



# MOTHER LODE UNIT MATTERS

P O BOX 2088

ELK GROVE CA 95759-2088

Backcountry Horsemen of California

[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org)

[www.bchmlu.org](http://www.bchmlu.org)

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – JANUARY 2015

We are looking forward to another exciting and busy year for the Mother Lode Unit.

Your Trails Chairperson, Jerry Heitzler, is already meeting with representatives from the USFS, Pacific Crest Trail Association (PCTA), and Tahoe Rim Trail to establish trail projects for this year. Once projects are identified and work dates established, we'll share that information with everyone.

Jerry Heitzler and Tom Celio have connected with the Lake Tahoe Basin Management Team to start a dialogue about restoring the corral in Meiss Meadows. They have offered MLU's services in packing materials and working with a non-motorized logger. The meadow would be a beautiful location to camp or take a lunch break.

As we get back into the thought of attending meetings and getting ready for the trail support season, everyone should be checking their First Aid/CPR and Saw Cards for expiration dates. If you need to renew or would like to get your saw certification for the first time, please contact Jerry Heitzler so he can work on scheduling the training. The USFS has changed their First Aid/CPR requirements to include Bloodborne Pathogens. So when you renew your card or get a first-time card, you will want to add the training for Bloodborne Pathogens. If you have a card that is not yet expired, it will remain valid until the expiration date.

At the end of 2014, our Board voted to change the meeting days from the third Monday of the even numbered months to the fourth Monday of the even numbered months. Now all of our meetings will be on

the fourth Monday (not necessarily the last Monday). All you need to do now is remember whether it's a Board meeting happening or a General meeting happening. Board meetings will be in February, April, June, August, and October. General meetings will be in March, May, July, September, and November.

The first campout of the year was a good time at Camp Far West. Lucy tells you all about it in her article "Mother Lode Riders Spy Bald Eagle." Great job! Thank you, Lucy.

Right now all of our efforts are focused on the BCHC 28th Annual Rendezvous. As I'm sure you know by now, the MLU along with the Mid-Valley Unit is responsible for putting on this year's Rendezvous. I hope you have all made plans to be in Angels Camp the weekend of March 13th -15th. If you have any questions at all about the Rendezvous - What is it? What happens during the weekend? How much fun can a person really have? - just give me a call. I'll be glad to tell you what I know.

New MLU member Pastor Larry Condit has agreed to put on Cowboy Church Sunday morning at the Rendezvous. Joining Pastor Larry will be Ron Scofield and his brother Gary as his musical accompaniment.

I hope everyone has been able to take advantage of the rainless winter we've had so far by saddling up and getting out on the trails.

I want to take a moment to thank Daryl Shankles for connecting with members when their membership is close to expiration and welcoming new members when they join. Daryl has been successful in keeping our membership numbers up. Membership equals a bigger voice in Washington and helps us be heard.

**2015  
MOTHER LODE UNIT OFFICERS  
AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

Email: [bchmlu@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bchmlu@sbcglobal.net)

Webpage: [www.bchmlu.org](http://www.bchmlu.org)

**OFFICERS**

*President* Mike Kohlbaker (916) 424-8105  
[4horsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4horsen@sbcglobal.net)  
*V. President* Randy Hackbarth (530) 626-0571  
[trlryder@pacbell.net](mailto:trlryder@pacbell.net)  
*Secretary* Norma Kohlbaker (916) 424-8105  
[4horsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4horsen@sbcglobal.net)  
*Treasurer* Lucy Badenhoop (916) 216-7040  
[badenhoop@comcast.net](mailto:badenhoop@comcast.net)  
*State Director* Mike Kohlbaker (916) 424-8105  
[4horsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4horsen@sbcglobal.net)  
*Alt. Director* Appointed as Necessary  
*Membership* Daryl Shankles (530) 558-0060  
[gottshank@yahoo.com](mailto:gottshank@yahoo.com)  
*Editor* Corky Layne (530) 589-6914  
[corkylayne@sbcglobal.net](mailto:corkylayne@sbcglobal.net)  
*Webmaster* Carrie Johnen (209) 245-5617  
[cjubilee@comcast.net](mailto:cjubilee@comcast.net)

**BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE**

Bob Gilmore (530) 620-4994  
[wildroseranch@wildblue.net](mailto:wildroseranch@wildblue.net)  
Melba Leal (530) 622-5205  
[apachejam@hughes.net](mailto:apachejam@hughes.net)

**COMMITTEE CHAIRS**

*Education:* Jerry Heitzler (530) 391-6822  
*Horse Expo:* Mike Kohlbaker (916) 424-810  
[4horsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4horsen@sbcglobal.net)  
Bob Gilmore (530) 620-4994  
[wildroseranch@wildblue.net](mailto:wildroseranch@wildblue.net)  
*Public Lands:* Carolyn Gilmore (530) 620-4994  
[wildroseranch@wildblue.net](mailto:wildroseranch@wildblue.net)  
Cordell Van Rees (916) 956-4657  
[cvanrees@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cvanrees@sbcglobal.net)  
*Rendezvous:* Mike Kohlbaker (916) 424-8105  
[4horsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4horsen@sbcglobal.net)  
*Rides:* Kathy Goodrich (916) 835-8498  
[kathy.goodrich@ucdavis.edu](mailto:kathy.goodrich@ucdavis.edu)  
Mike Kohlbaker (916) 424-8105  
[4horsen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:4horsen@sbcglobal.net)  
Becky Wolk (530) 622-1907  
[rwbzbranch@localnet.com](mailto:rwbzbranch@localnet.com)  
*Trail Projects:* Al Kaiser (916) 687-7094  
[dblediamond47@frontiernet.net](mailto:dblediamond47@frontiernet.net)  
Jerry Heitzler (530) 391-6822  
[secrvtvly@gmail.com](mailto:secrvtvly@gmail.com)

*President's Message (continued from page 1)*

We have three fundraisers happening in 2015. The first one to think about is the Lucky Calendar fundraiser. We will be bringing the Lucky Calendars back from the State Meeting at the end of February so they will be available at our March general meeting. Then, we have two Trail Ride fundraisers. Here it is February and I'm already looking forward to our June FUN Ride and our August Jack Brooks ride. This year's FUN ride will be at Mountain Meadows. Bob and Carolyn Gilmore have invited us to hold our fundraiser on their property in the Sierras. Thank you Bob and Carolyn for your hospitality!

If you find a new trail that you like, give our Trail Ride Coordinator, Kathy Goodrich, a call. Maybe it will end up on our list of rides for next year.

If I don't see you at Rendezvous, I hope to see you at our next meeting.

In the meantime, Keep Your Leather Side Up, and Your Steel Side Down! God Bless America!

Mike Kohlbaker, President

**MLU RIDERS SPY BALD EAGLE**

by Lucy Badenhoop

The Mother Lode Unit's first campout of 2015 was chilly in the evenings, foggy in the mornings, but gorgeous during the midday rides. At Camp Far West near Wheatland, the riders were joined by some fishermen in boats on the lake, but didn't meet anyone on the trails. The only other occupants were the grazing cattle.

On Saturday, the trail boss followed the lake's east edge out and the perimeter fence on the return leg. The group did meet up with a bald eagle about halfway through the 10-mile ride. The leafless trees allowed a stunning view from horseback.

With the gentle terrain and wooded trails meandering along the shoreline, one participant thought it a good place to introduce her new pack animals to the real world. It was her first time taking them on the trail after all the tedious hours of practice at home. The equines turned out to be a compatible team and the rider got lots of experience handling the lead rope in non-familiar territory. More experienced packers were quick to share their tips with the novice.

*Ride (continued from page 2)*

There were three rigs that camped overnight Friday and Saturday and several more riders that came just for the Saturday ride and stayed for pot luck supper. Sunday midday, a few riders took a six-mile ride on the west edge of the lake before loading their trailers and heading home.

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***Terri Riley and Her Girls at the Draft Horse Classic.***

They were in a team of four Belgians at the Rose Parade this year. They looked spectacular. Terri is a long-time member of Mother Lode Unit. Congratulations, Terri!!!

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### ***RANDOM THOUGHTS*** FROM THE INTERNET

**THE KIDS TEXT ME "PLZ", WHICH IS SHORTER THAN PLEASE. I TEXT BACK "NO" WHICH IS SHORTER THAN "YES".**

**OF COURSE I TALK TO MYSELF, SOMETIMES I NEED EXPERT ADVICE.**

**EVEN DUCT TAPE CAN'T FIX STUPID ... BUT IT CAN MUFFLE THE SOUND!**

**WHY DO I HAVE TO PRESS ONE FOR ENGLISH WHEN YOU'RE JUST GONNA TRANSFER ME TO SOMEONE I CAN'T UNDERSTAND ANYWAY?**

**MY PEOPLE SKILLS ARE JUST FINE. IT'S MY TOLERANCE TO IDIOTS THAT NEEDS WORK.**

## **ML GENERAL MEETING MINUTES**

**January 26, 2015**

The meeting was called to order at 6:58 PM by President Mike Kohlbaker in Cameron Park.

Guests/New Members were Al Jagow, Jeanne Sisson, Gale Rotenburg, and Jim Harville.

Jim Harville, Director of Placerville & Sacramento Valley Railroad, Inc, spoke about the history of the railroad in the El Dorado Rail Corridor, the vision for the corridor, and how we can all work together on our section of the El Dorado Trail.

In December 2014, the MLU Board approved a donation of \$150 to the Land Trust of Santa Cruz County for the purchase of property to accommodate a wildlife crossing on Highway 17. Lucy Badenhoop made a motion to increase that donation to \$250 in order to get matching funds; motion passed.

Lucy Badenhoop presented the proposed 2015 Budget along with actuals from the previous three years. A donation of \$1,500 for the Caples Creek Project was included and, along with the addition of income expected from the Land Sale and the 2015 Calendar sales, the budget was approved.

Contact Jerry Heitzler or Mike Kohlbaker if you need Chain Saw certification, re-certification or CPR/First Aid classes.

Carolyn Gilmore and Melba Leal reported that the TAOEDC is hoping to become the spokesperson for all trail users on the eastern slope. Members are encouraged to attend TAOEDC meetings to ensure equestrians are represented.

Jerry Heitzler and Mike Kohlbaker attended a project planning meeting in Tahoe on January 24 with Justine Kooyman, PCTA; Jacob Quinn, USFS-Lake Tahoe Basin; Morgan Fessler, Tahoe Rim Trail Association; and Jon Erickson, UFSF-Desolation Wilderness.

This year's Desolation Wilderness project will be Lake Sylvia.

Jerry Heitzler, Tom Cielo, and Mike Kohlbaker met with the USFS Lake Tahoe Basin management unit to discuss plans to re-build the corrals in Meiss Meadow.

Minutes (continued from page 3)

Lucy Badenhop reported that signs have been ordered for installation at Caples Creek in the spring. Due to scope creep, we were not able to gravel the entire area. We will be working on raising \$15,000. Russ Neisz is making and donating six hitching posts. Bob Sydnor said the Caples Creek Equestrian Trailhead is on Google Earth. He will share the link.

The Rendezvous will be March 13, 14 and 15, 2015 at the Calaveras Fair Grounds in Angels Camp. The major raffle items this year are "\$500 off the purchase of a gun" and "a two-night stay at Pt Reyes Country Inn and Stables". Tickets are 1 for \$5 or 5 for \$20.

BCHC has established two- and three-year options for membership, plus a youth membership of \$15 a year for 18-25 year olds.

There will be a BCHC Board Meeting February 27-28. Unit Directors, Public Lands Chairpersons, and Education Chairpersons attend these meetings. However, all members are welcome.

Thanks to Lucy Badenhop, MLU has been listed in the club section of the Cool Horse Trails .com website with a link to our website and thanks to Melba Leal for the link to our website from the XPWomen.com website.

At the October meeting, the MLU Board approved the purchase of a BCHC Unit Booth Banner. Mike Kohlbaker will pick it up at the State Board Meeting in February.

Bob Sydnor said the Squaw Valley Specific Plan and Comprehensive Recreational Plan has no reference to equestrians.

Next Board Meeting – February 23; General Meeting – March 23, 2015-- both at Denny's in Cameron Park.

Meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

Norma Kohlbaker, Secretary



## TEVIS EDUCATIONAL RIDE INVITATION Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 3-5, 2015

Join us for a weekend of education at the Foresthill Mill Site in Foresthill, CA. Riders will enjoy gorgeous views along the scenic Western States Trail.

Tevis Educational Ride Participants will enjoy the following (Details Not Finalized):

Camping included from Friday, July 3rd through Sunday, July 5<sup>th</sup>.

- Mileage credit towards Tevis requirements for completion
- Ample parking for large rigs and portable pens
- The Tevis Store

Bring your friends and family to socialize with fellow riders and Tevis veterans.

For entry forms and information go to:  
<http://www.teviscup.org/education/2015-tevis-educational-ride>



**Backcountry Horsemen of California**

### 2015 MLU WEDNESDAY DAY RIDES

- |       |  |
|-------|--|
| 2/18  | Granite Bay, at Folsom Lake            |
| 3/18  | Empire Mine,                           |
| 4/15  | Cronin Ranch, Pilot Hill               |
| 5/13  | Fleming Meadows, Pollock Pines         |
| 6/17  | Wrights Lake, Ice House                |
| 7/15  | Schneider's Cow Camp, Hwy 88           |
| 8/10  | Thunder Mountain, Hwy 88               |
| 9/16  | Sayles Canyon, Hwy 50, by Twin Bridges |
| 10/21 | El Dorado Trail, Latrobe Road          |
| 11/18 | Salmon Falls, Folsom Lake              |
| 12/16 | American River Parkway                 |
| 12/19 | Salmon Falls                           |

## COMING EVENTS

*You must be a current member of BCHC to participate in any unit's activity involving animals.  
Board meetings are on the 4th Monday of February, April, June, August, October, December.  
General meetings are on the 4th Monday of January, March, July, September, November.*

*For Rides and Camp Trips: contact Kathy Goodrich (916-835-8498) for information and to sign up.*

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|----------|--|
| 2/23     | <b>ML Board Meeting</b> , Denny's, Cameron Park  |
| 2/25     | Trail Talk: Equine First Aid, Colic and Muscle Abnormalities at Cabela's, Reno<br>6-8 PM <a href="mailto:info@tahoerimtrail.org">info@tahoerimtrail.org</a>      |
| 2/27-29  | <b>ML Camp Trip</b> - Turkey Hill, Comanche Lake.  |
| 3/13-15  | BCHC Rendezvous, Angels Camp Fairgrounds   |
| 3/23     | <b>ML General Meeting</b> , Denny's, Cameron Park  |
| 3/5/15   | Tevis Talks Fundraiser   |
| 4/18/15  | American River Classic (50 mile ride)  |
| 4/22-25  | BCHA National Meeting, Sacramento  |
| 5/15-17  | <b>ML Camp Trip - Sayles Canyon</b>  |
| 4/27     | <b>ML Board Meeting</b> , Denny's, Cameron Park  |
| 5/19 -24 | Mule Days - Bishop, CA   |
| 5/27     | Equine Stretching: A Little Yoga for Your Horse, at Galena Creek Visitor Center<br>5 PM- 7 PM <a href="mailto:info@tahoerimtrail.org">info@tahoerimtrail.org</a> |
| 6/5-7    | Horse Expo - Cal Expo, Sacramento  |
| 6/18-27  | Reno Rodeo   |
| 6/22     | <b>ML Board Meeting</b> , Denny's, Cameron Park  |
| 6/26-28  | <b>ML FUN/Camp Trip - Mountain Meadows (Wine Ride Fundraiser)</b>  |
| 7/3-12   | Calgary Stampede, Calgary, Canada  |
| 7/3-5    | Tevis Educational Ride (from Robinson Flat to Auburn)  |
| 7/24-26  | <b>ML Camp Trip - Loney Meadows</b>  |
| 8/01/15  | Tevis  |
| 8/24     | <b>ML Board Meeting</b> , Denny's, Cameron Park  |
| 8/27- 31 | <b>ML Camp Trip - Jack Brooks</b>  |
| 9/25-27  | <b>ML Camp Trip - Caples Creek</b>   |
| 10/23-25 | <b>ML Camp Trip - Point Reyes</b>  |
| 10/26    | <b>ML Board Meeting</b> , Denny's, Cameron Park  |
| 11/20-22 | <b>ML Camp Trip - Deer Creek Hills</b>   |
| 12/28    | <b>ML Board Meeting</b> , Denny's, Cameron Park  |