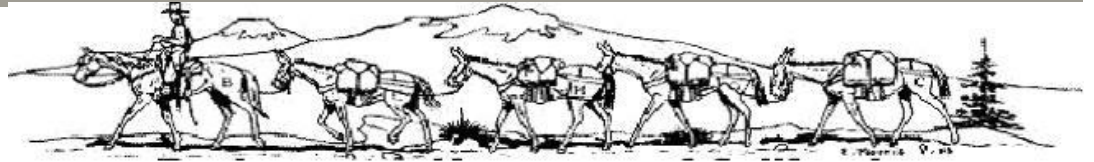


High Sierra Times

Fall 2011 Newsletter Backcountry Horsemen of California - High Sierra Unit. Dedicated to Conserving Backcountry Wilderness

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Newsletter Editor – Position Available

Spur of the Moment E-mail Notifications – Position Available



President's Message

Hi! 2011 has been a busy year for our unit. We have undertaken many projects to help preserve and promote back country use. We started out the year by setting our priorities and unit goals. When a New Year starts so are the lists of High Sierra's things to do. And on the top of the list is our search of where and when to have our Trail Rides. With each season there is a ride planned by Bill See and crew, and everyone looks forward to going to a new destination filled with good times, food and education. This has also been a successful way to get new members. With each ride there is usually a speaker invited or a topic to discuss. Whether it being a Horse Chiropractor, a local Pack Team, the discussion of Saddle Fitting or an up and coming Work Project there is always something to come away with.

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Website Update

Danny Baumgardner has done an outstanding job of keeping our website updated. Check back there often for the latest unit information, meeting minutes, and updates.

**2011/12 BCHC High Sierra Unit
Proposed Calendar**
October

10 - Board Meeting Visalia Farm Bureau Office 06:30 pm

15 - Fall State Meeting Visalia Holiday Inn @ 09:00. Dinner @06:00 pm.

November

3-5 - Information Booth at the Draft Horse Sale

14 - Board Meeting Visalia Farm Bureau Office 06:30 pm

19 - Fall Family Festival and Elections

December

12 - Board Meeting Visalia Farm Bureau Office 06:30 pm

January

9 - Board Meeting Visalia Farm Bureau Office 06:30 pm

February

13 - Board Meeting Visalia Farm Bureau Office 06:30 pm

March

12 - Board Meeting Visalia Farm Bureau Office 06:30 pm

30 to April 1 - Rendezvous in Red Bluff

April

9 - Board Meeting Visalia Farm Bureau Office 06:30 pm

28 - Clovis Rodeo Parade

May

14 - Board Meeting Visalia Farm Bureau Office 06:30 pm



(Continued)

Board Member Beth Hart successfully organized a Play day. This was enjoyed by many and there are always members asking when the next one will be.

This year our unit had denim shirts designed with the Backcountry Horsemen High Sierra Unit logo embroidered on. These are now being worn by members along with a new unit flag being carried when representing Backcountry Horsemen in local parades. Our members look sharp in their black hats, boots, jeans, and new shirts, and project a professional image to the public.

Our Public Lands Committee, headed by Dick Cochran, has been an invaluable asset to our unit. They have spent numerous hours in meetings with Park or Forest officials and numerous hours of their own time researching issues, with one intention, preserving our historic right to use stock in the backcountry. They have been passionate and staunch advocates of representing our cause to the public agencies that manage our local resources.

The Work Project Committee has been equally committed to putting our goals into action. They have helped organized trail clearing in the Golden Trout Wilderness, and provided extensive resupply logistic support to American Conservation Experience work crews in Sequoia National Park. We want to show our agency partners that we can be depended on to help with the actual work of maintaining our precious resource.

Backcountry Education has also been emphasized, by sponsoring a Novice Pack Trip. Thanks to Nancy Hamill and crew, we are introducing new members (from any unit) to the skills necessary to pack and camp in a gentle use fashion, at a very nominal cost. We still have another ride; play day, and Fall Festival coming up to round out the year. I am proud of our members and what they have accomplished this year, you deserve many thanks.

Rosemary Reeder contributed to the content of this article.



Fall Festival

Our Fall Festival is scheduled for 11-19-11. Rosemary Reeder and Beth Hart have a fun filled day of activities planned, culminating in a potluck dinner with the BBQ being provided by the committee. Watch your mail for info coming soon.

2011 Novice Pack Trip 8/12-15/11

Article By Audrey Turpin



It all started back in April, at Rendezvous. I picked up a flyer that was advertising a Novice Pack Trip sponsored by the High Sierra Unit BCHC. For a minimal amount of money this group invited greenhorns on a trip into the backcountry for four days to teach and literally show them the ropes!! A quick phone call to Nancy Hamill and this very nice lady assured me that indeed they would take us in and teach us how to pack.

Well, sign us up. Best friend Stacy and husband Tim were along for the ride with me as well as our trusty steeds, Tanner, Pete and Joe.

About 2 weeks before we were to leave, we all met for a pre-trip meeting at Lynn Joiner's home, the BCHC State Treasurer. What a great group of people BCHC has. They opened their doors and just made us feel very welcome. We met face to face with Nancy Hamill and Don McDonald, a couple of our teachers in the backcountry. What to bring, what not to bring was all discussed. We were given maps for the area and a very complete and thorough notebook with just about anything and everything someone needed to know to get started packing. Excitement was building and we couldn't wait to begin.

We left our home Thursday morning at 3 am. We were looking at an 8 hour drive with stock, to the Golden Trout Wilderness in the Sequoia National Forest and it has been warm. We arrived at Lewis Camp trailhead about 2pm without a hitch. The trailhead was busy with Forestry packers, because of a backcountry fire and volunteer packers, there to take provisions to the ACE workers. The Forestry packers were taking in food and supplies and packing out trash for the firefighters. This is what BCHC is all about, being of service. At trailhead we meet up with Don McDonald and his sharp looking red mules and very cute horse. To be continued next issue. Or go to our website

Public Lands Update

Our Public Lands Committee, headed by Dick Cochran, has been working very hard this year on our behalf. Just recently they submitted comments concerning the Wilderness Stewardship Plan and Environmental Impact Statement for Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks. We hired the Garden Law Firm, and attorney Kevin Garden to review the plan and submit comments. Those submitted comments, and the ones from our Public Lands Committee are both available for review on the website (http://highsierraunit.org/pdf/Newsletter/Comments_on_Scoping_Notice.pdf). The committee wants to specifically thank Marily Reese for all of the aid and input that she provided. Kevin Stated, "As you will see, I have tried to lay out the legal foundation for the preservation of traditional stock use in the wilderness areas. I also wanted to attach copies of the documents, which I reference because I believe that will have a longer-lasting impact than merely quoting them in the letter.

The committee also provided comments on the Giant Sequoia National Monument Management Plan and The Mineral King Management Plan. Both huge undertakings, but much appreciated. Thank you Dick and committee.

Volunteers Needed

We are always looking for volunteers to help serve on the Board and Committees. We are currently in need of a Newsletter Editor, Spur-of-the-Moment Coordinator and Board Members. Please contact Bob Herrick for information. We need your help.





California Draft Horse and Equipment Sale Coming Up
November 3, 4, and 5 Tulare County Fairgrounds
<http://californiadrafthorseauction.com>

Statewide Activities

Fall State Meeting Schedule

Held at the Visalia Holiday Inn on October 15, 2011

Education & Public Lands Committee Meetings
9:00am – noon

State Board of Director Meeting 1:00 – 5:00pm

Catered Dinner (Hosted by our Unit)

6:00 pm-9:00 pm @ The Farm Bureau Office

737 N. Ben Maddox Way in Visalia

All Unit Members are invited to join us.

We also need help serving and setting up. If
available please give Bill See a call at 737-0978.



Unit Shirts Available

Nice quality long sleeve denim shirts with the High Sierra Unit Logo over the left pocket are available for \$25.00. Call David Van @ 592-3440 for details.

Backcountry Horsemen High Sierra Unit

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[Recipient]

Address Line 1

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