BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA – MID VALLEY UNIT

Mid Valley Monthly

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Membership Dues

2026 OFFICERS AND BOARD MEMBERS

- President, **Barbara Riner*** | 209-402-4473 | rinerbarbara97@gmail.com
- Vice President, **Kaitlyn Rumsey*** | 209-768-5732 | kaitlynnrumsey@gmail.com
- Secretary, **Cathy Dollarhide**** | 209-602-1489 | bootsandspur@att.net
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- **Crystal Dalby*** | 209-968-0483 | crystal_dalby322@yahoo.com
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- **Stephanie Stott**** | 209-402-4417 | horsebiz66@yahoo.com
- **Jim Westmoreland*** | 209-815-3125 | jimwestmorelandsem@gmail.com

STATE BOARD PRESIDENT AND DIRECTORS

- BCHC President, **Doug Dollarhide**
- Board Members, **Lloyd Erlandson, Michael King, and Vicki Morales**
- **Dennis Serpa** - *Alternate*

*Time Remaining: *=1 Year **=2 Years*



2026 COMMITTEE CHAIRS - ACTIVITY COORDINATORS

- Blasts & Announcements (via email only) - **Gail Jamieson** | bchcmidvalleynews@gmail.com
- Dutch Oven & Unit Trailer - **Larry Souza** | 209-613-8293
- Education - **Nicole Jones** | 209-918-1665 | niccanride@yahoo.com
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- Membership Chair - **Kaitlyn Rumsey** | 209-768-5732 | kaitlynnrumsey@gmail.com
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- Social Media/Facebook- **Stephanie Stott** | 209-402-4417 | horsebiz66@yahoo.com
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- Sunshine - **Crystal Dalby** | 209-968-0483 | crystal_dalby322@yahoo.com
- Youth Activities, Youth Horse Camp - **Doug Dollarhide** | 209-605-2403 | bootsandspur@att.net
- Volunteer Hours - **Crystal Dalby** | 209-968-0483 | crystal_dalby322@yahoo.com
- Volunteer Service Projects - **Carl Perry** | 209-321-5410 | hayloftpigeon@aol.com
- Webmaster - **Eileen Forte** | 209-622-0654 | eileen@webdesignjustforyou.com
- Winter Round Up -
  - **Barbara Riner** | 209-402-4473 | rinerbarbara97@gmail.com
  - **Kaitlyn Rumsey** | 209-768-5732 | kaitlynnrumsey@gmail.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Barbara Riner

Hello everyone!

It's hard to believe we're already heading into November! This year has certainly flown by, and our unit continues to stay busy with trail rides, work projects, community events, and everything in between. As far as my busy life goes, we have had a very hectic past few months and things have finally slowed down a bit.

A big "thank you" to Jim and Chris Westmoreland for continuing to coordinate the monthly trail rides. I also want to recognize everyone who helped represent our unit at the Denair Farm and Family Festival. The Dutch oven samples were a hit, and events like these are a great opportunity to introduce our organization to the community.

Members helping with work parties in the backcountry have been addressing some water system issues at Pine Valley Horse Camp and are looking into future repairs and improvements. There are also plans to do some maintenance at Kerrick Corral. I appreciate everyone who continues to volunteer their time and effort to maintain these camps as best we can. Continuing to maintain access to beautiful places like these is a huge part of what our organization stands for.

Looking ahead, the Columbia All Equestrian Christmas Parade is scheduled for Sunday, December 13th. Volunteers are being requested to help with parking, so please consider lending a hand if you're available.

Also, don't forget about the BCHC State Lucky Calendar Fundraiser! Kathy Zumbrunn has raffle tickets/calendars available for $25, with plenty of opportunities to win throughout the year.





As we head into the holiday season, I hope everyone finds a little time to slow down, enjoy the Fall weather, and spend time with family, friends, and, of course, our four-legged friends. Thank you all for another great month, and I look forward to seeing what the rest of the year brings!

Happy Trails!

Calendar of Events

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

NOTE: *All events subject to change.*

OCTOBER 2026

October 24
Ride at Peoria Flat
Ride out at 10 a.m.
Contact: Jim Westmoreland
209-815-3125 |
jimwestmorelandsem@gmail.com

NOVEMBER 2026

November 26
Happy Thanksgiving

DECEMBER 2026

December 13
Columbia All Equestrian
Christmas Parade
Columbia, CA
Contact: Barbara Savery
209-743-3580 | bjsavery@att.net

JANUARY 2027

January 1
New Year's Day Ride
Red Hills
Contact: Jim Westmoreland
209-815-3125 |
jimwestmorelandsem@gmail.com

January 15
First 2027 Lucky Calendar Drawing!
$500 Prize

UPCOMING EVENTS

Winter Round-Up
January 9, 2027
Hilmar, CA
More Information Later!

Board Meeting 6:00 p.m.
November 10, 2026
December 8, 2026
January 12, 2027
Perko's, 2120 Patterson Road, Riverbank
Contact: Barbara Riner
209-402-4473 | rinerbarbara97@gmail.com



BCHC STATE EVENTS

February 6, 2027
BCHC State Board Meeting
Carl & Julie Perry's in Hilmar
Contact: Carl Perry
209-321-5410 | hayloftpigeon@aol.com

Sunshine

By Crystal Dalby
209-968-0483
crystal_dalby322@yahoo.com

Congratulations to Mid Valley members, Anna Baglione and Colin Vaughan, who were married on September 26 in Bishop, CA. We wish them many years of happiness!

Jerrie Thomas injured her thumb while on a ride recently. She was in a tight spot on the trail and was caught between a broken branch and her mule! Thankfully she had a glove on, or else her thumb would have been torn a lot worse. She is healing up nicely now.

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

If you would like your birthday mentioned, or mention someone else's birthday, please send me the information! A simple text would be great. Doesn't have to include age/year unless wanted.

🎉Happy Birthday🎉

Kathy Zumbrunn 76 years!
Every year is a good year!

Barbara Riner



Just Married!
Congratulations to Anna & Colin

Quote of the Month

By Gail Jamieson

“Small challenges, overcome daily, lead to big confidence later.”

From: *Riding in the Sweet Light* Quotes by Jim Hicks



Rides Report

By Jim Westmoreland, Rides Chairman
Photos By Jim Westmoreland



Greetings Mid Valley members.
Our ride last month, September 26, 2026, was held at Round Valley Regional Park. It is about five miles from Brentwood and in the foothills. I have ridden there many times in the past, but because of the traffic to and from the Bay Area, it had been several years since my last ride. I decided to take the eight riders in our group up the steeper trail and somehow made a wrong turn and ended up on a very steep cow trail. I'll have to admit it was bad! So, we turned around and went back. Some riders had already had enough and returned to their trailers. The rest of us continued and had a good easy ride. We met other riders from the Bay Area, and they knew about backcountry folks. The weather was pleasant and the ride, although it started rough, ended smooth. Thanks to all who support these monthly rides. Our next ride is scheduled on Saturday, October 24, at Peoria Flat Trailhead.
Ride out time is 10 a.m.



Happy Trails!







Round Valley Regional Park Ride

Upcoming Mid Valley Unit Board of Directors Election

By Michael King

Happy Fall to all Mid Valley Unit members! Here we are again, entering the last quarter of the year. Annually, one half (7) of the fourteen-member Mid Valley Unit board of directors come up for election/re-election at our annual early January get together called 'The Winter Round-Up'.

Consequently, we are looking for members who want to have a say in the direction and activities of our unit by becoming a director.

The job is very easy with one monthly board meeting to attend and helping when you can with unit activities planning and execution.

Currently, all seven expiring board members have stated an interest in re-running for their positions.

HOWEVER, new ideas come from new minds, and thus you are being sought out. If the thought of being a director appeals to you, please consider tossing your hat in the ring and putting your name on the ballot.

Not to worry if you are elected. Every officer and director will be there to help you learn the ropes as needed.

If you are interested, please contact me, Michael King, by email: mickngig@sbcglobal.net or by phone 209-606-8323 to let me know of your interest and we will add you to the ballot.

Serving will be a rewarding experience!

2027 Lucky Calendars Are Here!

By Kathy Zumbrunn & Michael King

Greetings Everyone.



Yes, the rumors are true, the Lucky Calendar Fundraiser program has returned, back by popular demand!
The 2027 Lucky Calendars with raffle tickets are printed and have been delivered to the individual units. They are ready for you to purchase and/or sell now.
Here are the details you need to know:

1. A raffle ticket is stapled in the calendar. We are selling the raffle ticket for $25, and the calendar comes with it.
2. There are 103 chances to win! The first drawing will be January 15, 2027, for a $500 prize. Every Monday of the year the drawing will be $50, and every Friday will be $75. The final drawing on December 31, 2027, will be for a $1,000 prize!
3. The best part is, if you win, your ticket goes right back into the tumbler, and you have a chance to win again and again!

Folks, this is the easiest fundraiser ever! Funds raised benefit both BCHC and the individual units. Every single member is asked to purchase at least one raffle ticket/calendar. A family membership will have two. The raffle ticket/calendars can be kept for personal use or given away as gifts (after paying and registering the raffle ticket) to someone you wish to gift or thank for some reason.

Please support Backcountry Horsemen of California by participating in this fundraiser. This is your organization, formed for the benefit of our entire equine community.

To get yours, please contact me, Kathy Zumbrunn, either by text or email.
We are counting on you, and all of us, to make this fundraiser another huge success.

Thank you all!

Kathy Zumbrunn 209-765-4923
runningzranch@gmail.com

Jim Hicks Clinic

By Gail Jamieson
Photos By Kathy Zumbrunn

Jim Hicks held a clinic October 17-18, 2026 at Diamond Bar Arena. Jim Hicks gave individual lessons with our horses in groundwork or riding, while the other participants and auditors also watched and learned. From 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Jim gave a new lesson each hour, with a break for a quick lunch.

Jim Hicks' teaching style is collaborative with questions and answers back and forth, between him and the rider. Jim guides with his questions, causing the rider to think, answer, then do the action. The lessons were thoughtful, gentle and to-the-point effective.

Each lesson ended up with a "person-horse miracle" that could be sustained on their own long after Jim Hicks went home. This occurred because Jim Hicks starts out asking for your goal for this hour lesson and he breaks that goal down into multiple mini goals. Jim then, for example, asks for a movement this way, then that way, then at a walk, more energy, then at a trot, ask for more energy, next thing, there is this large, beautiful, floaty trot, full of animation and suspension. The horse is working hard, the rider is working hard and smiling ear to ear!



Kathy Zumbrunn



L-R: Barbara Savery on Pharaoh, Jim Hicks, Karen Hurley, Kim Parson, Gail Jamieson

This clinic was worth the price of admission. Each of us learned from the other's lessons, which offered us eight hours of instruction each day for two days. To top it off, Jim Hicks autographed the books I brought of his quotes, in addition to the one I bought Saturday.

Shane and Kim Parson were excellent hosts at Diamond Bar Arena. They provided snacks, water, lunch and dinner for the attendees. Kim was very helpful making sure each horse was safe while the attendee was preparing to mount or dismount, or as needed. The overnight accommodations were excellent.

Our calendar rep, Kathy Zumbrunn, set up shop for a short time at the clinic and sold eight Raffle Ticket Calendars!

More Jim Hicks Clinic Photos





Columbia All Equestrian Christmas Parade

By Carlena Kellogg

Hello members.

The Columbia All Equestrian Christmas Parade is coming up soon and is always a fun event. Our Mid Valley Unit is a sponsor of this parade, and we always have a great time that day. If you are interested in riding an equine, driving a wagon team, walking with a banner or equine, or helping me at the parade staging area on **Sunday, December 13th**, please email or text me.

Your Mid Valley Parades Chairman
Carlena Kellogg 209-505-0122
ladyroughrider1@yahoo.com

Lessons Learned: Yellowjackets on the Trail

By Kristen Eaton

What Horseback Riders Need to Know

Late summer and early fall can be an especially dangerous time for horseback riders and packers because of yellowjackets.

I learned this the hard way on a Labor Day weekend ride on the Crabtree Trail toward

Yellowhammer. Our group unknowingly rode past an active yellowjacket nest in a dead tree. I never saw a single yellowjacket and was never stung myself, but several of our horses and mules were being stung.

Within seconds, normally dependable animals began scooting, kicking, spinning, crow-hopping and blowing up. Because we did not immediately realize yellowjackets were the cause, we initially tried to deal with what appeared to be tack problems and frightened animals.

In the process, I broke a finger and badly bruised my leg. It could easily have been much worse.

Yellowjackets frequently nest underground, but they may also build nests inside hollow trees, dead logs, stumps and other cavities. From horseback, you may never see the nest or even see the insects. **Your horse may know something is wrong before you do.**

MOVE FIRST. FIGURE IT OUT LATER.

Watch for Sudden, Unexplained Reactions

During late summer and fall, pay particular attention if a normally dependable horse or mule suddenly:

- Scoots its hindquarters
- Kicks or bites toward its belly
- Clamps or swishes its tail
- Crow-hops
- Spins unexpectedly
- Begins stomping or acting unusually agitated
- Suddenly tries to bolt
- Reacts at the same location where another animal has just reacted One animal acting strangely might have many explanations.

Two or more animals suddenly reacting in the same small area should immediately make you consider yellowjackets.

Our New Trail Rule

If anyone sees or suspects yellowjackets, we yell:

BEES! BEES! BEES! MOVE!

And we keep yelling until everyone knows what is happening. One warning may not be enough when there are frightened horses, pack animals, bells, gear and people spread out along a trail.

MOVE AWAY FIRST. CHECK EVERYTHING ELSE LATER.

If you can safely do so, direct your horse away from the location where the reaction began.

Put distance between the animals and the suspected nest first. Once everyone is safely away, then regroup, calm the animals, inspect tack and check horses and riders for stings or injuries.

Do **not** stop there to:

- Adjust pack gear
- Retrieve dropped equipment
- Discipline or retrain the horse
- Investigate what frightened it
- Regroup the entire string

Watch the First Animal

Often the first warning may be subtle.

In our case, one pack horse simply moved her hindquarters forward in an unusual way. I assumed her unfamiliar pack rigging was uncomfortable. Looking back, that may have been our first indication that an animal was being stung.

During yellowjacket season, if one horse suddenly acts as though something has bitten or stung it, pay attention.

If another animal reacts in the same location, move.

Those first few seconds may make the difference between getting the group safely away and having multiple frightened animals trapped around an active nest.

A Simple Rule to Remember

Sudden unexplained reaction + multiple animals + late summer or fall = THINK YELLOWJACKETS.

BEES! BEES! BEES! MOVE!

We cannot eliminate every risk in the backcountry, and sometimes things happen so quickly that there is no perfect response.

But every experience teaches us something.

If sharing this helps even one group recognize what is happening a few seconds sooner, move their animals out of danger, and avoid a serious wreck, then telling the story is worth it.

If the first horse suddenly scoots or kicks at its belly, the second animal starts to react, and someone immediately yells -

"BEES! BEES! BEES! MOVE!"

- maybe those few seconds will be enough to keep everyone safe.

Mid Valley Monthly is an 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.
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Editorial Team & Layout and Design
Kathy Zumbrunn and Gail Jamieson



Member submissions are encouraged and may be made by mail or snail mail. We reserve the right to accept or refuse submissions and advertising that, in our opinion, do no reflect the standards of this newsletter, or are inconsistent with the objectives and propose of the Backcountry Horseman 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 editors. 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 editors reserve the right to accept, reject, or hold over late submissions.

Mid Valley Unit Website: www.bchcmidvalley.org

Webmaster: Eileen Forte | 209-622-0654 | eileen@webdesignjustforyou.com

Membership Dues

Upcoming expiring memberships...

Use this link to download BCHC Membership Form

If you would like the form mailed to you contact Kathy Zumbrunn | 209-765-4923 | runningzranch@gmail.com

October

Ken & Shannen Ingram
Corrie Whitesitt

November

Matt Bloom
Diane Chaulklin
Seth Diemel
Denise Gilseth
& James Kelley
Jennifer Hondeville
Randy & Leticia Hopp
Jennifer Latta
& Harry Strawbridge
Brenda McKay
Doug Morgan
Ann Price
Cinnamon Rigmaiden
Hannah Rodrigues
Carolyn Sizemore
Scarlett Taylor
Kendra Thomason
Candace Ward

December

Kimberly Capps
John & Crystal Dalby
Dennise Davis
Garrett & Ashley
Dollarhide
Kristen Forrest & Family
Davey & Jillian Fraser
Allison Hartman & Family
Matthew Jackson
Mary Johnson
Roy Jones
Carlena Kellogg
& Steve Kellogg
Jeanne Lucas
Kimberlie & Remmi
Magney
Debbie Marshall
& Dan Bronson
Alex & Kristi Moore
Olivia Moschetti
Dennis & Jaymie Ponte
Katherine Reeves
Marilyn Rickman
Serene Schaner
Amber & Payton
Schmallinger
Brandon & Amber
Stevenson
Darlene Tucker

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Business Card - $5 ¼ Page - $10

½ Page - $20 Full Page - $35

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Backcountry Horsemen of California



Mid Valley Unit

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