

VOLUME 28,  
ISSUE 1  
First Quarter, 2024

# SIS-Q-TRAILS

www.bchc-tos.com

Backcountry Horsemen of California

## TOP OF THE STATE UNIT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



The 2023 Annual Report will be submitted to the Backcountry Horsemen of California in January 2024. 2023 was an exciting year for our Unit as we organized and completed some important trail and campground cleanup and maintenance work in our area forests and renewed and made new friendships with members from the BCHC Shasta-Trinity and Redwood Units.

**BCHC Top of the State Unit 2023 Annual Report:** January and February featured no Unit events other than two Board of Directors meetings. Unit Volunteer Hours chairperson, Kelly York, sent in our 2022 Volunteer Hours on January 16. Unit Treasurer, Caralee Scala, reported at our February BOD meeting that she sent in our 2022 financial report to BCHC as required.

Due to a busy work schedule, I, as your Unit President, did not attend the Backcountry Horsemen of California Spring State Board meeting on February 4 in Visalia, but I sent our Unit proxy with Laura Rodger, President of the Shasta-Trinity Unit.

On March 2, we had our first of two Membership meetings for the year. At that meeting, Dr. Scott Essex, DVM, and Jamie Essex talked for about an hour about the importance of equine dentals and other spring equine needs. The talk, followed by an informal Q&A, was very informative. Also at this meeting, we approved our 2023 budget.

On March 18, Unit members and guests gathered in Fort Jones for our annual Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner. What an amazing turn out!

It was such a great turn out that I (as your Unit newsletter editor) forgot to take pictures because I was enjoying visiting with everyone! We had about 60 attendees, including guests from the Klamath National Forest and the BCHC Shasta-Trinity Unit. Your Unit leadership members always look forward to dinner events because it's one of the best times to visit with old and new members and really celebrate friendships.

2023 saw the return of the BCHC Max and Irene Cochran Journalism Award. We learned on March 29, after the 2023 Rendezvous in Temecula, that we won this award for our 2022 newsletters.

We were thrilled to have our signed Volunteer Service Agreement in place with the Klamath National Forest by March 30 so we could start planning much needed work parties for the Spring and Summer.

April and May really saw an uptick in our Unit activities and that momentum lasted into Summer and Fall.

On April 15, Michael Stapleton organized a Highway Cleanup along our designated stretch of Highway 3. We had a crew of four including Michael, Betsy Stapleton, Erica Fruht and Penny Wells-Thomas. We were able to gather up nine bags of trash, which earned our Unit \$250 from Cal Trans.

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## SIS-Q-TRAILS

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

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**Publication Information:** The SIS-Q-TRAILS Top of the State Unit newsletter is published quarterly. It is an independent publication with news and information of interest to Top of the State Unit members.

**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 15<sup>th</sup> of the month and will be printed as space is available. This newsletter is edited and published four times per year.

<b>Deadline Date:</b>	<b>Publication Date:</b>
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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Caralee Scala (530) 459-5788

## JOIN OUR LEADERSHIP!

If any members are interested in filling our vacant Board of Directors spots or helping chair any of the positions listed above, please reach out to your Unit President or Vice President. We welcome all members to get more involved in the leadership of our Unit.



## Welcome New Members

Mike & Kim Leckness  
Erin Newlin  
Rebecca Schenone

### Unit tool trailer up for bids

Our Unit has an old tool trailer that is no longer usable. We are opening a bid/offer window from January 1-March 16, 2024, to take offers for the trailer. It is not road worthy in its current state and the winning bidder will need to arrange for pickup at Gail and John Lyons' house. If we don't have any offers/bids by March 16, the trailer will be a silent auction item at our March 16 Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner. To view the trailer or to ask questions, please contact Gail Lyons at (530) 467-3137 or Robert Robustellini at (530) 468-5636. Call in or text bids/offers to Unit Treasurer, Caralee Scala, at (530) 459-5788.

### You are my Sunshine, my only Sunshine

Did you we have a Sunshine Chairperson? Sherry Glendenning is in charge of "Sunshine" for our Unit, and she is kind enough to send out cards by mail to members for happy events or times of injury, illness or grief. If you know a member who is deserving of a card, please contact Sherry at (530) 598-7466 or [sherhorse@sisqtel.net](mailto:sherhorse@sisqtel.net)

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- Each time you book travel a portion of the travel commissions will go to support BCHC!

*It's that simple!*

## 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

# Spring and Summer were our Unit's busiest months

## Continued from page 1

In late April, three Unit members (Kelly, Kyle Adkins and Ashley Adkins) represented our Unit in the Etna Rodeo parade.

Also in April, about 10 Unit members attended a First Aid/CPR class at Etna Ambulance to get certified or recertified for the first time since COVID-19 hit.

This class paved the way for our sawyers to get recertified for chainsaw at Grider Creek Campground in May and crosscut saw at Carter Meadows in June.

On May 5 and 6, our Unit planned a work party at Grider Creek Campground to install one metal horse corral. Unfortunately, the site where we planned to put the corral was too rocky and difficult to dig for post holes, so we had to put our corral build on hold.

However, the weekend was not a waste as three of our members (Alan Woods, Robert Robustellini and Bill Bradshaw) demonstrated to Klamath National Forest Sawyer Instructor, Jason Murieen, their chainsaw skills to get recertified. We also cleaned up a very large Douglas Fir that was previously cut down by the Forest Service in one of the campgrounds.

We had several families with young children join our Unit this year, and our May 13 arena playday at the Stapleton's French Creek Ranch was the perfect event for our new members to get their kids out to ride and have fun on their mules, horses and ponies! The event was complete with a BBQ potluck dinner.

Education is a big part of the Backcountry Horsemen of California mission, and, on May 17, our Unit members attended the Siskiyou Agriculture Awareness Day at the fairgrounds to teach area fourth graders about packing and pack stock. We challenged the students to fill a pack box and weigh it to make sure boxes were balanced.

Thanks to Robert, Debbie Bacigalupi, Kyle, Ashley, Caralee, and Bill Roberts for being such great teachers.

**Continued on page 5**



**Kyle Adkins and Caralee Scala help with the box weighing at Siskiyou Agriculture Awareness Day in May.**  
Photo courtesy of Debbie Bacigalupi



**Dr. Scott Essex, DVM, gave an informative talk about equine dentistry at our March Membership meeting.**  
Photo courtesy of Michele Machado Woods



**Michael, Betsy, Penny and Erica at our highway cleanup.**  
Photo courtesy of Penny Wells-Thomas



**Fun games for the youngsters at our May playday.**  
Photo courtesy of Michele Machado Woods



# BCHC Top of the State Unit Activities for 2024

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

January 4	BOD Meeting, Fort Jones	June-August	Work party projects in cooperation with Klamath Nation Forest, TBD
February 1	BOD Meeting, location TBD	July 11	BOD Meeting, Fort Jones
February 2-3	BCHC BOD Meeting, location TBD	August 3	No BOD Meeting
February 24	Leadership training, location TBD	August 7-11	Siskiyou Golden Fair, Yreka
March 7	Membership Meeting, Fort Jones	September 5	BOD Meeting, Fort Jones
March 16	Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner, Fort Jones	October 3	BOD Meeting, location TBD
March 22-23	BCHC Rendezvous, Ceres CA	October	BCHC BOD meeting, location TBD
March/April	Grider Creek corral build, TBD	October 19	Halloween Obstacle event, Big Springs
April 4	BOD Meeting, location TBD	November 7	Membership Meeting, Fort Jones
May 2	BOD Meeting, Fort Jones	December 5	BOD Meeting, location TBD
June 6	BOD Meeting, location TBD	December 7	Christmas dinner, Fort Jones

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

## Education and trail work were a priority in 2023

### Continued from page 4

Our Unit is very fortunate to have many mule “experts” and riders, so we scheduled a Mule Appreciation Day on June 11 to share our love and knowledge about mules, including mule tack, packing equipment, mule anatomy and mule hoof trimming and shoeing. Thanks to Bill, Laurie Robustellini, Alan, and Robert for lending your knowledge and stories. We take pride in hosting family-friendly events, especially when we can pass on our love of equines, packing and trails to youth.

On June 23-26, about 12 Top of the State Unit members, five Shasta-Trinity Unit members and one Redwood Unit member camped at the Carter Meadows Group Equestrian Campground or drove up for the day to repair damaged corrals and clean up the campground at Hidden Horse. We also cleared about 20 downfall trees from the trails that connect the campgrounds to the Trail Gulch and Long Gulch trailheads.



**Shasta-Trinity Unit sawyer Sam Burrows cuts one of many trees that fell on the PCT. Photo courtesy of Michele Machado Woods**

To complete the weekend work, we headed up on the Pacific Crest Trail and cleared approximately 40 downfall logs in a 5-mile stretch on the northbound route starting at Carter Meadows summit. This work party weekend was a great example of how North State BCHC Unit members with a passion for our equine campgrounds and trails can work together with our Forest Service partners to get a lot of work done in a short time.

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**Bill and Robert teach about packing at our Mule event. Photo courtesy of Brad Ish**



# Activities didn't slow down as the year came to a close

## Continued from page 5

At our July Board of Directors meeting, Braden Herman, Justin Garwood and Adam McKannay, Environmental Scientists with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, gave a talk about "Mountain Lakes Sustainable Fishery and Sensitive Resource Management Strategy" that provided information about the Cascades Frog and the future of our Fish Plant program. We did not plant any trout fingerlings in 2023, but we hope to resume fish plants in 2024. On July 21 and 22, members from the Top of the State, Shasta-Trinity and Redwood Units teamed up to clear deadfall off the PCT from Gumboot Trailhead to Parks Creek Trailhead and on to Cement Bluff. In two days, our team cleared more than four dozen logs from approximately 16 miles of trail using pack stock and hiking on foot. Also in July, Ed and Kathryn Matthews and members of their family were packed into the Marble Mountain Wilderness to repaint English Peak Lookout, a former fire lookout that is now a Historical Structure. For the second time in as many Siskiyou Golden Fairs (August 2021 and August 2023), our Unit earned Best in Show for our feature booth that was decorated for the theme "Siskiyou Nights and Carnival Lights". Debbie conceived the idea on how to illustrate the theme with our BCH mission in mind. Debbie got help constructing the booth from mom, Donna, as well as Caralee and Robert.

At our September 7 Board of Directors meeting, Unit website manager Kathryn Matthews reported that we had a new web hosting site (GoDaddy) and new domain name: [www.tos-bchc.com](http://www.tos-bchc.com). On September 16, nine riders enjoyed a 4-mile group ride at Deer Mountain that included warm weather and a fun game where the riders collected cards from two different "stations" along the trail. After the ride we gathered for a potluck lunch and new member, Shelly



**Michele and Alan work on a very large tree on the PCT in July.**  
Photo courtesy of KA Snure

Leasure, won the card game and a gift certificate for Mill Creek Ranch. On October 21, Alan and I hosted our fourth annual Halloween Obstacle Course challenge. This year we had almost 30 riders, including several youth. All of the riders experienced several new "scary" obstacles that really got the horses' and mules' attention. At our November meeting, our second Membership meeting of the year, we discussed two soon to be vacant Board spots and voted to search for new BOD members among our newer, young members. We'll continue this process to fill our board in early 2024.

On December 2, about 35 members and guests gathered for our annual Christmas dinner in Fort Jones. This year we returned to the potluck format, and it was a hit! Finally, on December 9, our Unit had the honor of again presenting the colors at the start of the Fort Jones Christmas parade.

**Happy trails & Happy New Year,**  
**Michele Machado Woods,**  
**Unit President**



**Our fair feature booth.**  
Photo by Michele Machado Woods



**Kelly York, Erica Fruiht and Shirley Tickner carry the colors in the Fort Jones Christmas parade.**  
Photo courtesy of Kelly York

# Backcountry Horsemen of California



**MAIL TO:** BCHC  
MEMBERSHIP  
1280 State Rt. 208  
Yerington, NV 89447

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

### PARENT UNIT AFFILIATION: (Select and CHECK a Unit as your Affiliation)

☐ New ☐ Renewal  
☐ Change

☐ Antelope Valley  
☐ Eastern Sierra  
☐ High Country  
☐ High Sierra  
☐ Kern River Valley  
☐ Kern Sierra

☐ Lake-Mendo  
☐ Los Padres  
☐ Manzanita Riders  
☐ Mid Valley  
☐ Motherlode  
☐ North Bay

☐ Pacific Crest  
☐ Redshank Riders  
☐ Redwood  
☐ San Joaquin Sierra  
☐ Santa Ana River  
☐ Sequoia

☐ Shasta Trinity  
☐ Sierra Freepackers  
☐ Sutter Buttes  
☒ Top of the State

DCTR (Your Membership Number): \_\_\_\_\_

MEMBER'S NAME - No Business Names, Print Clearly

SPOUSE/CO-MEMBER'S NAME - MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Street Address/PO Box

City State Zip Code (full 9 digits if known) Area Code Phone Number

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (Tax deductible) \_\_\_\_\_ Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

### Parent Unit Membership Types (Check One)

☐ 1 Year Individual \$50  
☐ 2 Year Individual \$90  
☐ 3 Year Individual \$125

☐ 1 Year Family \$60  
☐ 2 Year Family \$110  
☐ 3 Year Family \$150

☐ Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15  
☐ Youth (12-17 years old) \$15\*  
\*Youth members MUST fill out BOTH  
Youth Membership forms (available online)

☐ Benefactor \$100  
☐ Patron \$250  
☐ Mt. Whitney \$500

### Associate Memberships: An Additional \$15 PER UNIT is added to your Parent Unit Dues

Associate Memberships Unit Affiliations MAY NOT BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/Unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15/Unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Add additional choices here

**Please clip form along dashed line and keep the below portion for your records.**

### Parent BCHC Membership Types

Individual, Family, (Shared\*\*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt. Whitney

A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit.  
BCHC Members may NOT hold more than ONE active Parent  
Membership.

\*\*A SHARED Membership if for two adults with differing last names  
who share a common address.

### Associate Memberships

These special Memberships are only available to persons already  
holding Parent BCHC Membership. No one may sign up for an  
Associate Membership without 1) having registered one of the  
Parent Membership types, and 2) having selected Parent Unit  
affiliation.

### Youth Memberships

Youth Memberships MUST be accompanied by a signed Youth  
Membership Permission Release and Youth Parent Permission  
Form. A Youth Membership is NOT valid until BCHC or the  
Parent Unit has received signed copies of these forms.

**Complete information regarding BCHC Membership  
is available on the MEMBERSHIP TAB at  
bchcalifornia.org or call (775) 463-3634**

### KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

☐ 1 Year Individual \$50  
☐ 2 Year Individual \$90  
☐ 3 Year Individual \$125  
☐ 1 Year Family \$60  
☐ 2 Year Family \$110  
☐ 3 Year Family \$150  
☐ Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15  
☐ Youth (12-17 years old) \$15\*  
☐ Benefactor \$100  
☐ Patron \$250  
☐ Mt. Whitney \$500

On that form, I also requested:

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Memberships \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My Total Remittance: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

My Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date Mailed: \_\_\_\_\_

### Verification of BCHC Membership

Verification of BCHC  
Membership is  
available via:

- 1) BCHC Unit  
President's reports
- 2) BCHC Membership  
Chair reports
- 3) a self addressed  
stamped envelope  
submitted with this  
form
- 4) a valid email address

BCHC / TOP OF THE STATE UNIT  
PO Box 461  
Etna CA 96027-0461



## **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.**

### **January Events:**

- January 4: Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m., Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center

### **February Events:**

- February 1: Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m. Yreka, location TBD
- February 2-3: BCHC BOD Meeting, location TBD (likely Visalia, CA)
- February 24: BCHC North Units Leadership training, location TBD

### **March Events:**

- March 7: Membership meeting, 7 p.m., Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center
- March 16: Corned Beef & Cabbage dinner, 5:30 p.m. Happy Hour, 6:30 p.m. potluck dinner, Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center
- March 22-23: BCHC Rendezvous, Ceres CA