Backcountry Horsemen of California
Antelope Valley Unit

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

What I've learned about ketosis in horses

The summer didn’t go so smooth towards the end of my time off. My horse became quite sick with “ketosis.” The vet told me that he was treating six other horses with the same malady when my horse was sick, so I thought, since it seems prevalent, I’d share what I’ve learned. First, don’t wait to call the vet if your horse is off its feed. I had the vet out right away at the first sign, and when my horse was still sick the next day, I had the vet who was on night call out, but since my horse wasn’t rolling around in distress, although still not eating or drinking, I thought maybe the antibiotics would take a day or so to kick in. Wrong! My horse needed IV fluids to kick start her system. Had I not waited for the third call, she might’ve recovered faster after receiving the IV fluids.

Here’s what I learned about ketosis: My horse’s symptoms looked like a mild colic the first night, so she got a dose of oil. The next day, she got more oil after being seen for the first time by the second vet who saw the same mild colic symptoms, but with ketosis, which is a low glucose level, my horse should not have gotten oil again because it’s an irritant, meant to flush out the digestive system, but with a horse with no appetite, irritating the system will further suppress their appetite.

Instead, she should’ve gotten saline mixed with glucose and sodium bicarbonate, which she received on the third visit, five days after the onset of the ketosis. If caught early enough, the saline mixture will kick up the horse’s glucose level and restore their appetite within a dose or two. My horse was in worse shape after not eating for those five days. Some horses may end up at a vet hospital, hooked to the IV (like my horse did last year with her first bout of what I now know is ketosis). My vet felt confident that I could pump the IV saline mixture in a couple more times on my own, which I did and which took 40 minutes and a lot of IV bulb squeezing each time.

I still don’t know for sure what has brought on the ketosis in my horse, but it seems to have been triggered by extreme heat or extreme changes in temperature. In the middle of all this, based on my horse’s symptoms, my friend, Jan, gave me some fruit flavored Tums to give my horse and later my vet confirmed that this might be a good idea to keep a horse’s digestive system low in acid. So now I will be on the look out for signs of ketosis (suppressed appetite, rapid shallow breathing, depressed attitude, lying down quietly but for long periods of time), keep a dozen Tums handy, and I will call the vet to get that IV going right away next time and hopefully avoid the thousand dollar plus bills for the total of five vet calls from this last episode. Let me know if you want to hear about the ketosis episode up at Horseshoe Meadow—that was a nightmare!

(Continued on page 3)
Backcountry Horsemen of California
Antelope Valley Unit
Officers – 2017

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horsingground@att.net

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phfrisbey@aol.com

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Vacant / Team Effort

VP Education
(Vacant)

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BCHC State Board Directors
Primary: Jerry Stone (661) 273-1059
trailstone@sbcglobal.net
Alternate: (Vacant)

AV Unit Wilderness Rider: Paul Frisbey
Asse. Members: Bradley and Emily Miles

Calendar of Events
August 18-22, 2017 – Pack Trip to Trout Meadow
A beginners’ pack trip: learn to pack from your own members!
2½ - 3 hour ride from the trailhead to the cabin.
Reservations required

September 2, 2017 – Unit Ride
A pack and lunch ride in Chino Hills

September 20, 2017 – Unit Meeting

October 1, 2017 – Sunday
Lazy-T Ride in Leona Valley
Open to non-members

November 11, 2017 – Saturday
Veteran’s Day Ride
Location TBD

(BCHC-AV Meetings
Leona Valley Improvement Association
8367 Elizabeth Lake Road
BCHC has a Facebook page! (Ctrl +) Click here

All meetings are held on the 3rd Wednesday
(January, March, May, July, September, and November)

The meetings start at 6:30 and include a pot luck dinner. Bring a dish to share, bring your family, bring your friends.

Directions:
(14) AV freeway
West on Palmdale Blvd
Continue on Elizabeth Lake Rd. approx. 8½ miles
(If you come to a four-way stop, you have gone too far.)
The Community Center is on the right (north) side of the road.

AV Unit Newsletter
Edited and published on the 15th of February, April, June, August, October and December.

AV Unit Webpage
http://www.bchc-avunit.org
Calendar of Events (continued)

November 15, 2017 – Unit Meeting

December 6, 2017 – Unit Christmas Party
Potluck and Raffle
(Date changed!)

RIDE INFORMATION
Please RSVP to all rides. There are some places where we will need to double up in trailers, and we would like to know who is going. Additionally, some rides require reservations and payment up front.

Be in the saddle at 10:00am, ready to ride, unless otherwise noted.

If you would like to schedule a ride, please give June a call and we can put it on the calendar.

If you would like volunteers for Trail Projects, please contact Paul.

Rides updated online at
http://www.bche-avunit.org/calendar.html

Membership Report
as of Aug 8, 2017

New members: (0)

Expired in July: (6)
Oxendine; Hatter; Richardson

Expiring in Aug: (1) Tremblay

Expiring in Sep: (2) Biehl

As of August 1, 2017 we have 64 members.

Send all membership renewals to BCHC Membership,
1280 State Rte 208, Yerington, NV 89447.
(Do not use the Beaumont address)

If you change your email address, phone number, mailing address, or membership status, please let one of the Officers know.

If you want to get communication from State, you must send them your email address.

July 4th Ride and Party

Many thanks to Kelly Carle for once again opening up her beautiful ranch to our unit for a ride and a barbecue afterwards. The riders appeared to have had a good time, but I opted out this year to avoid trailering my horse home through the illegal fireworks being set off all along every street in Palmdale. The food everyone brought to the barbecue was delicious, as it always is, and the conversations were lively, as usual. Kelly’s place has an amazing view of the entire valley and all the fireworks being set off.

Happy Trails!

Antelope Valley Unit member, Pam Kenneally, is moving to Oregon to be closer to her children. We will miss your cheerful, enthusiastic personality and hope the move goes smoothly for you.

What’s coming up

The Antelope Valley Unit will have our general meeting on Wednesday, September 20 in Leona Valley.

September 2 is (tentatively set, depending upon the trail conditions) ride at Chino Hills

October 1 is our ride at Lazy T in Leona Valley, which is open to non-members. Bring a friend!

November 11 is the Veterans Day ride, location to be announced at a later date.

December 6 is the NEW DATE for the Christmas Party. We needed to change the date due to a conflict in scheduling at the community center.

All ride dates are subject to change and location, so check with the trail boss before heading out for a ride.

Marcy Watton
President, Antelope Valley Unit
Gordon Edward Dibble
September 1, 1945 - March 29, 2017
Regency Mortuary, Sun City, AZ
The friends of Gordon Dibble celebrated his life on Saturday, May 6, 2017 at Grace Baptist Church, Chino Valley, AZ.

He was born to Charles and Helen Dibble in Schenectady, New York. He served four years in the U.S. Coast Guard after high school. He then worked as a civilian fireman and paramedic at various Navy bases. He joined the California Fire Department and retired in 1996 after 24 years of service with them.

In retirement, he discovered a new passion in his life when he began owning and riding mules. Resident of Chino Valley since 2007. Gordon joined Antelope Valley Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California not long after the unit was formed, and remained a member, even after he retired to Arizona, until his death, so he has long been missed by members of Antelope Valley Unit. He was also an Associate Member of several other BCHC Units. He was also a member of the Prescott Saddle Club, Back Country Horsemen of Central Arizona, and Horsing Around.

He enjoyed riding local trails and camping.

Gordon is survived by many cousins and friends. He was a gentle, kind man who will be missed by those left behind.

Lawrence M. Rankin
Retired Deputy Forester Lawrence M. Rankin, father of Fire Captain Jeff Rankin, Air and Wildland Division, Camp 11, passed away after a long-term illness on Sunday, June 11, 2017, at the age of 79. Deputy Forester Lawrence Rankin retired in 1983 after 23 years of dedicated service to the residents of Los Angeles County.

Flowers, cards and letters are welcome and may be sent to:
Mrs. Judith Rankin
13547 Spunky Canyon Road
Santa Clarita, CA 91390

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated by the entire family.

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**Backcountry Horsemen of California—Pacific Crest**

**Trail Clinic & Trail Trial**—September 23rd & 24th, 2017

**Location:** Gray Stone Ranch (with 20+ permanent trail obstacles)

10575 Shasta Rd. Phelan, CA 92371

**Contact:** Diane Pitzler Phone 760-900-9498 or email: dpitzler@hotmail.com

**Clinicians/Judges:** Victor Penner/Jan Grogan/Teri McFarland/Spike Ooley/Trish Demers/Kristin Keller

**Classes**

- Trail Advanced
- In-Hand
- 2 Rider Pair Trail
- Trail Intermediate
- Trail Beginner

**SILVER BUCKLES-FIRST PLACE AWARDS**

**Times**

Saturday Clinic: 9:00 AM mandatory participant meeting. In Saddle at 10:00 AM

(5-10 riders rotating from clinician to clinician, on the obstacles)

Sunday Show: 9:00 AM mandatory participant meeting.

First class starts at 10:00 AM

MUST pre-enter AND ALL NECESSARY PAPERWORK AND FEES MUST BE RECEIVED TO BE CONSIDERED ENTERED. Entries accepted through September 11th, 2017 or until show entries close. Show entries limited to 60 riders/Clinton entries limited to 50 riders. Entry fees are as follows: $35 for first class entered then $25 each additional class, Clinic is $50 per rider. Corrals available at $10 per day. There is a one-time per day, per rider discount of $10 for wearing a helmet while riding. You may enter now so that you are not left out!

SILENT AUCTION CATERED FOOD by The Cowboy Way Café Helmets Are Encouraged

LEAVE NO TRACE BEHIND
Unit Pack Trip

On Friday, August 18 we will head up to Cow Camp. June (Frisbey) Wendy Bailey and new member Jane McNamara and I. Kelly will be just up the trail at the Forest Service Cabin at Trout Meadow. It’s my 4th trip this season and June’s 2nd.

I will leave home at 7:00, arrive at Jerky Trailhead by 11:00. About 1 hour to saddle and pack up, then 8 miles, about a 3-hour ride and then you see Trout Meadow, over a mile long. Turn right, ride down to the gate. The spring has a bridge and next is a wooden walkway that leads to the camp gate. There’s your first view of Cow Camp, the hitch rails, cabins and tent cabins. After tying up and untacking, we lead the horses to the meadow. This is their reward: acres of pasture and the spring for water.

Using horses as a means of transportation is different than pleasure riding. Sometimes I take a day and saddle up and go somewhere, but many times, I remain in camp, or only go within walking distance and saddle up only to go home.

My string has been making this trip for over 10 years. It’s just another day at the office for them and they know the meadow. And always remember: You’re only as good as your string.

Bradley and Emily Miles (Cow Camp owners) will arrive on Friday, as well. They usually reach Cow Camp about 4:00. So, I am looking forward to a trip with 5 women and just one other man. Sounds great!

On a sad note; Bob Oates, long time pack buddy at camp, decided to give up packing AND horses. We will miss him and his family. He gifted me with a riding horse. On my 4th of July trip I rode him, leading the string. He behaved just like an old pro would. Thanks Bob and Sandy.

-Paul
BCHC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

membership@bchcalifornia.org

MAIL TO: Membership Backcountry Horsemen of California
1280 State Route 208, Yerington, NV 89447

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

Antelope Valley  Kern Sierra  Mother Lode  San Diego  Shasta Trinity
Eastern Sierra  Lake-Mendo  North Bay  Sierra Freepackers  High Country
Los Padres  San Joaquin Sierra  High Sierra  Kern River Valley
Mid Valley  Redshank Riders  Santa Ana River  Sutter Buttes
Redwood  Sequoia  Top of the State

DCTR (your Membership Number, will be assigned): _____

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) ____ (______)______ Phone _______

Total Enclosed: $_________ Check No.: _______

Email Address: ____________________________ (please print legibly)

Parent Unit Membership Types: (CIRCLE ONE)

Individual $50.00*  Family $60.00*  Benefactor $100.00  Patron $250.00  Mt Whitney $500.00

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

2 year Individual $90.00, 3 Year Individual $125.00:  2 Year Family $110.00, 3 Year Family $150.00

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.

Associate Membership for: ____________________________ $15.00/unit

Associate Membership for: ____________________________ $15.00/unit

Please write additional choices on back.
Back Country Horsemen of California’s AV Unit was established in 1995, to promote the gentle use of California trails and backcountry.

We offer meetings, seminars, pack clinics, and speakers to groups to educate on access and care of wild lands by equestrians and stock users.

Leave No Trace ... Gentle Use