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Second Quarter, 2024

# SIS-Q-TRAILS

www.bchc-tos.com

Backcountry Horsemen of California

## TOP OF THE STATE UNIT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We're early in the year, but we already have quite a slate of events coming up, especially in May and June. A few of these events are in partnership with the Klamath National Forest, including a campground and trail maintenance weekend at the Carter Meadows equestrian campgrounds on June 6-9. During those days we'll be doing any required repairs and cleanup at Hidden Horse Campground and the Group Campground, then logging out the access trails that connect the campgrounds to the Trail Gulch and Long Gulch trailheads. We'll also head north on the Pacific Crest Trail, where we'll work to clear logs to at least the Syphon Lake cut-off, or all the way to Syphon Lake, if possible.

### **Please let me know if you can join us for this event.**

Speaking of Syphon Lake, it and at least two other lakes (Cliff and Summit) are on our "wish list" for fish plants this year, in cooperation with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Dates for fish plants have not been scheduled yet, but look for more information soon. Don Menne will again lead our fish plant efforts this year.

As we gain new members, the interest in training new chainsaw and crosscut sawyers grows. This year, there will be several opportunities with our Unit and the Shasta-Trinity Unit to get certified. **Please see page 5** for more information about upcoming certification dates and locations. Unit members must be certified with the U.S. Forest Service to help with work parties where we are logging out trails and campgrounds.

Before a new or returning sawyer can get certified, they must also be

trained in CPR/First Aid. We are working with Etna Ambulance again this year to schedule a CPR/First Aid training, likely in April.

Also in April, Adopt-a-Highway Cleanup chairperson, Michael Stapleton, has scheduled our annual Spring cleanup for 9 a.m. on April 7 on our stretch of Highway 3 in Etna. Please RSVP to Michael at (530) 598-6164 so he can buy enough cinnamon rolls (YUM!!).

On May 5, our Unit is planning to participate in the Etna Rodeo Parade. Please reach out to Kelly at (530) 979-6577 to let her know if you can ride or walk in the parade. Riders who can carry flags are always welcome.

On May 16, our Unit is scheduled to teach area fourth graders about horses, mules and packing basics at the Siskiyou Agriculture Awareness Day at the Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds in Yreka (9 a.m.-12:15 p.m.). We need volunteers again this year. Please reach out to Debbie Bacigalupi at (650) 417-1674 if you can help. Free BBQ lunch will be provided at the end of the event.

Finally, I'd like to welcome Kyle Adkins as a new Board Member for our Unit. Kyle and his family have been members for about 1 year and they have participated in several events and been big contributors to work parties since joining. THANKS, Kyle, for agreeing to be a part of our leadership.

**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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**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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[muletrackstoo@gmail.com](mailto:muletrackstoo@gmail.com)

### YOUTH WILDERNESS PROGRAM

Caralee Scala (530) 459-5788

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](http://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/>



## Welcome New Members

Jeff McCabe  
Rick Zylstra

### Memorial Scholarship info

The Top of the State Unit is offering a \$1,000 scholarship to be applied to the costs of post high school training in the field of agriculture or natural resources (including forestry).

This scholarship may be used at a community college, business college, technical institute, trade school, state college or university.

The Scholarship will be awarded in two payments upon receipt of proof of full-time enrollment at the college or school of choice: \$500 for the Fall semester and \$500 for the Spring semester.

The applicant must be graduating from a high school in Siskiyou County and be planning to continue his/her education in the fall or spring term following graduation. Applicant must have a minimum grade point average of 2.0.

Applications can be downloaded here:

<https://www.tos-bchc.com/forms.html>

Applications must be **postmarked by April 13, 2024**, and mailed to: Top of the State Unit, Backcountry Horsemen of CA P.O. Box 461 Etna, CA 96027

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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



# New corral finally in at Grider Creek CG

**Article by Michele Machado Woods**

Thanks to the hard work of Unit members Robert, Alan, Michael and Kyle, and our dedicated Klamath National Forest partners, there is again a stock corral at Grider Creek Campground. The crew completed the build, with strong metal panels provided by KNF, on March 20-21. Grider Creek campground is where northbound Pacific Crest Trail hikers emerge from a long trek through the Marble Mountain Wilderness and head for "civilization" and restocking in the small town of the Seiad Valley. It also, in the past, featured wooden stock corrals that were destroyed by blowdown trees and creek flooding. This corral build project originated with an email to the KNF Happy Camp/Oak Knoll District office in July 2022 to inquire about the condition of the PCT between Paradise Lake and Grider Creek campground and the state of the stock corrals at Grider Creek. Our Unit was assisting a European couple who was riding the PCT on their BLM mustangs and we needed to know if the PCT was passable or if we needed to advise them to leave the PCT at Paradise Lake.

When we learned the corrals at Grider Creek were not usable, we initiated plans to rebuild at least one of the corrals. Through our partnership with the KNF, we initially tried to install a metal corral on May 5-6, 2023. Unfortunately, the site where we had 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 until a vault toilet could be removed to create a more suitable site. Also, on March 20, Alan cleared 22 blowdown trees from just a ¼-mile stretch of the PCT. We'll get back up to Grider Creek in April to continue log-out work on the PCT southbound in hopes of opening the trail to the Marble Mountain Wilderness boundary.



**Our crew of (l-r) Kyle, Michael, Robert and Alan worked hard to get the corral welded and cemented in. Alan also cut more than 20 logs off the Pacific Crest Trail (bottom right photo) Photos by Michael Stapleton and Alan Woods**





# BCHC Top of the State Unit Activities for 2024

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

April 4	BOD Meeting, location TBD	August 3	No BOD Meeting
May 2	BOD Meeting, Fort Jones	August 7-11	Siskiyou Golden Fair, Yreka
May 5	Etna Rodeo Parade, Etna	September 5	BOD Meeting, Fort Jones
May 16	Siskiyou Ag Awareness Day, Yreka	October 3	BOD Meeting, location TBD
May 13-18	Chainsaw certification, TBD	October	BCHC BOD meeting, location TBD
June 6	BOD Meeting, location TBD	October 19	Halloween Obstacle event, Big Springs
June 6-9	Carter Meadows Work Party campout	November 7	Membership Meeting, Fort Jones
June-August	Work party projects, TBD	December 5	BOD Meeting, location TBD
July 11	BOD Meeting, Fort Jones	December 7	Christmas dinner, Fort Jones

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.

## Chainsaw & crosscut certification dates

Unit members have several opportunities to be certified on crosscut saw and/or chainsaw this spring. Our Unit is working to schedule a chainsaw certification for new and returning sawyers the week of May 13. This event is in coordination with Klamath National Forest sawyer trainer, Jason Murieen. More information will be shared as we set the dates and locations. New sawyers will need to attend a classroom session in Yreka before field training. Once certified, sawyer cards are valid for three years. Dan Chartier with the Shasta-Trinity Unit is also hosting crosscut and chainsaw training (see below) in Shasta/Trinity counties. If you plan to attend Dan's sessions, email your contact info to [dr.outfittin53@gmail.com](mailto:dr.outfittin53@gmail.com) and go to <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1nz33WuoaVUWfBiOkNmQUUN3Fr-H94en0/view> to fill out a BCHC application.

### Sawyer Certification

Certification is required by USFS to work on BCHC trail crews

#### X-cut Saw certification

April 9 – Classroom – Dan Chartiers barn

April 10 – 11 – Field Evaluation – Weaverville – USFS barn



#### Chainsaw Certification – 2 Dates

April 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> – Classroom – Dan Chartier barn

Field Evaluation – BLM Cloverdale trail head

May 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> – Dan Chartier Barn

Field Evaluation – Preacher Meadows Campground



Send your contact information – Name, Email, phone to:

Dan Chartier: ....[dr.outfittin53@gmail.com](mailto:dr.outfittin53@gmail.com)



Alan Woods was certified in 2023 (top) on chainsaw so he could help with trail clearing in the summer. Photos courtesy of Michele Machado Woods





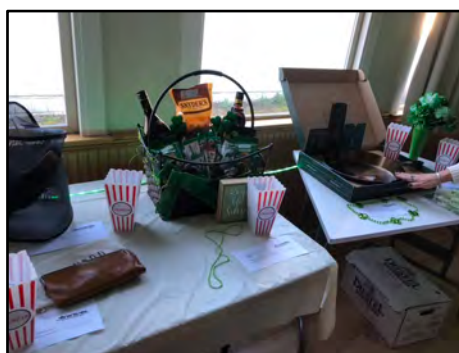
# St. Patrick's Day dinners never disappoint



**More than 60 members and guests enjoyed corned beef and other potluck dishes.  
Photo courtesy of Michele Machado Woods**



**Tables were very festive for St. Patrick's Day.  
Photo courtesy of Michele Machado Woods**



**Thanks to everyone who donated  
items for the raffle.  
Photo by Michele Machado Woods**

## **Article by Michele Machado Woods**

Dinners have long been one of our Unit's most popular events and this year's St. Patrick's Day Corned Beef and Cabbage potluck dinner on March 16 was no exception.

More than 60 members and guests gathered at the Fort Jones City Hall and Community Center and the food and visiting did not disappoint.

We also had more than a dozen donated desserts and cookies that we auctioned off, a few for more than \$80.

Likewise, our members were very generous in donating about a dozen items or getting donations from local businesses for a very popular raffle.

We also had one silent auction item, an old tool trailer, that was won for the bargain price of \$100. With the dessert auction, silent auction and raffle, our Unit earned enough money to cover the \$1000 scholarship we are

awarding to an area high school graduate this spring.

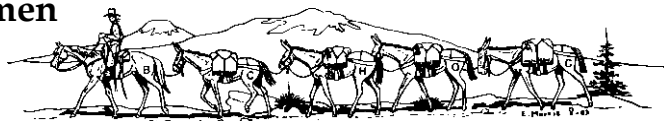
Big thanks go out to Shirley, Judy, Erica, Sherry, Gail, Robert, Donna and Debbie for helping to set up the tables and chairs and for decorating tables and the hall.

Thanks also to Keith Thomas and Penny Wells-Thomas for cooking some amazing corned beef!

Raffle donations were provided by Shirley, Michele, Alan, Janice, Donna, Debbie, Dennis, Scott and Jamie and new member Rick. We also had a lovely gift basket donated by Five Marys and a clock/pen holder donated by Cliff's Trophies.

We hope to see everyone back for our Christmas dinner in December.

# Backcountry Horsemen of California



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

## MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

- |  |   |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Antelope Valley   | <input type="checkbox"/> Lake-Mendo       | <input type="checkbox"/> Pacific Crest      | <input type="checkbox"/> Shasta Trinity     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Eastern Sierra    | <input type="checkbox"/> Los Padres       | <input type="checkbox"/> Redshank Riders    | <input type="checkbox"/> Sierra Freepackers |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Country      | <input type="checkbox"/> Manzanita Riders | <input type="checkbox"/> Redwood            | <input type="checkbox"/> Sutter Buttes      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> High Sierra       | <input type="checkbox"/> Mid Valley       | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin Sierra | <input type="checkbox"/> Top of the State   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kern River Valley | <input type="checkbox"/> Motherlode       | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Ana River    |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Kern Sierra       | <input type="checkbox"/> North Bay        | <input type="checkbox"/> Sequoia            |   |

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)

- |  |  |   |  |
|--|--|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family \$60  | <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) \$15                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor \$100  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual \$90  | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family \$110 | <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old) \$15*                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Patron \$250      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual \$125 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family \$150 | *Youth members MUST fill out BOTH Youth Membership forms (available online) |  |
|  |  |   | <input type="checkbox"/> 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](http://bchcalifornia.org) or call (775) 463-3634**

### KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new -

- |  |              |
|--|--------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Individual             | <b>\$50</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Individual             | <b>\$90</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Individual             | <b>\$125</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 Year Family                 | <b>\$60</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Year Family                 | <b>\$110</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 3 Year Family                 | <b>\$150</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Young Adult (18-25 years old) | <b>\$15</b>  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Youth (12-17 years old)       | <b>\$15*</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor                    | <b>\$100</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron                        | <b>\$250</b> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mt. Whitney                   | <b>\$500</b> |

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.**

### **April Events:**

- April 4: Board of Directors Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Natalee Thai Restaurant, Yreka

### **May Events:**

- May 2: Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m., Fort Jones City Hall/Community Center
- May 5: Etna Rodeo Parade, time TBD, Etna
- May 13-18: Chainsaw certification, dates and field location TBD; classroom instruction in Yreka
- May 16: Siskiyou Agriculture Awareness Day, 9 a.m., Siskiyou Golden Fairgrounds, Yreka

### **June Events:**

- June 6: Board of Directors Meeting, time and location TBD
- June 6-9: Carter Meadows Work Party campout, Group Equestrian campground
- June TBD: Work party projects in cooperation with Klamath Nation Forest, TBD