

Mid Valley Monthly

President's Message

By Barbara Baglione-Riner

Hello members!

Summer is officially here, and with it comes longer days, warmer weather, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy our horses, mules, friends and the beautiful backcountry. It seems like the year is flying by, and our family is looking forward to making the most of the summer months with lots of swimming, camping, riding and a little traveling mixed in as well.

My internship continues to be a rewarding experience, and I plan to remain there throughout the summer and into the fall semester. I am learning something new every day and gaining a tremendous amount of knowledge about the legal field.

I hope many of you were able to attend the Clark Fork Work Party and Campout this past weekend. Thank you for all our wonderful volunteers who come together to make sure the work is done and our trails can be accessible.

As we look ahead to next month, Kennedy Meadows is right around the corner and is always one of the highlights of the summer. A huge thank you goes out to Stephanie Stott for taking the reins of planning and organizing this event. We truly appreciate all of the hard work that goes into making it a success. Please remember that Kennedy Meadows is a members-only event. Also, don't forget to bring a dish to share for the Saturday evening potluck. More information will be provided on that, so please keep an eye out for that. I hope to see you there!

I encourage everyone to get out and enjoy the trails, attend an upcoming event, and invite a friend to learn more about Backcountry Horsemen. Our organization continues to thrive because of the dedication, volunteerism and fellowship of our members.

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

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

Merchandise Sales

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



Hoodies \$35

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*

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Decals
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For information on purchasing please call Stephanie Stott at 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 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.

JUNE

- Alana Black
- Hunter Blacksmith
- Susan Flagg
- Christine Serpa
- Dennis & Loretta Serpa
- Ann Sleight

JULY

- Rodney and Barbara Riner
- Quinn Austin Ford
- Jay & Stephanie Hagstrom
- Suzy Q
- Ric and Joan Tilbury
- Donovan Walker
- Les & Linda Weidman

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



Quote of the Month

By Gail Jamieson

“The horse does not develop coping skills without being exposed to situations that challenge the comfort zone.”

From: A Drink of Water – Quotes by Jim Hicks



Coconut Bread Pudding

Submitted by Lee Erickson

Ingredients:

- 2 cups milk
- 2 cups half and half
- 1 cube butter
- 2 tablespoons vanilla
- 1 cup shredded coconut (Lee uses ½ sweetened, ½ unsweetened)
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 ½ cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 cup raisins
- ¾ cup chopped walnuts
- ½ teaspoon nutmeg
- 3 ½ slices sourdough bread (Alfredo's Santa Cruz sourdough Lee prefers)



Cut bread into cubes. Combine all ingredients in a large bowl – let soak 5 minutes. Pour all into a buttered 9 X 13 dish or a 12 in. Dutch oven. Bake at 350 degrees for about 50 minutes until top is a golden brown. (We found this recipe in an old issue of Mid Valley Monthly!)

Sending our deepest condolences to Carlena Kellogg on the passing of your mother, Carole Ellis. May you find peace in remembering a life well-lived and comfort in knowing how deeply she was loved. Keeping you and your family in our thoughts and prayers.

Julie Livingston needs some healing thoughts sent her way as she is recovering from broken ribs.

We have a birthday to celebrate! One of our longtime members, Bob Daniel from Stevinson, will be celebrating his 90th birthday on July 9th. Join us in celebrating this great milestone! Happy birthday, Bob!

We send Sunshine 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



By Crystal Dalby

Kennedy Meadows Campout and General Meeting

By Stephanie Stott

Our annual Campout is fast approaching and I can't wait! The dates are Thursday, July 16 through Sunday, July 19. A quick reminder before I get into the details of the camp, PLEASE RSVP to Stephanie and you must be a Backcountry Horsemen member to camp with us. You can join the day of.

We have lots of fun activities planned. Friday at 4 p.m. we will have a Cornhole Tournament. It is \$10 per person to play, and the winning team gets 50% of the pot. Saturday, starting at 11 a.m., bring your silent auction items for setup; or if you have a big ticket item you would like to sell, we ask that you donate a percent of what you make to Mid Valley Unit. The auction closes at 5 p.m. Tracy Wheelock, with Justaposeequine, will be doing a demonstration on Saturday afternoon. Tracy will also be doing bodywork on equines and mules at a discounted rate for members on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. Saturday evening at 6:30 p.m. will be the potluck and general meeting. Last year we did not have enough food for everyone and had too many desserts. This year, if your last name falls between A-R, please bring a main dish to feed 8-10 people. If your last name falls between S-Z, please bring a dessert and/or an appetizer. At 7 p.m. the MJC Interscholastic Pack Team will share their experience at Bishop Mule Days. Lance Kell will then get the party going with his fun and entertaining music. Sunday morning at 9 a.m. we will have Cowboy Church.

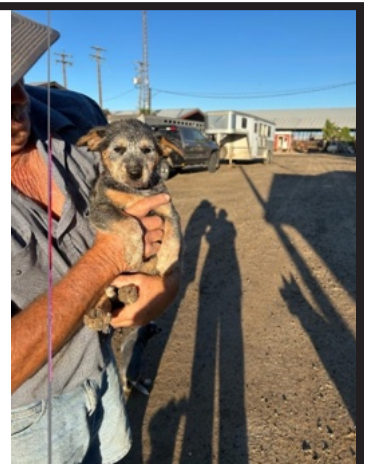


We will be in the high country, so be sure to pack for all possible weather. If you plan to ride out by yourself, please let someone know where you are going and approximately when you plan to return. If you have any questions regarding the campout, feel free to call or text me.

Happy Trails,
Stephanie
(209) 402-4417



**2 female Queensland
Heeler puppies
Free to a good home
Call Carl Perry
(209) 321-5410**



Mid Valley Unit Of BCHC Sponsors World Champion Interscholastic Mule Packing Team At Bishop, CA

By Carl Perry

Trying to assemble an interscholastic team for Bishop Mule Days is a major undertaking every year for the Mid Valley Unit. This year was no exception. We try to start soliciting students early January as Cal Poly usually has a hands-on work clinic and competition around that time.

We managed to round up four students. They were: Cody Andrews, Cheyenne Mason, Jesse Freitas and Alex Moore. We traveled down to Cal Poly on March 13th. The event was excellent as a training and mock event of Bishop Mule Days. Our students had no idea of what was happening, so of course they placed near last on all events. We had a lot of work to do to prepare these kids for Bishop.

Just before our first practice in April, Alex separates his collarbone. Now we have to try to find a new student to replace him. Facebook was our friend again as a call for a participant echoed the media. We were starting to practice on April 19th with only three and here comes a girl walking up to the mule corral. "Hello," I said, "may I help you?" "My name is Augusta O'Ferrell and I'm here to try out for the pack team." I about fell over that day and welcomed her with open arms! Kaitlyn Rumsey, a three-time Interscholastic World Champion, was shadowing us that day. Kaitlyn trained her in just two hours to be a fierce competitor. Augusta rides Polo horses for a sport and fit right in with the team.

We had only one full practice with all four students before Bishop Mule Days. The practice was long and the students had the rhythm of winners. We felt very confident that day when we finished.

The first event was the pack scramble. We were on fire for that event and soared across the finish first with lightning speed! But the next event is where the challenge begins. They have to pack an undisclosed top load and travel to a finish line across the arena. There are penalties for not completing the procedure correctly. The team listened to all the rules and the buzzer sounded. They were off, moving with disciplined speed. The Cal Poly team crossed the finish first, but one of their mules did not cross the cone and they had to make another loop around it. Luckily, we were declared the winner.

Now, with two wins under their belt, the final event was coming up. We had a consultation before the final of how not to make mistakes. Everything has to be perfect, including the correctness of the knots and the load has to stay on crossing the finish line and not to be touched. The hat was lifted off of the Judge's head and the competition was underway. This year the final was a dual event of a scramble and a pack and load. The students are packing while they are trying to catch their breath from running across the arena. It looked like they were in slow motion. Eventually, Augusta got on the horse and blasted across the arena. Her hat flew off and fell in front of the lead mule. The mule saw the hat and leaped over and I prayed the load would stay on and not loosen. The second mule dodged the hat and kept running behind. We were sitting in first and waiting for the Judge to give us the final word of "clean." We were on the far end and the Judge had to walk all the way down to judge us. The suspense was breathtaking as we watched her cautiously surround our mules to inspect the correctness and tightness of the loads. When our team threw their hands in the air we knew they had placed first and have just become the 2026 Interscholastic World Champions of Bishop Mule Days!

We want to thank many Mid Valley Backcountry Horsemen members for their support. I would like to name a few: Kaitlyn Rumsey, Garrett, Doug and Cathy Dollarhide, Lee Owing, John Marshall, Dave Rumsey, Matt and Jayce Foust, Jerrie Ann Thomas, Larry Sousa, Lisa Vandermeer (for reaching out on Facebook) and my wife, Julie, for putting up with me. Also, all of our members who traveled to Bishop to cheer us on. We could not have accomplished this without you.



Congratulations to:
Augusta O'Ferrell
Cheyenne Mason
Cody Andrews
Jesse Freitas



May 2026 Trail Ride

By Jim Westmoreland

May 16 was a great day for our monthly trail ride. We had 14 Mid Valley trail riders participating in this event held up at Peoria Flat Trail Head, bordering the New Melones Reservoir. The weather was near perfect with temperatures in the low 70s and a slight breeze. We usually all stay together, but on this particular ride we divided up into two groups. One group taking the easy trail led by Vernon and Donna Storment and the other group being led by myself and taking the more challenging trail heading south. Earlier in March, March 26 to be exact, our trail clearing crew went through that same south trail and did a great job of cleaning and clearing the brush away. There was also plenty of water running in the creek which we crossed several times heading up the hill. It was good training for our horses in crossing water. Our two groups joined back together at the top of the ridge by the pond, and all horses and riders were safely back at the trailhead after two and a half hours of enjoying our equine partners and each other. Lunch was devoured by hungry riders, which was topped off by Donna Storment's delicious cookies. Thanks to all who participated. The company was joyous!

Our next ride is planned up at Clark Fork Horse Camp on June 18 through 21. Potluck to be held on Saturday evening.

Thanks, Jim Westmoreland



Dutch Oven Cooks Needed!

By Terri Arington

Hi Mid Valley Dutch oven chefs and helpers. Just a reminder poster for the Tuolumne County BBQ and Auction being held at Hurst Ranch in Jamestown on Hwy 108, Friday, July 24.

We are hopeful that you, once again, will participate in this annual fundraiser by providing delicious Dutch oven desserts that are highly anticipated by our attendees!

Call Terri for additional information: (209) 768-7076.

I hope to see you there, and as always, participants will receive a complimentary Cowboy Dinner.



Tuolumne County Farm Bureau

1201 L St.
Modesto, CA 95354
(209) 522-7278

EVENT DETAILS

Friday, July 24, 2026
Hurst Ranch, 17415 CA-108, Jamestown
6:00 p.m. Hosted Social & Silent Auction
7:00 p.m. Dinner
7:30 p.m. Live Auction & Dutch Oven Desserts

TICKETS

\$40.00 Adults, \$10.00 For 12 & under
Purchase by calling: (209) 522-7278

THE BEST SILENT & LIVE AUCTION!

If you would like to donate an item for the auction or silent auction, please bring one or call Abi (209) 522-7278 to arrange pick up. This event benefits our Farm Bureau programs and advocacy efforts.



Sponsorship Levels

Platinum \$850

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Arena Banner
Social media & Website
shoutout

Gold \$650

Arena Banner
Social media & Website
Shoutout

Silver \$450

Social media & Website
Shoutout

Bronze \$250

Social Media Shoutout

Saturday, August 1, 2026, 10th Annual Education & Open House Day from 9am-2pm.

- * Speakers & Demonstrations
- * Vendors
- * Silent Auction & Raffle
- * BBQ Lunch

Hopes Chance Horse Sanctuary
1476 Church St.
Modesto, CA 95357
(209)522-0882

hopeschancehorsesanctuary@gmail.com



MID VALLEY CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For details and additional current events:

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.**

June 2026

18-21) Ride and Campout at Clark Fork
Contact: Jim Westmoreland
(209) 815-3125 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

July 16-19 Kennedy Meadows Campout and General Meeting.
Contact: Stephanie Stott (209) 402-4417
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

September 2026

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

October 2026

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

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

2026 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

President, Barbara Riner* Winter Round-Up
(209) 402-4473 rinerbarbara97@gmail.com

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

Secretary, Cathy Dollarhide Website**
(209) 602-1489 bootsandspur@att.net

Treasurer, Vicki Morales* State Board Director
(209) 404-0561 vickimorales@sbcglobal.net

Crystal Dalby* Sunshine, Volunteer Hours
(209) 968-0483 crystal_dalby322@yahoo.com

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

Lloyd Erlandson — Insurance, State Board Director**
(209) 761-3942 lloyd.erlandson0@gmail.com

Nicole Jones Education
(209) 918-1665 niccanride@yahoo.com

Michael King State Board Director**
(209) 606-8323 mickngig@sbcglobal.net

John Marshall**
(209) 968-3826

Carl Perry Volunteer Service Projects, Spring Campout Pack Team**
(209) 321-5410 hayloftpigeon@aol.com

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

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

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

2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Saw Program Stanislaus Wilderness Volunteers, Dave Moser
(209) 404-1372 davemoser53@hotmail.com

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

Email only newsletter, Email blasts - Gail Jamieson
(209) 918-8869 bchcmidvalleynews@gmail.com

Parades, Carlena Kellogg
(209) 505-0122 ladyroughrider1@yahoo.com

Columbia All Equestrian Parade, Barbara Savery
(209) 743-3580 bjsavery@att.net

Photograher - Aida Nunes
(209) 620-1759 aidaitzelnunes@gmail.com

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

Webmaster - Eileen Forte

STATE BOARD DIRECTORS

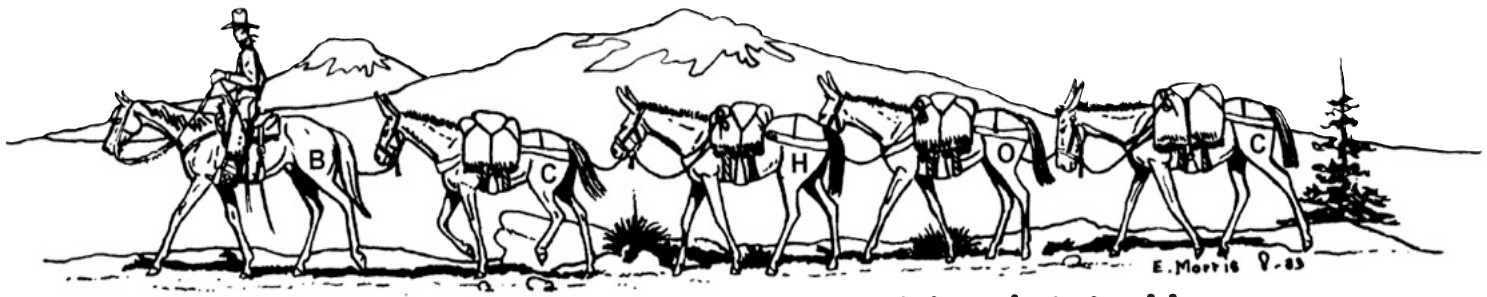
Lloyd Erlandson, Michael King, Vicki Morales,
Denis Serpa - alternate



NEWSLETTER AD RATES

Business Card - \$5 1/4 Page - \$10
1/2 Page - \$20 Full Page - \$35

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