsrumsey@yahoo.com

March 22-23) BCHC Rendezvous at Diamond Bar Arena

on Central Ave. in Ceres Theme: Trails and Tales

August 2024

9-11) Kennedy Meadows General Meeting and Campout



2024 OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

President, Dave Rumsey*

Spring Campout, Winter Round-Up

(209) 532-2681 davidsrumsey@yahoo.com

Vice President Elect, Barbara Riner

Membership Chair

(209) 402-4473 bbaglione@gmail.com

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(209) 602-1489 bootsandspur@att.net

Treasurer, Vicki Morales*, Newsletter

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Past President, Doug Dollarhide*

Youth Activities, State Board Delegate, Youth Horse Camp

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(209) 761-3942 lloyd.erlandson0@gmail.com

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Michael King**, Past BCHC State President

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Vicki Whisler**, Dutch Oven Group

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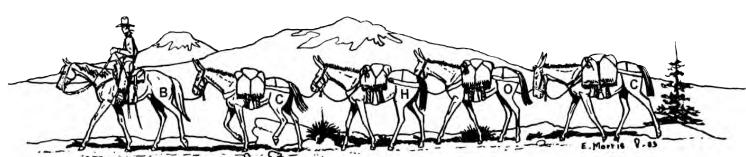
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of California			WILL TO	MEMBERSHIP 1280 State Rt. 208
MEMBERSHIP		E Hant Ved		Yerington, NV 89447
APPLICATION PARENT UNIT AFFILIATION: (Select and CHECK a Unit as your Affiliation)				
New Renewal Change	Antelope Valley Eastern Sierra High Country High Sierra Kern River Vall Kern Sierra	Los Padres Re Manzanita Riders Re Mid Valley Sau Motherlode Sau	cific Crest edshank Riders dwood n Joaquin Sierra nta Ana River quoia	Shasta Trinity Sierra Freepackers Sutter Buttes Top of the State
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 Co	ode (full 9 digits if known) A	rea Code Pho	one Number
Email Address:				
Email Address:				
Donation to BCHC Education Fund (Tax deductible) — Enclosed: \$ Check No				
Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One) 1 Year Individual \$50				
Associate Memberships: An Additional \$15 PER UNIT is added to yout 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 To Individual, Family, (Shared**), Benefactor,	Patron, and Mt. Whitney	KEEP FOR YOUR RECORD I submitted an Application Form for		Verification of BCHC Membership
A Parent Membership is affiliated with a si BCHC Members may NOT hold more than Membership.		1 Year Individual 2 Year Individual	\$50 \$90	Verification of BCHC Membership is
**A SHARED Membership if for two adults who share a common address.	s with differing last names	3 Year Individual 1 Year Family	\$125 \$60	available via: 1) BCHC Unit
Associate Memberships These special Memberships are only available to persons already holdingParent BCHC Membership. No one may sign up for an Associate Membership without 1) having registered one of the Parent Membership types, and 2) having selevcted Parent Unit affiliation.		2 Year Family 3 Year Family Young Adult (18-25 years old) Youth (12-17 years old) Benefactor Patron	\$110 \$150 \$15 \$15 \$15* \$100 \$250	President's reports 2) BCHC Membership Chair reports 3) a self addressed
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		On that form, I also requested: Associate Memberships My Total Remittance:	\$500 \$ \$	stamped envelope submitted with this form 4) a valid email address
is available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at		My Check Number: Date Mailed:		

NEWSLETTER AD RATES

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT MVMONTHLY@GMAIL.COM



Backcountry Horsemen of California Mid Valley Unit

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA Mid Valley Unit P.O. Box 1709 Modesto, California 95353

ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED