I hope everyone is gearing up for an exciting summer of riding and packing. If packing in with horses and mules is something that interests you, our unit will be hosting a series of pack clinics where you can learn, hands on, how to pack. Our first pack clinic is scheduled to be held on October 6th at the Lazy T Ranch. I hope to see you there.

Poppy Ride
Our poppy ride was more of an “un-poppy ride” since there were very few poppies, and the few poppies we saw were shut tight against the howling wind. We were just glad to be out with our friends and horses, and we are hoping for more temperate weather on the next ride.

Rendezvous in Paso Robles
The Los Padres Unit did a fabulous job of putting together a wonderful Rendezvous at the last minute. The Saturday night dinner and auction were delicious and fun, and people seemed to be quite generous with their bids. Our former AV Unit president, Kaye Bruns, headed up the Dutch oven cooking contest. Our unit members, Dan Cotton and Kelli Land competed and took second places in their divisions. The samples at the contest are the reason everyone hangs around! There are NO bad entries at this contest.

Our unit did well in the art contest too. I won the “People’s Choice” award with my photo of Mt. Whitney as seen from the Alabama Hills. There were lots of interesting vendors and I spent more time than I expected, and spent more money than I expected, on shopping. I am looking forward to next year’s Rendezvous in Norco.

Hole in the Wall Camping Trip
At the end of March, nine of us, Kelly, Hillery, Ben, Jane, Bob, Elaine, Dan, Sal, and I, braved the stormy beginning of our trip and camped at the equestrian site at “Hole in the Wall” in the Mojave National Preserve in the eastern Mojave. The riding was fabulous, and I look forward to going back and exploring some more.

The first day, we were about 20 steps outside of camp when Dan’s horse started jumping around with a big wad of cholla stuck to his back leg. Jane and Bob skillfully removed the cactus and we continued on without further incident. We rode through a canyon lined with basalt outcroppings covered with amazing petroglyphs that probably functioned as the “bulletin boards” for the ancestors of Native Americans who lived in this area hundreds of years ago.

The next day we rode to another cultural site that featured hollowed out volcanic rock with petroglyphs and pictographs inside the rock coves. The non-gaited riders returned to camp after visiting the cultural site and the gaited riders continued on around the trail that loops around Hole in the Wall butte, passing through a natural cactus garden and past range cattle.
Calendar of Events

June 9 & 10 and June 16 & 17
Littlerock Dam Public Recreation Days

Late June—Early July 2018 (Tentative)
Annual Novice Pack Trip to Trout Meadow

July 4, 2018
Ride & BBQ/Potluck at Kelly’s (Possibly Unit Meeting)

July 18th, 2018—Unit Meeting DArk

Fall TBD—Lazy T Ranch Tack Sale

September 19th, 2018
Unit Meeting ft. Marcy’s GPS Talk

October 6, 2018
Lazy T Unit Ride & Pack Clinic w/ Trail Boss: Paul

(Continued on page 3)

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)

Optional potluck dinner at 6:30 pm, bring something to share!
Meeting begins at 7:00 pm.
Nonmembers, family & children always welcome.

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.

Backcountry Horsemen of California
Antelope Valley Unit
Officers – 2018

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horsinground@att.net

Past President
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Vacant / Team Effort

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trailstone@sbcglobal.net
Alternate: (Vacant)

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

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

AV Unit Webpage
http://www.bchc-avunit.org

Concerned Men and Women
Dedicated to Gentle Use of
California Trails and Back Country

Backcountry Horsemen of California
of California

2
Membership Report
as of May 10 2018

New members: (1)
Rebecca Hernandez; Apple Valley, CA
Larry & Paula Lang; Bakersfield, CA

Expiring in May: (3)
Beder; Cotten; & Hart.

Expiring in June: (4)
Bartholomew; Borquez; & McNamara.

Expiring in July: (1) Greene.

As of May 10, 2018 we have 61 members.

The unit is very honored to have 2 Benefactor families as members: Doris and Tim Bartholomew and Stephen and Mary Ann Colf

We want to thank them for their above-the-usual support!

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.

Calendar of Events (continued)

October 12-13, 2018
2018 Fall BCHC Board of Director's Meeting—Santa Nella, CA

November 11, 2018
Rustlers’ Roost Ride w/ Trail Boss: Paul

November 14, 2018
6:30pm: Pot Luck and 7pm: Meeting

December 5, 2018
Annual Christmas Potluck & Party

December 29, 2018
Desert Petroglyphs Ride w/ Trail Boss: Marcy

January 19, 2019
Griffith Park OR Hansen Dam Ride w/ Trail Boss: June

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. 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, contact Paul.

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

(Rest of page)

HR 1349 updates—[BCHA Website]

Now that HR 1349 has passed out of the House Committee on Natural Resources, the bill could be put before a “floor vote” in the House of Representatives at any time. When, or in what form, the bill might be voted upon is unknown. Given the speed and relative stealth by which this bill recently moved through committee, however, BCHA members must be prepared to reach out to their representatives at a moment’s notice.

BCHA is monitoring the situation and will alert members once we learn the potential date of a floor vote.

Yet there is nothing stopping members from reaching out to their representative at this time to demonstrate their views on HR 1349.


AV Unit Secretary, Hillery Pullinger, awarded B.A. in Sociology.

Congratulations from Antelope Valley Unit!

Oregon State University
The Trustees of the University, by virtue of the authority vested in them by
law, and on recommendation of the Faculty Senate, has conferred on
Hillery Pullinger
the degree of
Bachelor of Arts
Sociology
with all the rights, privileges, and honors thereunto appertaining.

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. 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, contact Paul.

Rides updated online at http://www.bchc-avunit.org/calendar.html
We enjoyed potluck dinners around a campfire one windless night, and then we were invited into Bob and Elaine’s motorhome the next windy night to play a lively game of Pictionary. I talked Hillery into hiking the Ring Trail starting out at the Hole in the Wall visitor’s center. That was an interesting mile-long hike with petroglyphs along the way, and an adventure through a slot canyon where we had to hoist ourselves up through narrow passages using iron rings embedded in the wall of the slot canyon. We ended up going around the entire trail twice, which turned out to be a good workout. This part of the desert is strikingly beautiful and I wish it were closer so that I could explore it more often. Maybe next time we’ll ride the entire basalt canyon and to Camp Rock Springs. There is so much to see out there!

GPS Talk

On March 10, I gave my talk on GPSing trails at the Horse Expo. I had a pretty good audience considering I was first up that day at the Backcountry Horsemens of California lecture series. I will be giving the talk again at the Backcountry Horsemen of California Rendezvous in Paso Robles on April 14, but that date may have already passed by the time this newsletter reaches you. Let me know if you are interested in receiving a copy of the PowerPoint I used for my talk.

Upcoming Events:
The Antelope Valley Unit has some fabulous rides and events on the calendar for May and beyond:
June – Paul at Cow Camp
July 4 – Juniper Hills ride and BBQ (BCHC members and new members only)

Marcy Watton
President,
Antelope Valley Unit
Backcountry Horsemen of California

Marcy’s winning photo! “Mt. Whitney”
May is finally here. I now begin my 28th year of packing into the backcountry. My math isn’t that good; my memory isn’t either, but I think I’ve been on over 80 trips.

It’s been a long winter. I survived open-heart surgery. Spent a few months recovering and now back in the saddle, ready for packing season.

First, we will open Bradley and Emily Miles’s Cow Camp at Trout Meadow. Put up the tent cabins; install the cots; restart the water system, etc. Of course, we will, also clear downed trees on the 9 miles of trail.

As always I offer to give help to people who want to experience the Sierras. -Paul

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Poppy Ride Photos. (April 2018)

Not a lot of Poppies—but lots of other pretty desert flowers.
Top Hand Kay Brickner

AV Unit President Marcy Watton presents her chosen Top Hand Award and orchids to Kay Brickner, one of our earliest members. Kay has served in nearly every position on our board, has chaired several volunteer committees and continues to serve as our Membership Chair.

The Unit President picks the Top Hand based on who was the most active or helpful member, usually this refers to the past year, but Kay’s pick was this past year AND cumulative years of service.

Congratulations Kay!

BCHC Rendezvous Writeup by Valerie

Unit members Ann and Jim Washington attended, their daughter Tiffany Washington Beechinor rode her grulla Curly horse in the trail competition placing respectably in the middle of the entries, and Jim submitted a photo of one of their Curlies to the art contest. Their Curlies are the ones formerly seen for many years in the Rose Bowl Parade. I think it would be appropriate to mention Sal placed with his painting. Beth Work and I attended, I donated a silver bit to the auction on behalf of our Unit which raised $200 for BCHC. Paul and June Frisbey attended the entire weekend, June spent volunteer time in the State Booth. They attended the Awards Banquet, accepted AV Unit’s 2017 Top Hand Award on behalf of Marcy’s designated recipient, Kay Brickner, who did not attend Rendezvous this year.

Former members Peggy and John Wyly were present, the piece of fused glass art Peggy entered won first place in her category. Always great to see former AV Unit members Kaye Bruns (past president) and her sister Kris Pimentel (former web mule and newsletter editor). Kaye and Kris were both Rendezvous sponsors (so was AV Unit) and they oversaw the Dutch Oven Cooking demonstration and Contest — even their mom and aunt came to enjoy samples — Beth grabbed Dutch oven cooking recipes. Associate members Bradley and Emily Miles were there and spotted with (relatively new member) Jane McNamara in attendance (next to Me and Beth) at the bit lectures given by Matt Sheridan, originally from Agua Dulce, now residing in Tehachapi and I believe he heads up AVHSD’s Special Ed program. Bradley found a never-used, traditional wood sawbuck pack saddle, fully rigged by McPhearson leather being sold as used, showed it to Jane, Paul weighed in, I photoed and described it to Kelly by phone, With Kelly’s equipment knowledge and pricing guidance, I negotiated the deal for Jane (who ever heard of a SHY attorney?), price including a new pack cinch and lightly used thick felt pack pad. Over Sat night dinner, Paul and Bradley approved Jane’s choice of pack panniers and top pack, which she ordered and will be using this weekend to go up with the Miles’ group this weekend, to prepare Cow Camp for use this season.
Might as well start at Walker Pass. I had met Jane at Stater Bros. in Mojave. We were traveling to Cow Camp. We would meet the two hikers, Robbie and Mark, at Jerky Trail Head. Pack up and take their gear and part of the food for the weekend. Bradley and Emily were leaving from Lewis Trail Head. Bud would also be coming from Lewis, probably with Bradley and Emily. Then we would all meet in Cow Camp, probably about the same time. About 9:00am, I stopped and parked at the top of Walker Pass to answer nature’s call (I always stop there) and check the rig. When I checked, I found that the trailer was about to come off the truck. A very serious situation. So… I had to figure out what to do on Walker Pass with three horses in a broken trailer, Jane right behind me, and all of us on a schedule to make it to the Sierras. In those few minutes, I had to decide what to do. I knew that I couldn’t go forward. I needed to make some calls. In that spot cell signal is not great. Well, I did what any husband does… I called my wife. Between us, we contacted Bradley and the hikers. Robbie and Mark were dispatched to meet us, in case they could help. Jane volunteered to take one of my horses. (She had two animals in her three-horse trailer, so she had room.)

We loaded our old reliable packhorse, Hawk, in Jane’s trailer and sent her on her way alone to find the trailhead; to load, not just her mule, but a second pack animal, as well; and lead, for the first time, two pack animals, into Cow Camp. I might add that Jane is directionally impaired. I did tell her absolutely, that when you pass Johnsondale, in two miles, you need to turn right and the sign will say “Jerky Trail Head”. I was sure that the sign says “Jerky Trail Head”. I found out later that the sign doesn’t say “Jerky Trail Head” until you’ve been on the road for twenty-three miles. I sent Jane on alone while I waited for June to arrive with the motor home and our two-horse trailer. I wasn’t sure that I was going to be able to continue on. But if I couldn’t, I still needed to evacuate two horses. So I waited for June and the Automobile Club.

By the way, Robbie and Mark showed up just minutes after Jane left. They even said that they saw Jane on the highway; they were certain that they could catch her and help her pack the stock. Then, hours later, June arrived. I hooked up the trailer to my truck, loaded the two horses, and left her waiting at Walker Pass for AAA. (June had to wait past 6:00 for AAA to pick up the trailer—didn’t get home until 9:00pm!)

I proceeded forward and worried about Jane, who was on her first trip to pack in by herself. So, poor Jane gets to the trail head. Who she has to help her are the two backpackers… who don’t pack. Nevertheless, she manages to get the stock packed and heads into the wilderness. Of course, I don’t know any of this, yet. I get to the trail head, wondering if I can make it to Cow Camp before dark, and not knowing what happened to poor Jane, and the two hikers. I start in. A short way in I can see signs that someone had problems with stock. Someone has to be Jane. Can’t tell what happened exactly, but I did notice that the two guys, the hikers had stayed on the main trail. They didn’t take their usual short cut, meaning they could back her up. This made me feel good.
I continued on, still trying to get to Camp before dark. I had to walk around or step over a few trees. Each time, I thought about Jane, leading two pack animals on her first solo trip. I finally make it to Cow Camp, before sundown! As I roll into Camp, I usually holler from the hill, so they can hear me: “Lucy, I’m home!” Upon arriving at Cow Camp, everyone is happy to see me. They weren’t sure I was going to make it at all. Come to find out, with all of Jane’s trials with wrong turns, etc., she’s only beaten me by ten minutes. She had, at least, a three hour head start. Only beat me by ten minutes. But I am overjoyed to that she’s there. She’s happy, now. I talked with her and found out that she had a wreck on the trail. Another time, her horse stepped over the log, my horse stepped over the log, her mule leaped! The pack landed on the mule’s neck, so she had to repack, again. I had followed her tracks at one point and found that she had gone around a downed tree and had to retrace her steps. It was a dead-end. But she had made it!

I give her a lot of credit. She was in good spirits, she wasn’t crying, she wasn’t anything. She came through it like a trooper. I know men who couldn’t do what she did. But she made it. I made it (before dark). It was a wonderful trip.

Jane was lucky enough while she was there to see us shoot a rattlesnake (it was on the boardwalk). And she slept in the cantina, even after we told her that you shouldn’t sleep near the food, in case of bears. We told her that she’d be fine, even if we wouldn’t sleep next to the food. We had a wonderful time. We accomplished opening camp, which was our goal. The trip out was fine, Jane followed me. We had some problems loading the stock onto her trailer, but we managed. Then we rolled on home.

I know this isn’t a humorous story, but the key thing is: Jane was a trooper. She got lost more than once on the way in; which explains how I was only ten minutes behind her, even though she had a three-hour head start. The two hikers that had never packed a horse weren’t a lot of help at the trail head. Jane went from one trip last year, leading one mule, going in with a group, to riding in alone. She always admits that she’s directionally impaired. I don’t understand that. I go in. I know all the trails. You can’t miss it, but you can. I give lots of credit. She did it all, and was a wonderful companion on the trail.

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Painting by Sal Vasquez

1st Place for Oil Painting in the
Rendezvous Art Show!

There’s a photo, lower right corner, on page 10 showing a photo of Sal working on a piece “out in the wild”

Sal Vasquez

sal4art@sbcglobal.net
Hole in the Wall—March 2018
BCHC Membership Application and link to PayPal available at the following link:
http://www.bchcalifornia.org/membership.htm

BCHC MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
membership@bchcalifornia.org

MAIL TO: Membership Backcountry Horsemens 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) ______ Area Code ______ 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
Unit Name (from above list)

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

Please write additional choices on back.
Annual Fundraising Trail Ride
Saturday, June 2nd
20784 Pegasus St., Tehachapi CA 93561

Bring your horse, friends and family to the Saddle up for St. Jude’s Trail Ride. All proceeds to go St. Jude’s Childrens Research Hospital. All Breeds of Horses and Mules Welcome!

Get your friends and family to make a tax deductible donation to St. Jude’s. Checks and cash accepted at the ride or mail to the contact information below.

<table>
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<th>Saturday, June 2nd</th>
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<tr>
<td>9:00 Sign Up</td>
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<td>10:00 Trail Ride</td>
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<td>12:30 BBQ and Silent Auction</td>
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For more information, call Gail at (661) 599-0635 or Sue at (805) 428-6581 www.GreaterLPaintClub.com

Sponsored by the
Greater Los Angeles Paint Horse Club

Call for Camping and Stabling Information

NO DOGS ALLOWED
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.

We’re on the web—
www.BCHC-avunit.org

Leave No Trace ... Gentle Use