

# Mid Valley Monthly

## President's Message

By Barbara Baglione-Riner

Hello all!

As May is already here, it is hard to believe we are quickly heading into the summer months. This time of year always seems especially busy, and our family is definitely feeling that lately. I am currently wrapping up my spring semester of college and preparing for finals while also getting ready to compete and attend Bishop Mule Days, which is always an exciting and busy weekend to prepare for.

Brantley recently wrapped up another great baseball season and had such a fun time playing this year and meeting new friends. Before we know it, he will be gearing up for soccer again in July/August. He is also wrapping up his school year and is very much looking forward to summer break. As always, our family has been staying busy balancing school, work, kids' activities, and everything else life throws our way.

I also recently closed my chapter working at Sweet River Equine Clinic, Inc., which was certainly bittersweet for me. It was such a special place to work, and I will truly miss the people, experiences, and memories that came along with it. I am looking forward to what's to come as I make my way as an intern at a local law enforcement agency.

I want to thank everyone who attended the Meet and Greet at Knights Ferry. It was great seeing everyone come together, and I am hopeful we can continue doing more events like these in the future to help bring in new members and introduce others to our organization. Don't forget to invite your friends and encourage them to join us!

As we head into summer, I hope everyone enjoys the warmer weather, upcoming rides, camping trips, and all the events our unit has planned over the next few months. I look forward to seeing everyone out on the trail and making more memories together. Stay safe and enjoy the season ahead!

All the best,

Barbara Riner



**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**

Kathy Zumbrunn  
and Gail Jamieson

**Layout and printing by Inprint Printing Co.**  
Janet@inprint1.com



**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 consent.

*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 [mvmmonthly@gmail.com](mailto:mvmmonthly@gmail.com). The editor reserves the right to accept, reject or hold over late submissions.  
**Mid Valley Unit Website:** [www.bchcmidvalley.org](http://www.bchcmidvalley.org)  
**Webmaster:** Eileen Forte (209) 622-0654 email: [eileen@webdesignjustforyou.com](mailto:eileen@webdesignjustforyou.com)

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**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 job a bit easier too!

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO: BCHC

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.

**MAY**

Terry Lewallen  
Rainer & Heike Stabenow  
Steve Tucker

**JUNE**

Lucy Badenhoop  
Alana Black  
Hunter Blacksmith  
Bob & Jan Canavan  
Susan Flagg

Jesse Freitas  
Christine Serpa  
Dennis & Loretta Serpa  
Ann Sleight  
John Young

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 [runningzranh@gmail.com](mailto:runningzranh@gmail.com)



## Quote of the Month

By Gail Jamieson

"New insights about horses can be discovered with a simple exchange of thoughts and ideas between friends."

From the book "Riding in the Sweet Light" Quotes by Jim Hicks



## HELP!

By Kathy Zumbrunn



If you have read Michael King's article on the alarming downturn of memberships in the Backcountry Horsemen Organization, then you know we are in big trouble as an organization. We are desperately searching for ways to retain our members, plus trying to come up with new ways to bring new members in.

In this day and age of social media, I feel it is imperative we have a website full of our activities, photos, newsletters and lists of events coming up. Something that says, "Here we are and here is what we do. Come join us and see how much fun you can have!" Not only fun, but our volunteer work keeps the trails open for everyone to use and we are working to keep the backcountry open for horse and mule people and hikers for generations to come!

Unfortunately, our website is pretty empty and sad. Here is where you come in. We have nearly 300 members in the Mid Valley Unit. Now there has to be at least one person out there who is capable of running a website! Is that you?

We can provide all the information, we just need someone to put it all together and keep it current. If we do not get a volunteer, then we will most likely drop the website, which I believe is a HUGE MISTAKE!

Please contact me, either by email: [runningzranch@gmail.com](mailto:runningzranch@gmail.com), or send me a text: (209) 765-4923.

PLEASE...WE NEED YOU!

THANK YOU.

Our continued prayers for Carlena's mom and family during this difficult time. Carole's cancer has progressed, and the focus of her care will now be on keeping her comfortable through palliative care, hopefully surrounded by the peace and comfort of home.

Sue Mason broke her shoulder playing softball and is on the mend! Heal up fast!

Barbara Savery's horse has been injured.

Sally Mole's paint horse has pigeon fever and has been colicky during recovery.

Prayers for our treasured equine friends as they recover!

Sunshine goes out to all others who may not have gotten to me. If you need some sunshine sent your way, let me know. I would like to hear the good also! New baby? Got married? New Job? Please let me know! Text is the best way! But you may get a hold of me any way you need!

Crystal Dalby  
(209) 968-0483  
[Crystal\\_dalby322@yahoo.com](mailto:Crystal_dalby322@yahoo.com)



By Crystal Dalby

## Membership News

By Michael King



Just recently we received some distressing news from our BCHC Membership Chairman.

At year end 2025, BCHC membership was at 1,723 and lagging behind all other previous years. It was speculated, and hoped, this was an anomaly and that our membership would rebound as we entered the new year 2026.

In early April, our BCHC membership now stands at 1,672, a decrease of 51 members, or a 3% decline from year end 2025.

One consequence of this is that our Unit pro rata share of our BCHC insurance coverage will necessarily have to increase. Without boring you all with the math, this, in a nutshell, will decrease the unit share of membership dues rebates. In Mid Valley Unit's case, that would be a decrease in annual income of \$300 to \$310, money that could be used for unit interests and projects.

Folks, I know that rising expenses are affecting all households and everyone is pinching pennies wherever possible. Keeping food on the table for your family, mortgage and other necessities is of the utmost priority.

Backcountry Horsemen is at the forefront in protecting horse and mule users interests in using public lands. There is strength in numbers and we need to retain the largest strength asset we have, our membership!

So I ask of you to continue your support of Backcountry Horsemen of California and your own Mid Valley Unit by renewing your membership when it comes due. If you know of a past member who has let their membership drop, please ask them to rejoin our organization. Absolutely every membership counts and is valued.

I cannot stress anymore emphatically how important this is to our current and future interests and to our organization.

I trust you will also see the seriousness of this situation as well and help us to turn this trend around.

We are also looking for any ideas that will help us to reach out to past members and solicit them to rejoin.

Mid Valley Unit has a Membership Development and Retention Committee that will be looking at ways to increase our membership and thusly our ability to protect your access to use public lands. We also work to educate all users in the value of leave no trace ethics so as to protect the valuable resources available to all of us.

If you have a great idea toward this goal, please contact me at [mickngig@sbcglobal.net](mailto:mickngig@sbcglobal.net) and I will bring it to our committee.

Thank you for reading this through and thank you for your consideration and loyal membership in BCHC and Mid Valley Unit.

**SAVE THE DATE!****Tuolumne County Farm Bureau Annual BBQ and Auction**

By Terri Arington

Hi Dutch Oven Cooks.

It's only May, but as the time seems to fly by so quickly, it will soon be summer and so many activities going on.

Once again, the Tuolumne County Farm Bureau will be holding its BBQ and Auction, our main Fundraiser for the year.

As usual, it will be held at Hurst Ranch in Jamestown on Hwy 108. We are hoping we can count on BCH Mid Valley Unit to provide your always delicious Dutch oven desserts as the perfect ending for our Cowboy style dinner. This year's date will be Friday, July 24 with dinner at 6:00 p.m., Live Auction at

7:00 p.m. Our Silent Auction will run from 5:00 p.m. to shortly after dinner. As usual, we anticipate a great crowd.

I will be providing updates as the weeks progress. Until then, thanks for all you do throughout the year promoting and maintaining our beloved backcountry....you all are appreciated!



"If you're lucky enough to be in the mountains..

you're lucky enough..."

Terri Arington

(209)768-7076

**Clark Fork Work Party**

By Carl Perry

On June 12, 13 and 14, which is Friday, Saturday and Sunday, Mid Valley BCH will be organizing a trail clearing from the Clark Fork Horse Camp. Friday, we will clear the river trail up stream to the crossing at the meadow. On Saturday, we want to tackle the white thorn brush, or some call it buck brush, on the Arnot Trail. This will be a challenge, as the only way to eliminate it is by cutting the main roots. The other challenge will be to clear it approximately 8 feet wide. That means 4 feet on each side of the trail. The more people we have the quicker the job will end. This kind of work with bending over to cut and someone throwing the trimmings out of the trail will be a tedious job. We are not planning a lot of downed tree cutting, but we will pack some chain saws just in case we find some in our way. If you have a light one, bring it. We usually quit the job at 3:00 p.m. and ride back to camp. If you have an idea of how we could make this job easier, please contact me so we can take the proper equipment up there. I would like to entertain a potluck dinner on Saturday night. On Sunday morning, hopefully we have no work. We could have Cowboy Church and then spend the day at our own discretion. I believe Jim is planning for a ride on the next weekend. It would be nice to have a clear trail to ride!

## Mid Valley Unit Knights Ferry Meet and Greet

April 25, 2026

By Michael King



After a week of the weather bouncing all over the possibilities, Saturday dawned with light cloud cover and moderate temperatures. A light rain was predicted for late in the day but had no impact on our outing. All in all a beautiful day.

I arrived early at the south shore of the Knights Ferry Recreation Area so as to get our spot set out, and to unload my cooking gear and supplies.

Right on schedule, Larry Souza, Jerrie Ann Thomas, Megan Van Hoogmoed and Kathy Zumbrunn arrived with the Mid Valley Unit cook trailer. After the trailer was parked and set up, the cooks set up their individual work spaces and went to work on their recipe plans.

While this was going on, there were many people riding in the vicinity on bicycles. Although none stopped to investigate, they were well aware of who we were by the signage on the cook trailer and our new banner inviting them to come by to see what we're about. They looked like they were on a schedule and they kept moving.

Soon, as recipes started to cook, delicious aromas began to waft on the air and taste buds began to anticipate the feast.

These were the dishes that were on the menu and the cooks who crafted them:

- 1) Maggie Stein- Chicken Linguine & fresh pineapple slices.
- 2) Susan Erlandson- Apple Caramel Cobbler and German Chocolate Brownies.
- 3) Michael King- Polynesian Chicken and Rice.
- 4) Megan Van Hoogmoed- Monkey Bread and Chocolate Chip Zucchini.
- 5) Roy Jones- Chicken & Dumplings and Sugar Free Yellow Cake with Chocolate Frosting.
- 6) Rudy Dezzani- Traditional Polenta.
- 7) Vicki Morales- Chili Spanish Rice.
- 8) Gail Jamieson- Chocolate Strawberry Lava Cake.
- 9) Kathy Zumbrunn- Fruit Salad and Fresh Grapes.
- 10) Dierdre Burgoin- Walnut Stuffed Dates.
- 11) Gail Altieri- Baked Teriyaki Chicken Legs.

Lunch was served right at noon and none too soon as folks were ready to dive into the feast. And boy was it all delicious!

After our meal, Knights Ferry Park Ranger Savannah Jones came by to give an informative talk on the Knights Ferry Recreation Area, how it's administered, the history of the Covered Bridge and the current bridge maintenance and restoration effort. The work is slow and dependent on availability of funds, but proceeding none the less. Thank You, Savannah, for your time. We enjoyed your presentation tremendously! Knights Ferry is a gem in our own backyard that we are extremely fortunate to have.

Thank you to all the cooks, their helpers and to all who came to participate.





Since I haven't received any new recipes, I have recycled this yummy one from our November 2022 newsletter.

Enjoy!

## Easy Apple Coffee Cake

2 - 12 oz cans refrigerated flakey biscuits  
 4 c chopped, peeled apples  
 2 Tbsp butter, melted  
 2/3 c brown sugar  
 1/2 c corn syrup  
 1/2 tsp cinnamon  
 2 eggs  
 1/4 c water or apple juice  
 1 c chopped nuts

### Topping:

1/2 c brown sugar  
 1 tsp cinnamon  
 1 Tbsp melted butter  
 2 - 3 Tbsp flour until crumbly consistency is what you want



Spray a 12" Dutch oven with cooking spray. Spread 3 cups of apples over bottom of pan. Separate dough into biscuits and cut each in quarters. Arrange biscuit pieces on top of apples. Top with remaining apples. In a small bowl, combine butter, sugar, cinnamon, corn syrup, water/juice and eggs. Beat well. Stir in nuts and spoon over biscuits and apples. Cover and bake in hot coals for 40-45 minutes or until golden brown. (Use approximately 15 briquettes on top and 9-10 on bottom, adjusting for weather conditions.) Combine all ingredients for topping and sprinkle on top of cake about 10 minutes before cake is done. Serve and enjoy!

Thank you Susan Erlandson for this tasty recipe!



## Group Riding & Safety Etiquette

By Nicole Jones



**SPACE CONTROL:** Only ride as fast as the least experienced rider or horse. In a large group, keep at a walk.

**SPACING:** Ride at least one or two horse lengths between horses.

**GAIT:** If your horse wants to go faster than the others, you should ride to the back to avoid pressuring the other riders/horses to keep up.

**PASSING:** Pass on the left, but always ask permission from the rider in front before passing. Keep your horse at a walk to avoid triggering a stampede response from other horses.

**LEADER:** A Trail Boss should be appointed to lead and monitor hazards and communicate to the other riders.

**POSITIONING:** If a horse kicks, it should have a red ribbon in its tail and ride at the back of the line.

**MOUNTED SAFETY:** Never leave a dismounted rider behind. If someone stops, the whole group should stop and wait.

**APPROACHING OTHERS:** When approaching other riders or hikers, stop or slow walk and consider moving to the side to let them pass if in a large group.

**COMMUNICATION:** Announce if you or any others are having a hard time.

**GIVING SPACE:** Do not let your horse sniff or crowd another horse.

**GATE ETIQUETTE:** If you open a gate, the last rider should make sure the gate is closed.

**WATERING:** Allow horses to drink, but do not permit them to splash and disrupt the water source.

**ENVIRONMENT:** Stay on designated trails. Do not cut switchbacks and pack out all trash.

## T-Shirts for Sale

By Kathy Zumbrunn

We have some new t-shirts in our Mid Valley Merchandise! Yes, they look like the Rendezvous t-shirts, but without the "Rendezvous 2026" printed on top. It is a great design and it shows Backcountry Horsemen are all about "Volunteerism!" So why not get yours today and help support Backcountry Horsemen. We have a limited supply, so don't wait. I will have them until our next board meeting (June 9) and then Stephanie will have them with the other Mid Valley merchandise. Maybe you can get them at the Clark Fork ride and campout on June 19 - 21!

**So send me a text (209) 765-4923 or an email:**  
runningzranch@gmail.com, and order yours today.

**(Sizes: M - XL - \$18, XXL - \$20)**



## Red Hills Ride

By Jim Westmoreland

It was a beautiful late spring day on April 18, 2026. Although our ride location had been changed for the third time, I was somewhat surprised that 13 trail riding junkies showed up to ride the Red Hills trails. With the grass having reached its peak green two weeks earlier, the pine and oak trees were in full leaf. I am grateful that we have places like this in the foothills that we can ride when the high country is closed with snow. It gives us the opportunity to keep our horses in shape during the winter months and have places to ride outside the arena. We had a leisurely ride with no wrecks or anything exciting to report, which is how I like it. After the ride we had lunch and I had my traditional egg sandwich. Great group of backcountry Mid Valley Unit members.

Thanks to:

Vernon Storment

Donna Storment

Christine Kaplan

Chris Westmoreland

Sandy Luiz

Sandy Rahilly

Jennifer H.

John Marshall

Jeannette De Mott

Gail Jamieson

Jane Cloud

Jeanne Jenkins

Your ride chairman: Jim Westmoreland (209) 815-3125

Save the date: June 18-21 - Clark Fork campout!





## MID VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For details and additional current events:

[www.bchcmidvalley.org/calendar.html](http://www.bchcmidvalley.org/calendar.html)

Note: All events subject to change

**Board meeting time change  
to 6:00 because of the winter hours of Perko's.**

### May 2026

19-24) Bishop Mule Days

### June 2026

9) Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
Perko's, 2120 Patterson Road, Riverbank  
Contact: Barbara Riner  
(209) 402-4473 [rinerbarbara97@gmail.com](mailto:rinerbarbara97@gmail.com)

12-14) Clark Fork Work Party  
Contact: Carl Perry  
(209) 321-5410

18-21) Ride and Campout at Clark Fork  
Contact: Jim Westmoreland  
(209) 815-3125 [jimwestmorelandsem@gmail.com](mailto:jimwestmorelandsem@gmail.com)

### July 2026

14) Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
Perko's, 2120 Patterson Road, Riverbank  
Contact: Barbara Riner  
(209) 402-4473 [rinerbarbara97@gmail.com](mailto:rinerbarbara97@gmail.com)

July 16-19 Kennedy Meadows Campout and General Meeting.  
Contact: Stephanie Stott (209) 402-4417  
[Horsebiz66@yahoo.com](mailto:Horsebiz66@yahoo.com)

24) Tuolumne County Farm Bureau Annual BBQ and Auction  
Contact: Terri Arington (209) 768-7076

### August 2026

11) Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.  
Perko's, 2120 Patterson Road, Riverbank  
Contact: Barbara Riner  
(209) 402-4473 [rinerbarbara97@gmail.com](mailto:rinerbarbara97@gmail.com)

### SAVE THE DATE:

October 10) BCHC State Board Meeting  
Carl & Julie Perry's, Hilmar  
Contact: Carl (209) 321-5410

## 2026 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

**President, Barbara Riner\* Winter Round-Up**  
(209) 402-4473 [rinerbarbara97@gmail.com](mailto:rinerbarbara97@gmail.com)

**Vice President, Kaitlyn Rumsey\* Membership Chair, Winter Round-Up**  
(209) 768-5732 [kaitlynrumsey@gmail.com](mailto:kaitlynrumsey@gmail.com)

**Secretary, Cathy Dollarhide\*\* Website**  
(209) 602-1489 [bootsandspur@att.net](mailto:bootsandspur@att.net)

**Treasurer, Vicki Morales\* State Board Director**  
(209) 404-0561 [vickimorales@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vickimorales@sbcglobal.net)

**Crystal Dalby\* Sunshine, Volunteer Hours**  
(209) 968-0483 [crystal\\_dalby322@yahoo.com](mailto:crystal_dalby322@yahoo.com)

**Doug Dollarhide\* Youth Activities, Youth Horse Camp, Pack Team**  
(209) 605-2403 [bootsandspur@att.net](mailto:bootsandspur@att.net)

**Lloyd Erlandson\*\* — Insurance, State Board Director**  
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**Nicole Jones Education**  
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**Michael King\*\* State Board Director**  
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**John Marshall\*\***  
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**Carl Perry\*\* Volunteer Service Projects, Spring Campout Pack Team**  
(209) 321-5410 [hayloftpigeon@aol.com](mailto:hayloftpigeon@aol.com)

**Dennis Serpa\*\* Public Lands, Alternate State Board Director**  
(209) 531-5175 [dmserpa@velociter.net](mailto:dmserpa@velociter.net)

**Stephanie Stott\*\* Facebook, Merchandise, Kennedy Meadow General Meeting**  
(209) 402-4417 [HorseBiz66@yahoo.com](mailto:HorseBiz66@yahoo.com)

**Jim Westmoreland\* Peoria Flat Project Chair, Rides**  
(209) 815-3125 [jimwestmorelandsem@gmail.com](mailto:jimwestmorelandsem@gmail.com)

## 2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

**Saw Program Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers, Dave Moser**  
(209) 404-1372 [davemoser53@hotmail.com](mailto:davemoser53@hotmail.com)

**Newsletter - Gail Jamieson and Kathy Zumbrunn**  
(209) 765-4923 [runningzranch@gmail.com](mailto:runningzranch@gmail.com)  
(209) 918-8869 [mvmmonthly@gmail.com](mailto:mvmmonthly@gmail.com)

**Email only newsletter, Email blasts - Gail Jamieson**  
(209) 918-8869 [bchcmidvalleynews@gmail.com](mailto:bchcmidvalleynews@gmail.com)

**Parades, Carlena Kellogg**  
(209) 505-0122 [ladyroughrider1@yahoo.com](mailto:ladyroughrider1@yahoo.com)

**Columbia All Equestrian Parade, Barbara Savery**  
(209) 743-3580 [bjsavery@att.net](mailto:bjsavery@att.net)

**Photographer - Aida Nunes**  
(209) 620-1759 [aidaitzelnunes@gmail.com](mailto:aidaitzelnunes@gmail.com)

**Dutch Oven, Unit Trailer - Larry Souza**  
(209) 613-8293

**Webmaster - Eileen Forte**

## STATE BOARD DIRECTORS

Lloyd Erlandson, Michael King, Vicki Morales,  
Denis Serpa - alternate

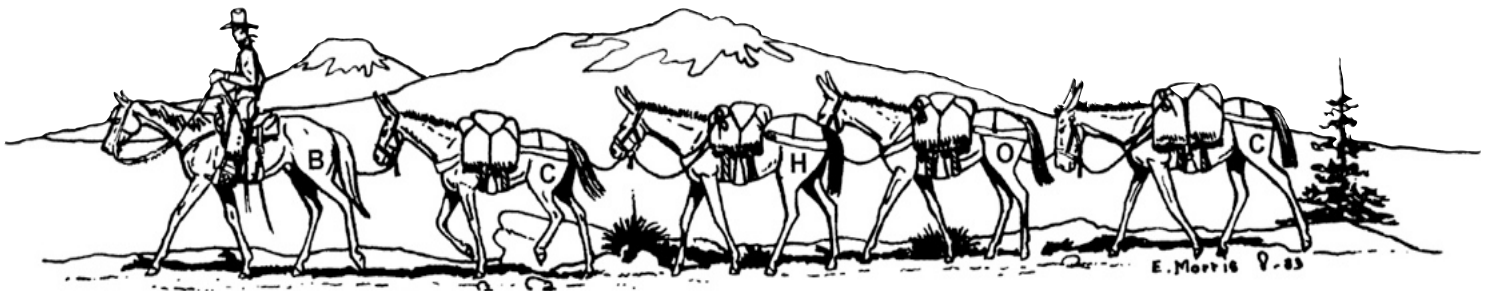




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1/2 Page - \$20        Full Page - \$35

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT  
MVMONTHLY@GMAIL.COM



Backcountry Horsemen of California Mid Valley Unit

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