

# SIS-Q-TRAILS



Backcountry Horsemen of California

## TOP OF THE STATE UNIT

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE  
JOE CROTEAU

Kathryn Matthews  
Editor/Publisher



January 2012

So much for putting my foot down! At the December regular board meeting we elected our "new" Officers for 2012. I had anticipated the need to reconsider my earlier stance of stepping down as President. We haven't groomed any new blood for this post and I was able to convince the board I'll need even more help in 2012 to be effective. Long story short; after talking for a while I agreed to run again. Low and behold I'm returning as your President for 2012. We did make some changes. Nancy Ballard agreed to run as our Secretary and Gail Lyons will come back and serve as VP. This will give Joan Trabucco a chance to take a break from the long night-time drives from Scott Bar. Joan, you did great and I hope we can put your energy to use in the Programs and Events Programs.

Another significant addition to our Board was the election of Dr. Tish Chism as a Director. She brings a lot of "know how" and excellent communication skills to the table. Please make sure you all keep your animals in good shape this year so Tish has more time to help us out. Thanks for stepping up Tish!


The work begins already with developing a new budget, calendar and confirming subcommittee members and teams. We're trying to stay after those dreaded JHAs, the Kidder Creek Road lease, and the possibility of moving the Shackleford Corrals. We'll be coordinating with the USDA on some preseason training and communication coordination. We'll need some help. We need to groom/recruit new folks to lead our group rides, parades, merchandizing, and events. As far as the education committee is concerned, the more the merrier.

Please join us at our monthly board meetings. We meet the 1st Thursday each month at 7PM and alternate between Fort Jones and Yreka. The January 5 meeting is in Fort Jones and DFG Fisheries Biologist Jennifer Bull will be providing a short background/summary of the fish stocking program as it exists today. Take it easy on her since she administers our grants and she is also my off-duty supervisor.

Our next main event will be the Corn Beef and Cabbage Dinner on Saturday March 17. Finally, don't forget that the 2012 Rendezvous is scheduled for the last weekend in March at the Red Bluff Fairgrounds. Ken and Pat Snider are leading the charge on coordination for the Top of the State Unit, and will be orchestrating the Saturday night auction/raffle. If you know you'll be attending we can use volunteers and donations.

Thank you all for a fine 2011, Happy New year, and see you soon.

"Some people dream of worthy accomplishments,  
while other stay awake and do them"



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## SIS-Q-TRAILS

A publication of the Backcountry Horsemen of California,  
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**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 on space available basis. Edited and published 6 times a year.

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EDITOR'S NOTE : IT IS THE WISH OF OUR BOARD MEMBERS NOT TO PUBLISH THEIR ADDRESS.

## PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE

This newsletter is a document of communication that disseminates information of the Top of the State Unit of BCHC covering schedules, information, philosophy and historical materials pertinent to the participants of the BackCountry 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 Bee Ride

by Bill Balfrey

After I read Gail Lyons' article in the Top of the State, Sis-Q-Trails newsletter, of the September ride, dubbed, "The Bee Ride," where they encountered a big nest of Yellow Jackets that went on a full attack of horses, mules, and riders; I thought I should dust off my old EMT notes on Anaphylactic Shock. If you have any questions, talk to your Health Care Provider! With that said, anyone in our

area (Siskiyou Co) that has ridden the mountains trails for many years has had to have had experience with Yellow Jackets. They are the most prevalent.

This sets the stage, if you've been stung, for what can become a life threatening condition termed Anaphylactic Shock, which is usually defined as, "a life threatening systemic allergic reaction that may include shock and respiratory failure." When you are stung by, in this case, yellow jackets, your body builds it's defense against that chemical venom. When stung by another species of flying insect, say a bold hornet, or a honey bee, that chemical enters your body, which has build-up a defense against yellow jacket venom and the allergens trigger what is called a histamine reaction and there-in starts the systemic allergic reaction that leads to anaphylaxis. The S/S (Signs and Symptoms) can include: a rash, often of the upper body, feeling of tightness in throat and upper body, SOB (Shortness of Breathe), and feeling of swelling in the neck, face, and of the tongue starting to swell. I hear maybe other signs, but if one has the above S/S, they are going into Anaphylaxis and it is life-threatening. The treatment is to receive a shot(s) of Epinephrine which is in an Anaphylaxis Kit. You can only buy this through an Rx from your doctor. He/she will explain how to use the kit.

This reaction can develop quickly and you need to have the kits at hand! If the kit is in your saddle bag and you get bucked off and your horse runs off down the trail, you can be in big trouble. That's when you hope others in the group will let you use one of their kits. This is not the time to say, "it can never happen to me." These kits have a specific shelf-life and will need to be replaced.



Fort Jones Christmas Parade

photo and article by Dale Payne

We had a good turn out for the Fort Jones Xmas parade this year. We had eleven riders, and the weather was great. I want to thank Pam Wells-Boughton, Penny Wells-Thomas, and Janice Rushton for being the flag bearer. Also, I want to thank the riders, Robert and Laurie Robustellini, Dale & Mida Payne, Linda Hardy, Larry Sturman, Sherry Glendenning, and Ken Smith for bringing two pack animals. Everybody looked great. A special thanks to Sherry for calling people and asking them to come and ride with us, and Gail for getting the flags and equipment to us. I thought that we represented our unit well.





The Annual Christmas Party was held on Saturday, December 3rd at the Fort Jones Community Center. It was a wonderful evening especially when our President Joe Croteau decided to change the rules on the gift exchange by only stealing the gift once. It gave me a wonderful opportunity to steal Pam's gift, a bottle of Blackberry Whiskey, that she couldn't steal back. Thank you.

I also wanted to take this time by showing ladies who can ride the mountains, put on trail trial competitions, care for their animals, and clean up well. After showing off Pam Wells-Boughton and Penny Wells-Thomas backside in the Jan/Feb and March/Apr newsletter, I had to give them a chance to show what they really look like along with Janice Rushton. Thank you ladies.

The Christmas Party is always my favorite. It's kind of an end-of-the-year party when we can meet with the friends who we've gone on trail work parties with, pleasure rides such as on the Bacigalupi Ranch, on camp-outs at Carter Meadow, or struggle together with the JHA's and say, "It's been a great year." And once again, I would like to thank everyone for their support, photos, and articles as I put together the Sis-Q-Trails Newsletter.

photo and article submitted by Kathryn Matthews


**WANTED** - Trail riding buddy with low key mellow horse, get together a few times a month, weather permitting, who doesn't mind braving a little cold weather. Please call Joan 496-3318

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Submitted by Pat Snider



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## Etna Veteran Parade

by Dale Payne



The Etna Veteran Parade was held on November 5th. We got up to finish the chores and before we left for the parade, well, guess what, it started to SNOW. We thought, "o'boy, this could get ugly!!!"

As we saddled our animals and put on saddle covers, it kind of backed off. We got it made. We loaded up the animals and hit the road. As we got closer to Yreka, it started to snow again. We had

snow all the way over Forest Summit. Then as we got on the valley side, it started to break away. Blue sky was showing towards Etna and it turned out to be a good day. So much for the weather.



We had nine riders which was a great turn out for a last minute decision to ride in the parade. I want to thank John & Gail Lyons, Sherry Glendenning, Linda Hardy, Mida Payne, Larry Sturman (carried a flag), George Poe (carried a flag, thanks

George), Darrell Illian, Dale Payne (carried a flag). I also want to thank Mike Gillett for taking pictures with Sherry's camera.



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# The Last Ride of the Season

By Mida Payne

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The weather was perfect for the ride at the Horseshoe Ranch. The colors were not as colorful as we have seen them in the past but we all enjoyed the ride and the comradery.

There were sixteen of us that enjoyed the day. We had quite the colors of horses and mules (black, white, grey, bay, buckskin, appy, and sorrel) and to see them all in line was really a sight.

Afterwards, at the tailgate party, we had a great visit with a member who hadn't rode with us before (Dave Van Scoyoc). And welcomed back Shelia Johnson (renewed). Old members Larry Sturman , Bill & Mary Kleaver, Mike & Betsy Stapleton, Ken & Pat Snider, Bob Dean, Sherry Glendenning, Pam Wells-Boughton, Nancy Ballard, Zelda Monical, and our leader Dale Payne, and myself.

Thanks to all for enjoying the last ride of the season. And thank you Larry Sturman for hosting the ride.



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## Book Review by Bill Balfrey

The book I will be reviewing, with permission by the author, is entitled, "Bill Kitt - From Trail Driver to Cowboy Hall of Fame", by D.L. "Jack" Nicol and Amy Thompson, 2009, ISBN 978-0-615-28626-6. Jack is Bill Kitt's grandson.

He was known by "Bill Kitt", which stood for William Kittridge, born 1876, died 1958. It is by far one of the most interesting, best referenced, and written in a clear, but smooth flowing style book that invites the reader to continue reading well past their bedtime. The book is rich with photographs in which all the people are identified. It is a large book, but even the quality of binding is excellent. Not only will this book be of immediate interest to those who are associated with ranching or stock use, but it becomes a classic that affords a barometer of what life was like in the late 1800's and the early 1900's .

Bill Kit was a young cowboy making \$25 a month. He married Maude Kittridge, and as the author states, "She was the perfect partner." Maude passed away in July of 1968. The setting is in Eastern Oregon, in the Silver Lake area, but in my conclusion, we will be talking of ranches covering areas in three states. At the beginning, when it came time to stock-up for provisions, they hooked up a six horse team, and if they choose the Willamette Valley, it meant a trip of nearly 250 miles. A photo of Maude and daughter and a loaded wagon on page 36 has a caption which reads, ..."making the annual trip from Silver Lake to Corvallis for supplies. This was a 500 mile round trip." In those days folks didn't simply run to the store.

To this reviewer, what made Bill Kitt special was his ability to envision correctly, the potential that the land offered and the ability to see the project through to conclusion. He never questioned this ability and his judgments always proved correct. He and Maude started out with very little, but when Bill Kitt saw the ability to enlarge, he did so. Maude never questioned his judgments. They both had a total commitment to backbreaking work and a willingness to live life in the beginning without any luxuries. He was a very frugal man all of his life.

By 1902 we find that Bill and Maude had a son and daughter. The Lake County assessor placed Bill Kitt's assets at \$950.00 . In 1905 Maude gave birth to another daughter, Vi. In 1908, feeling he needed more money, Bill Kitt moved his family to Corvallis where he bought a livery stable. Bill Kitt worked many jobs, plus buying three places, fixing them up and selling them for a profit. Bill Kitt and family return to the Silver Lake area and he buys 300 head of cattle, branding them with his YJ iron. He moved the cattle to Klamath Marsh. A bit later Bill Kitt leased the River Ranch. This ranch grew excellent hay. Bill Kitt bought up land in the Klamath Marsh, and with his ability to see what the land needed, for example, he built the IRE Dam on the Williamson River and by doing so, added 1,500 new acres under irrigation.

One reads of an outbreak of rabies effecting coyotes, in 1915. These rabid coyotes would attack humans, dogs, horses and cows. While living at Kirk Field they built a large, two story house when suddenly their spring dried up, caused probably by an earthquake. All agreed he could not do it, but Bill Kitt said, with full confidence, he'd move the house across the meadows, the swamp, & the Williamson River to the other side of the valley--this was a three mile trip. He jacked the house up, put it on skids, hooked up all the horses he owned, plus adding other teams and using roller logs, starting moving the house. It took him two years, but he did it. Bill Kitt was clearly the boss. If workers did as he ordered, he looked after them which included their families. If you didn't follow his orders, he sent you "down the road".

*To be continued in the March/April Newsletter or finish reading the book review on our web page.*

## **Backcountry Horsemen of California, Top of the State Unit**

Meeting Minutes from December 14, 2011

President Joe Croteau called the meeting to order at 7:11 PM at the Cal Fire Training room in Yreka CA.

### **Officers/ Directors**

Joe Croteau	Nancy Ballard	Joan Trabucco	Caralee Scala
Dale Payne	Bill Balfrey	Penny Wells	Tish Chism DVM
Gail Lyons			

### **Members**

John Lyons, Art and Rhonda Hanna, Virgil and Linda Hardy, Pat and Ken Snider, Doug and Shari Kaufner

**Guest speakers** - Bill Balfrey presentation defer to Jan meeting

**Approval of Minutes** - MSC to accept the minutes with the following corrections, under "Attending Officers" add Penny Wells.

**Treasurer Report** - Caralee Scala gave the financial report.

### **Committee Reports:**

**Programs and Events** - Gail Lyons reported that the Christmas dinner had approximately 80 people attending. Total money raised was \$886.61. It was agreed to hold the Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner on Saturday, March 17.

**Newsletter** - Kathryn Matthews has purchased a new copy machine and is at home recuperating from surgery.

**Parades** - Dale Payne reported that there was a great turn out for the Fort Jones Christmas Parade with eleven riders and Ken Smith's pack string.

**Sunshine** - Several cards have been sent out.

**2012 Rendezvous** - Ken and Pat Snider has raffle tickets available for a round pen at \$5 each or 5 for \$20. The tickets for the 3-day 2-night pack trip will be available soon. Our unit will be having a booth at the rendezvous. The rendezvous will be getting radio play advertising. Pat has hit almost every store in the County for donations and ads for the programs.

**Public Lands** - Joe Croteau and John Lyons reported that all JHA's need to be signed. John attended a summit meeting with the USFS the PCT in Sacramento; the BCHC was well represented. There is now a JHA revision group which John will be a part of that group. The Summit had a very long agenda and nothing is solved at this point. Next meeting is scheduled for February 25, 2012.


### **New/Unfinished Business**

**Reinstate old meeting dates**- Reminder that meeting dates are now the first Thursday of the month.

**Shasta County PCT signs** - Need more details of what sign should be made of, how big, and what it should say before we can get a price.

**State Board Meeting**- Ken and Pat Snider made a suggestion that we only attend the required one meeting a year instead of two as the money saved could be better put to use, under public lands. The subject is up for continued discussion at a later date.

\*\*\*MSC - Motion, Seconded, Carried

- NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION      **Backcountry Horsemen of California**
- RENEWAL APPLICATION      
- CHANGE - ( ) PARENT UNIT   ( ) ADDRESS/PHONE/EMAIL   ( ) MEMBERSHIP TYPE

**MAIL TO:**  
**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN**  
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 10004 Old Hwy 99  
 Grenada CA 96038-9602  
<http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

**DCTR (YOUR MEMBERSHIP NUMBER)** \_\_\_\_\_

*\*\*NEW MEMBERS WILL BE ASSIGNED NUMBER BY MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR*

**PARENT Unit Affiliation): (Select and CIRCLE ONE Unit as your Primary Unit Affiliation)**

- |                   |                 |                    |
|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Antelope Valley   | Mid Valley      | San Joaquin Sierra |
| Eastern Sierra    | Mother Lode     | Santa Ana River    |
| High Country      | North Bay       | Sequoia            |
| High Sierra       | Ohlone Riders   | Shasta Trinity     |
| Kern River Valley | Redshank Riders | Sierra Freepackers |
| Kern Sierra       | Redwood         | Sutter Buttes      |
| Lake-Mendo        | San Diego       | Top of the State   |
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BUSINESS NAME – DONATIONS ONLY: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT UNIT MEMBERSHIP TYPES: (CIRCLE ONE)**

Individual \$40.00\*    Family \$50.00\*    Benefactor \$100.00    Patron \$250.00    Mt Whitney \$500.00

*\*=BCHC shares portion of dues with Backcountry Horsemen of America*

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**ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIPS: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.**  
 ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNIT AFFILIATIONS **MAY NOT** BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT.

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Associate Membership for: _____	\$15.00/unit (Unit Name (from above list))

*Please write additional choices on back*

Please clip form along dashed line – KEEP BELOW INFORMATION FOR YOUR RECORDS

**PARENT BCHC MEMBERSHIP TYPES**  
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\*A SHARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names, each sharing 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.

- You may sign-up for as many Associate Memberships as you like.
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- Associate Memberships must expire concurrently with the Parent Membership, and are renewable only at the time of renewal of the Parent Membership.

Complete information regarding BCHC Membership is available on the MEMBERSHIP page at: <http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

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**Questions: Contact [membership@bchcalifornia.org](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org)**

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BCHC / TOP OF THE STATE UNIT  
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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Monthly Meetings are the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month

January, March, May, July, September, and November are held in Fort Jones at the Fort Jones Community Center

February, April, June, August, October, and December are held in Yreka at the CalFire Office.

### January Events:

- Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup> - Monthly meeting in Fort Jones Community Center at 7 pm.

### February Events:

- Thursday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> - Monthly meeting in Yreka Calfire Office at 7 pm.
- Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup> - USFS/PCT Summit meeting.