

**VOLUME 27,
ISSUE 4
Fourth Quarter, 2023**

SIS-Q-TRAILS

www.bchc-tos.com

Backcountry Horsemen of California

TOP OF THE STATE UNIT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



How is summer already over? It sure flew by, due in part to all the great work our members got done on area trails, campgrounds and even at English Peak Lookout (see story, page 5).

I'm so proud of the collaborative effort we've seen this year working with like-minded BCHC members from other Northern California Units (see story, page 4). I'm hoping later this year to meet with our Klamath National Forest partners and perhaps other volunteer groups in our area to see how we can collaborate more next year and into the future to get the most and best work done on trails and at campgrounds. Stay tuned for more information and ways you can get involved.

Speaking of getting involved, have you ever thought about joining our Unit Board of Directors? The commitment is for two years for full Board Members and one year for Alternates. Directors are expected to take lead on select projects/initiatives and bring great new ideas to the table.

Reach out to me by phone or email (see page 2) if you want to learn more. Our BOD elections will be at the November monthly meeting, and we are taking nominations now. You can self nominate.

This year we were not able to do any fish plants in our area wilderness lakes and on July 6 we learned why. Three California Department of Fish and Wildlife biologists attended our Board of Directors meeting and gave a very informative talk about fish populations in area high mountain lakes and future plans to allow the trout and the cascades frog to flourish in their respective habitats. Hopefully, next year, we can resume fish plants.

We aren't slowing down in the last three months of 2023. On October 7, I'll be in Sacramento for the BCHC Fall Board of Directors meeting.

On October 21, we have scheduled our fourth annual Halloween-theme Obstacle Course Playday and Challenge. We'll have more than 25 "spooky" obstacles for all skill levels and a raffle for a custom-built mohair cinch by local horsewoman, Lori Luddon. We'll end the month with a Highway Cleanup on October 28 and start November with a trail ride at the Bacigalupi Ranch on November 4.

Our Klamath National Forest partners in the Happy Camp/Oak Knoll district have given us the green light to complete our corral build at Grider Creek campground. We may be able to get this work event on the calendar for October or November, but, if we can't, look for the event next spring.

On December 2, we'll have our annual Christmas dinner in Fort Jones. The dinner will be a potluck meal this year. Our Unit is scheduled to again carry the colors for the Fort Jones Christmas parade on December 9. Please reach out the Kelly York if you would like to ride in this parade.

**Happy trails,
Michele Machado, Unit President and Newsletter Editor**



Inside This Issue

2023 Officers	Page 2
Website update	Page 3
Parks Creek PCT work	Page 4
English Peak lookout paint	Page 5
Deer Mountain ride	Page 6
Fair booth accolades	Page 6
Membership form	Page 7
4th Quarter event calendar	Page 8



SIS-Q-TRAILS

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

Editor: Michele Machado

Editor email: meechele418@gmail.com

Publisher email: topofthestate-bch@outlook.com

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 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.

2023 OFFICERS

PRESIDENT

Michele Machado (817) 308-0258
meechele418@gmail.com

HISTORIAN

Kathryn Matthews (530) 842-5872
hereinyreka@gmail.com

VICE PRESIDENT

Robert Robustellini (530) 468-5636
muletrackstoo@gmail.com

INSURANCE

Kelly York (530) 979-6577
kysafari@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Alan Woods (530) 408-8809
rogue4444@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP

Jennifer Bull (530) 643-9397
jennbull63@gmail.com

TREASURER

Caralee Scala (530) 459-5788

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Michele Machado (817) 308-0258
meechele418@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS

Debbie Bacigalupi (650) 417-1674
dbacigalupi@gmail.com

PARADES

Kelly York (530) 979-6577
kysafari@gmail.com

Sandy Mason (530) 598-9855
ixlady@sisqtel.net

PARLIAMENTARIAN

Robert Robustellini (530) 468-5636
muletrackstoo@gmail.com

Laurie Robustellini (530) 468-5636
muletrackstoo@gmail.com

Janice Rushton (530) 598-8650
kjrushton49@yahoo.com

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

Debbie Bacigalupi (650) 417-1674
dbacigalupi@gmail.com

Kelly York (530) 979-6577
kysafari@gmail.com

ALTERNATE BOARD MEMBERS

Gail Lyons (530) 467-3137
iglyons@sisqtel.net

PUBLICITY

Penny Wells-Thomas (530) 468-2715
pwells@sisqtel.net

Michael Stapleton (530) 598-6164
frenchcreek@gmail.com

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

Michael Stapleton (530) 598-6164
frenchcreek@gmail.com

PUBLIC LANDS

Mike Journey (530) 468-2821
mikejourney@gmail.com

EDUCATION

Debbie Bacigalupi (650) 417-1674
dbacigalupi@gmail.com

SCHOLARSHIP

Penny Wells-Thomas (530) 468-2715
pwells@sisqtel.net

E-NOTICES

Penny Wells-Thomas (530) 468-2715
pwells@sisqtel.net

SUNSHINE

Sherry Glendenning (530) 598-7466
sherhorse@sisqtel.net

FISH PLANTS

Don Menne (530) 598-0290

VOLUNTEER HOURS

Kelly York (530) 979-6577
kysafari@gmail.com

GRANTS

Joe Croteau (530) 643-9397
jennbull63@gmail.com

WEB MASTER

Kathryn Matthews (530) 842-5872
topofthestate-bch@gmail.com

GROUP RIDES

Michele Machado (817) 308-0258
meechele418@gmail.com

WORK PARTY TEAM LEADERS

Robert Robustellini (530) 468-5636
muletrackstoo@gmail.com

Laurie Robustellini (530) 468-5636
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 <http://bchc-tos.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

Sarabecca Barnett
Shelly Leasure

Unit Website Update

Our old website has expired so I'm in the process of starting a new one with a different domain name:

tos-bchc.com

It will take me a few months to get everything up and running. The Unit's business is up-to-date and also a button letting visitors know About Us. The forms will be next, and I am hoping to get more photos uploaded. Let me know what you think.

-- Web Page Manager Kathryn Matthews

Emergency evacuation help list

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 any additional members who volunteer to be added to 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 (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

Personal | Business | Commercial | Wealth Management



Mechanics Bank®
Where Relationships Matter

Proudly serving

Yreka, Fort Jones, Happy Camp,
Mt. Shasta and Redding

www.MechanicsBank.com

FDIC
MEMBER FDIC



Twin Oaks Veterinary Services
15701 Muse Rd
Caliente, CA, 93518
661-867-2554 office
661-809-0597 mobile
661-867-2355 fax

Planning a Trip? Use
www.ytbtravel.com/bchc

BCHC
EARNS 60%
OF THE
COMMISSIONS!

BCH
GETAWAY

- You will find the same airlines, hotels, rental cars and cruises as on other travel websites!
- You'll get great travel prices!
- Each time you book travel a portion of the travel commissions will go to support BCHC!

It's that simple!

BCHC -- Top of the State Unit Activities for 2023

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

October 5	BOD Meeting, location TBD	November 2	Membership Meeting, Fort Jones
October 6-7	BCHC BOD meeting, Sacramento	November 4	Group trail ride, Bacigalupi Ranch
October 21	Halloween Obstacle event, Big Springs	December 2	Christmas dinner, Fort Jones
October 28	Highway cleanup, Etna	December 7	BOD Meeting, location TBD
		December 9	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.

Members from 3 Units clear 16 miles of PCT

Article by Michele Machado

On July 21 and 22, BCHC members from the Top of the State, Shasta-Trinity and Redwood Units teamed up to clear downfall logs off the Pacific Crest Trail 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.

On the first day, Top of the State members Michele Machado and Alan Woods hiked from the Parks Creek Trailhead to Deadfall Lakes, clearing more than 10 trees off the trail. One of the trees, the red fir shown in the photo at right, was more than 36 inches in diameter near the base and root ball proved too difficult to get off the trail so Michele and Alan cut and cleared as much as we could, and then we tried to build back the trail in a way that was safe for all travels on foot and horses/mules.

That same day a crew led by Shasta-Trinity Unit work party leaders Sam Burrows and Larry Shuman cleared the trail from the Gumboot TH to Toad Lake using pack stock. On July 22, Michele, Alan and Jennifer (Redwood Unit) cleared 3 miles of the PCT to almost Cement Bluff, and Sam's crew completed the stretch between Toad Lake and Deadfall Lakes.

We've enjoyed renewing our partnership and friendships with our North State BCHC brethren and we've achieved a lot of great trail-clearing results in the process this year.



Photos courtesy of Michele Machado, Sam Burrows, and KA Snure



Family crew adds new paint, life to lookout

Article by Matt Matthews

Sunday, July 2, we were packed in 7 miles to our base camp at Pine Lake by Ellen Andrews and the USFS packer crew. With 13 head of horses and mules (each with a personality, temperament, and skillset of their own) loaded and handled by the animal packers, the seven of us set off with our two riding stock to share.

The English Peak Lookout, constructed in the 1950s, was used as a fire lookout until the mid-1970s. It was briefly staffed by my dad, Ed, who has spent 55 years working, hunting, and recreating in the Salmon River region of Northern California. The site fell into abandonment until the mid-1990s when a group of Stanford physicists and engineers who worked at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC), decided to work with the Forest Service and Doug Andrews to renovate the lookout and bring it back to life. It was later designated as a Historical Structure. It is now Ellen Andrews who leads the Forest Service staff and animals and stewards the area with tireless efforts, fun humor, and steadfast care.

Each day we awoke to the symphony of many birds singing their morning songs and had our senses perked with the 'cowboy' coffee, a result of forgetting a coffee pot or percolator, along with breakfast which was typically eggs, sausage or pancakes. Then we packed our bags and lunches and were off.

The commute to work was a hike approximately 3 miles and climbing 1,000 feet from Pine Lake, which took 1-1/4 hour or so to climb. We would arrive at the English Peak Lookout, which stands at just over 7,300 feet in elevation in the Marble Mountain Wilderness. We arrived at the work site each morning at about 9:00 and focused on our task for the next 6 hours. We scraped loose paint, removed loose caulk, lightly scraped windows as to not break away the window glazing putty; sanded the wood to remove the gray colored deterioration and to smooth out the rough wood surfaces; primed and painted two coats.



Photo courtesy of Kathryn Matthews

2023 English Peak Volunteers - Fire Lookout Painting

Sunday July 2, 2023 through Saturday July 8, 2023

English Peak Volunteers: Ed Matthews, Kathryn Matthews, Matt Matthews, Beth Matthews, Alyssa Matthews, Clayton Matthews, and Derrian Wheeler

Forest Service Staff: Ellen Andrews, Sarah Borman, Karl Dietzler, Karen Hack, Kira, and Dan

Future work and remaining conditions: The shutters were not prepped and painted. It was decided it would be better to replace the shutters entirely and have a size that will universally fit in all the window openings. The new shutters were constructed in September and will be installed in October. The eaves (area under roof overhang) were not scraped and painted as they were difficult and unsafe to reach off the ladder with limited access due to the rocky and steep conditions. We painted the weather exposed rafter tails as best we could. A project focused on prepping and painting this area from safe access is recommended.

Each afternoon we descended from the work site, pausing midway at the Tom Taylor cabin site. There is no better water than the spring located here that is said to have 38-degree water year-round.

The fires have changed the landscape, altering where we were able to base camp and the distance traveled. I estimate traveling close to 50 miles for the week. The heat had an effect and yet it was still beautiful and inspiring to be within God's creation. The whole trip and each day had a sense of accomplishment.

The unofficial "Friends of English Peak Lookout" continues to grow. It's a name mentioned in a lookout posting without knowing who they are, however, we are assuming it was initiated by the SLAC group. We're proud to be added to the list. Three generations of Matthews have experienced and love the Salmon River country and now specifically have deep roots in the English Peak Lookout as it shines brightly in the sun lying in wait for the next generation to come.

Fair booth earns Best in Show

Article by Michele Machado

We have some talented members and their knack for creating fun feature booths at the Siskiyou Golden Fair was on display again this year.

For the second time in as many fairs (2021 and 2023), the Top of the State Unit earned Best in Show for our feature booth that was decorated for the theme “Siskiyou Nights and Carnival Lights”.

Debbie Bacigalupi came up with 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 Scala and Robert Robustellini. Thanks, all, for the great work!



Photo courtesy of Michele Machado

Warm weather, fun game for Deer Mtn. ride



Article by Michele Machado

On Sept. 16, nine riders enjoyed a 4-mile group ride at Deer Mountain that included warm, lovely 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 Leasure, won the card game and a gift certificate to ride at Mill Creek Ranch.

Thanks to Caralee, new member Sarabecca, Alan and Michele’s dad, John, for helping hand out the cards.



Photos courtesy of Sarabecca Barnett and Michele Machado

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
☐ Mid Valley
☐ Motherlode
☐ North Bay
☐ Pacific Crest

☐ Redshank Riders
☐ Redwood
☐ San Diego
☐ 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: _____

Donation to BCHC Education Fund (Tax deductible) \$ _____

Total 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.

October Events:

- October 5: Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m., Yreka, location TBD
- October 6-7: BCHC BOD meeting, Sacramento
- October 21: Halloween Obstacle event, 9 a.m., Machado Ranch in Big Springs
- October 28: Highway cleanup, 10 a.m., Etna,

November Events:

- November 2: Membership Meeting, 7 p.m. Fort Jones Community Center
- November 4: Group trail ride and potluck lunch, 10 a.m., Bacigalupi Ranch, Little Shasta

December Events:

- December 2: Christmas potluck dinner, 5:30 p.m., Fort Jones Community Center
- December 7: Board of Directors Meeting, 7 p.m., Yreka, location TBD
- December 9: Fort Jones Christmas Parade, TBD