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SIS-Q-TRAILS

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Backcountry Horsemen of California

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



If ever there was a newsletter more chock-full of news of outstanding volunteer work and awards won, I'd be challenged to find it. Our Unit has been busy the past few months, and we have stories, photos and new friendships to prove it.

We've also continued to build our relationships with multiple Klamath National Forest Recreation staff members and the Pacific Crest Trail Association. I met with Ian Nelson, PCTA Regional Representative for Northern California and Southern Oregon, earlier this year and I have been sending him reports of our logout work on the PCT from Grider Creek and Carter Meadows Summit. We look forward to doing more work on the PCT and other area trails this Summer and Fall.

Looking ahead, we're working with the KNF Scott-Salmon District recreation staff to schedule dates for our chainsaw sawyers to go to Big Flat Campground in the southern tip of the KNF. This campground was gravely affected by wildfires in the past years, and the KNF asked our Unit and the Shasta-Trinity Unit to help with bucking downed logs and cleaning up the campground. We're hoping these efforts will evolve into a project to rebuild stock corrals at this campground that has several trails that lead into the Trinity Alps Wilderness. More information can be found here: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/recarea/klamath/recarea/?recid=13102>

All this Spring, our Fish Plant coordinator, Don Menne, has been in touch with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife trying to schedule fish plants. We had four lakes on our schedule, but as of mid-June, Don

was notified that all fish plants, including those with pack stock and with airplanes, were cancelled this year because of concerns about the threatened Cascades Frog. We're disappointed to hear of this cancellation, but we'll continue work with CDFW to hopefully schedule fish plants in 2025. Our July Board of Directors meeting is scheduled for July 11 at the Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center. Due to the July 4 holiday falling on the first Thursday of the month, we decided to move our meeting to the second Thursday. The July 11 meeting will start at 6:30 p.m. so we can have an educational talk about Automated External Defibrillators (AEDs) given by Teri Arwood from Etna Ambulance. Our Unit purchased two refurbished AED machines in May, and all members are invited to come learn how to use them. You might notice that this edition of the newsletter does not feature a membership form. I made the decision to temporarily substitute in our 2025 Rendezvous flyer instead to help promote this great event scheduled for April 11-13, 2025, at the Rolling Hills Equestrian Center in Corning. If you know someone who wants to print out a membership form, direct them to the Forms section on our Unit website: <https://www.tos-bchc.com/forms.html>

Happy trails,

Michele Machado Woods, President and Newsletter Editor



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SIS-Q-TRAILS

A publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California
Top of the State Unit

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DISCLAIMER: Articles and advertisements that appear in SIS-Q-TRAILS do not necessarily reflect the position or opinion of the BCHC, TOS Unit or its officers and members. Nor does publication of said articles and advertisements constitute an endorsement of views or of the goods or services offered therein that they may express. Accuracy of all material is the sole responsibility of the authors. BCHC TOS is not responsible for unsolicited material of any kind.

SUBMISSIONS AND DEADLINES: The Top of the State Unit welcomes new member contributions, club news, events, calendar dates, and items of interest that you wish to have submitted in the next issue of the newsletter. These need to be submitted by the 15th of the month and will be printed as space is available. This newsletter is edited and published four times per year.

Deadline Date:	Publication Date:
March 15 June 15	January 1 April 1
September 15 December 15	July 1 October 1

Send all information (text, photos and/or images) to newsletter editor/publisher mailing or email addresses listed above.

PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

This newsletter is a document of communication that disseminates information of the Top of the State Unit of the BCHC covering schedules, information, philosophy and historical materials pertinent to the participants of the back country of Northern California.

1. Perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
2. Assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resources.
3. Educate, encourage and solicit active participation in wise and sustaining use of the back country by horsemen and the general public.
4. Work to ensure that the public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
5. Foster and encourage the formation of new state backcountry horsemen organizations.

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The Top of the State Unit is online and on Facebook! Important forms, including a membership application, are available for download and printing on the website. Go to tos-bchc.com and click on Forms to see the full list of documents. The Top of the State Unit Facebook page can be found at: <https://en-gb.facebook.com/pg/bchctopofthestate/posts/>

KNF asks for comments on rec fees

Compiled from KNF press release and website

The Klamath National Forest is inviting the public to provide comments on proposed fee changes at 35 developed recreation sites across the forest.

The proposed fee changes include these campgrounds or trailheads often used by our BCHC members for riding, packing and camping:

- **Lovers Camp Trailhead:** Current day use fee: \$0; proposed fee: \$5 day use or \$30 annual day use pass
 - **Note:** Annual passes are honored at ALL day use areas and trailheads within the KNF only.
 - **Hidden Horse Campground:** Current single site fee: \$10 per night; proposed single site fee: \$15 per night
 - **Martins Dairy Horse Campground:** Current single site fee: \$10 per night; proposed single site fee: \$15 per night
 - **Carter Meadows Group Campground:** Current site fee: \$50 per night; proposed site fee: \$100 per night
- The public is invited to comment on the proposed fee changes to the developed recreation program. **The comment period will close end of business on September 1, 2024.** To ensure that your comments are considered, please send your comments no later than the above date to Klamath National Forest, Attention: Kristian Schenk, 1711 South Main St, Yreka, CA 96097 or R5KNFeeProp@usda.gov. Comments can also be provided online at <https://arccg.is/iXXmz>. Oral comments may be provided via phone or in person by appointment only by contacting Kristian Schenk at 530-925-0232. For more information on the proposed project, visit the KNF website at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/klamath/?cid=FSEP RD1176057>.

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Emergency evacuation help list for wildfires or other disasters

Below is our list of Unit members who can take in anyone evacuating with animals (big and small) from wildfires or any other natural disaster. Many of us also have means to help evacuate livestock. We welcome others to join this list.

Scott Valley area:

- Jennifer Bull and Joe Croteau (530) 643-9397
- Gail and John Lyons (530) 467-3137
- Lloyd and Kim Potts (530) 598-3630
- Robert Robustellini (530) 340-5166
- Laurie Robustellini (530) 598-0944
- Barbara Schuyler (916) 947-8258
- Betsy Stapleton (707) 499-7082
- Michael Stapleton (530) 598-6164
- Penny Wells-Thomas (530) 643-1030
- Kelly York (530) 979-6577

Shasta Valley area:

- Debbie Bacigalupi (650) 417-1674
- Jamie Essex (530) 598-8322
- Scott Essex, DVM (541) 892-8905
- Michele Machado Woods (817) 308-0258
- Meredith Miller (530) 598-1169
- Janice Rushton (530) 598-8650
- Dorinda Thompson (530) 598-0870 (cell); (530) 435-0221 (landline)
- Alan Woods (530) 408-8809

Mt. Shasta area:

- Ruth Altes (530) 925-2608
- Susan "Sooz" Waller (530) 859-3294

Three Units help clean trails & campsites at Carter Meadows

Article by Michele Machado Woods

Our now annual Carter Meadows work weekend event was very successful as our crew grew to more than 15 adults and four youth from three BCHC Units (Top of the State, Redwood and Shasta-Trinity). On June 5-9, campers and day volunteers used chainsaws, nippers and other hand tools to clean up the equestrian campgrounds and clear all trails that connect the campgrounds to the trailheads.

We also cleared dozens of blowdown trees on the Trail Gulch and Long Gulch trails, using chainsaws in the non-Wilderness areas and crosscut saws and hand saws in the Trinity Alps Wilderness. Our crews were able to open both trails to the lakes or to where snow still blocked the trail. Lastly, we headed up on the Pacific Crest Trail and cleared more than 20 blowdown trees on about 4 miles of the northbound trail.

All of this work was in cooperation with the Klamath National Forest and helped greatly in allowing the KNF to open the campgrounds to the public in late June. Our overall work earned us recognition from the KNF in a press release, and also aided in our renewed relationship with the Pacific Crest Trail Association.



Above: Larry and Alan clear blowdown trees off the Long Gulch trail.

Below: Deana, Jeff and Larry roll a large log piece off the Long Gulch trail.

Photos by Michele Machado Woods



Above: Larry, Kyle, Jeff and Alan clear a blowdown at Hidden Horse campground. Right photo: Alan works on cutting a very large Red Fir blowdown off the PCT.

Photos by Michele Machado Woods



Caralee, left, and Penny, right present our scholarship to McKenzie Bacon of Etna HS. Photo by Penny Wells-Thomas

Work with horses helps earn EHS senior our 2024 \$1000 scholarship

Article by Michele Machado Woods

The Top of the State Unit announced in early May that our 2024 Memorial Scholarship winner is Etna High School senior McKenzie Bacon. McKenzie stood out, in part, because of her love of horses and her time volunteering with equine therapy program Stable Hands in Yreka.

She trained two Mustangs for her senior project this year.

McKenzie will use her \$1000 scholarship to attend BYU Idaho in Rexburg, Idaho, where she plans to study animal science in hopes of becoming a Veterinary Technician. She also hopes to become a horse trainer some day and start a program like Stable Hands.

Thank you to our Scholarship Committee, Caralee Scala and Penny Wells-Thomas for your work in evaluating our applicants this year. We had six total applicants.

BCHC Top of the State Unit Activities for 2024

Please watch the Unit website, Facebook page and Unit emails for continued updates.

July-Sept.	Work party projects, TBD	October 3	BOD Meeting, location TBD
July 6	Rendezvous planning meeting, Red Bluff	October 4-5	BCHC State BOD meeting, Corning
July 11	BOD Meeting, Fort Jones	October 19	Halloween Obstacle event, Big Springs
August 3	No BOD Meeting	November 7	Membership Meeting, Fort Jones
August 7-11	Siskiyou Golden Fair, Yreka	December 5	BOD Meeting, location TBD
September 5	BOD Meeting, Fort Jones	December 7	Christmas dinner, Fort Jones
September 21	Deer Mountain trail ride	December TBD	Fort Jones Christmas parade

Visit the Top of the State Unit website ([tos-bchc.com](https://www.bchc.com)) or Facebook site (<https://www.facebook.com/bchctopofthestate>) for events and much more.

PCT at Grider Creek safer after two workdays

Article by Michele Machado Woods

According to many Seiad Valley locals and Pacific Crest Trail through and section hikers, the portion of the PCT from the Marble Mountains Wilderness boundary to the Grider Creek trailhead was a mess of blowdown trees and eroded trail that made it unsafe for hikers and equestrians/packers.

Our Unit leadership heard about these conditions two years ago and have since worked with the Klamath National Forest and PCTA to help clear blowdowns starting at the Grider Creek trailhead to about 8 miles southbound to the 45N72X spur/Cliff Valley area.

On April 19 and again on May 24, Unit members Alan, Michele and Jeff, and Seiad locals Brian and Mike, cleared about 50 trees, large and small, from the trail. Most of these trees fell after being burned or damaged in the Happy Camp Complex Fire in 2014. Many of these trees have been on or

across the trail for years. While the trail still needs more work to be safe for all users, these efforts helped prep the trail for an American Conservation Experience (ACE) crew that was scheduled to do three 8-day hitches on the PCT southbound out of Grider Creek TH on June 12. We look forward to doing more work on the PCT in the future.



Alan Woods (all photos) did the bulk of the chainsaw work.
Photos courtesy of Michele Machado Woods



Robustellini selected Top Hand for 2023

Nomination by President Michele Machado Woods:

Robert Robustellini is a long-time Top of the State Unit member and is our Unit's Work Party leader. He was instrumental in organizing and communicating with our Klamath National Forest partners throughout 2023. Robert took lead or helped a great deal on several work parties and trail clearing efforts, including our two-day corral build and cleanup at Grider Creek Campground and our three-day corral repair and trail work at Carter Meadows. Robert also helped lead educational events, including our Mule Appreciation event in June and the Siskiyou Agricultural Awareness day (packing demo/game with area 4th graders) in May. Robert coordinated our CPR/First Aid class in April as well. To round out the year, Robert procured some really great raffle items from local businesses for our Unit's Christmas Party/Dinner in December. Robert made so many of our events and efforts better in 2023.



Michele presents Robert with his 2023 Top Hand award.
Photo by Penny Wells-Thomas

Spring was a busy time for Unit events, awards



Left: Kyle Adkins helps challenge area fourth graders with adding items to packing panniers and weighing them at the Siskiyou Agriculture Awareness Day on May 16. Thank you, Debbie, Caralee, Robert, Kathryn, Kyle and Ashley for volunteering your time for this event.
Right: On April 11, BCHC honored long-time Top of the State Unit member, Virgil Hardy, for his many years of service in Public Lands. Virgil was our Fish Plant coordinator and an essential Unit leader until his passing in 2021. Cindy McMurry presented the award to Virgil's widow, Linda Hardy, left.

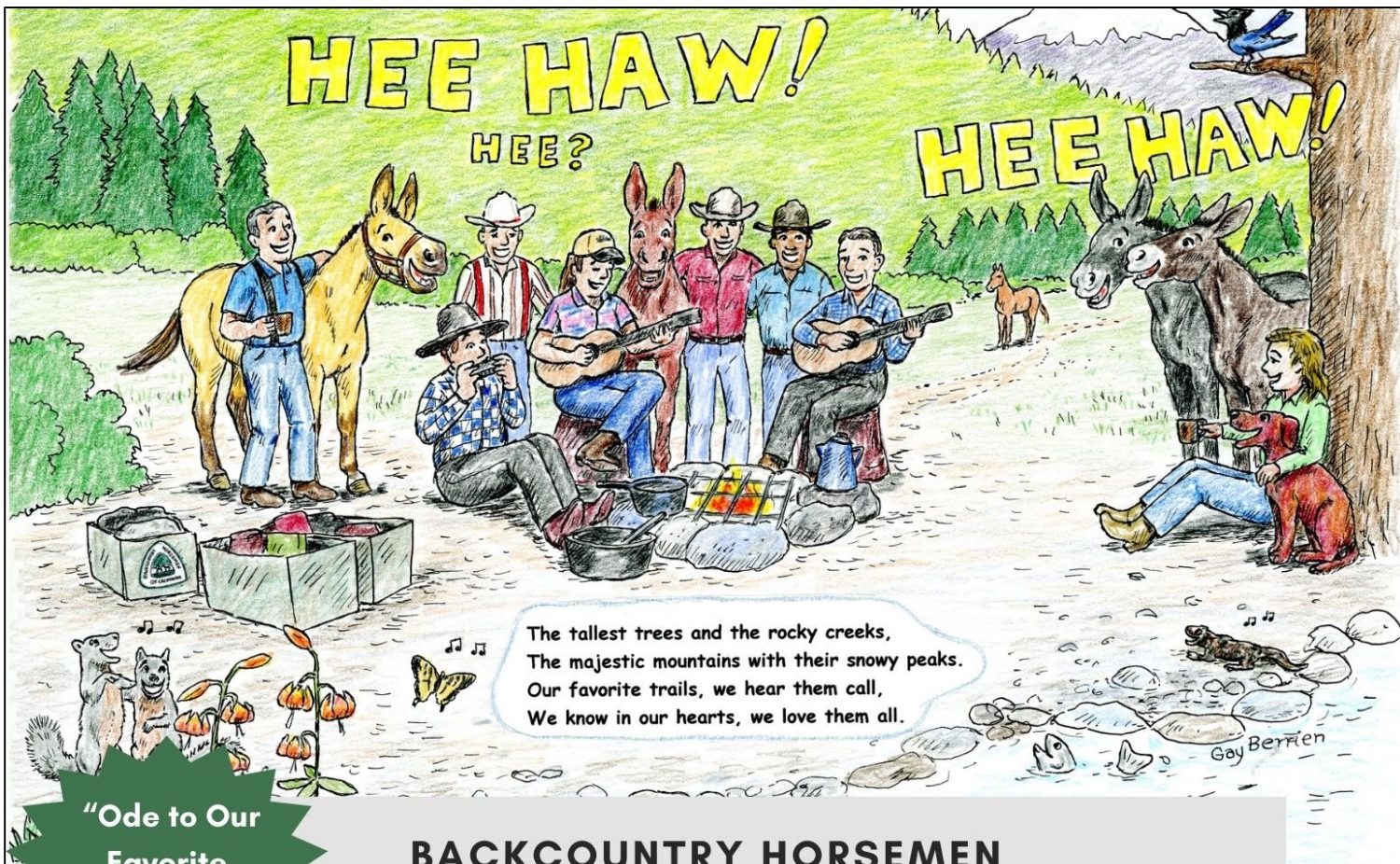


Left: The weather was great for our Spring tune-up at Mill Creek Ranch on May 11! We had 16 friendly faces enjoying everything from obstacles to the creek trail to a splash in the pond! Thank you, Kim and Lloyd Potts for hosting us!

Middle: Thanks so much to the six riders who represented our Unit in the Etna Rodeo Parade on May 5.

Right: Our Highway cleanup crew of Michael Stapleton, Penny Wells-Thomas, Sandy Mason, John and Gail Lyons and Penny's friend, Gina, picked up 10 bags of trash on Highway 3 on April 7 in Etna to earn \$250 from CalTrans.

Photos courtesy of Michael Stapleton, Kelly York, Michele Machado Woods and Debbie Bacigalupi



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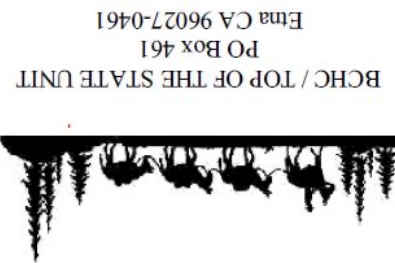
RV spots and horse/mule stalls available at facility

Reach out for more information:

Rendezvous Chairman: Larry Shuman, (530) 526-0590, lshuman62@gmail.com

Vendor Coordinator: Cindy McMurphy, (530) 640-0429, mcmurphyindy@gmail.com





CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Meetings are the first Thursday of the month.

Please watch the TOS Unit website, Facebook page and Unit emails for continued updates.

July Events:

- July 6: 2025 Rendezvous planning meeting, 11 a.m., Carlito's Restaurant, Red Bluff
- July 11: Board of Directors Meeting and AED training, 6:30 p.m., Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center
- July TBD: Big Flat Campground chainsaw and cleanup workday(s), work information to come

August Events:

- August 3: No Board of Directors Meeting
- August 7-11: Siskiyou Golden Fair, Yreka

September Events:

- September 5: Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m. Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center
- September 21: Deer Mountain trail ride, 9:30 a.m.