

# MOTHER LODE UNIT MATTERS

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Backcountry Horsemen of California

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

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

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – January 2016

### *Happy New Year!*

The Mother Lode Unit concluded 2015 with its traditional pot luck meeting in November. We filled the Van Rees game room to capacity! The Unit provided the Tri-Tip and the members provided all the rest! Let me just say, MLU members can cook! Thanks once again to Cordell and Linda for opening their home to us.

I also want to thank Daryl Shankles for his years of service as our Membership Chairperson, and Melba Leal for serving as a Member-At-Large in 2015. Our election of officers in November brought Chris Chaloupka onto the Board as our Membership Chairperson and Kathy Goodrich as one of our Members-At-Large for 2016. Thank you Chris and Kathy for stepping up.

We have a whole new year spreading out before us and we have lots of plans for making it great. We'll continue to have monthly meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of the month, the annual Pack Clinic, the Gentle Use Camp at Horse Expo, the Tells Creek Trail Clearing, and the training rides and campouts. And we hope to have another good packing season, too. Please join in. We look forward to your input and participation.

Our membership wants to continue to schedule a week-day ride each month. You'll notice those rides have been moved to the second Wednesday of the month. Thanks to Kathy Goodrich for developing the 2016 Ride Schedule which was approved at the November meeting. Be sure to update your "Lucky" calendars with our ride dates and watch for updates throughout the year.

As I mention Lucky calendars, ten of last year's drawing winners purchased their raffle tickets from MLU! Congratulations everyone and those that supported BCHC Fundraising.

Take a look at the new MLU Website (same URL "www.bchmlu.org"). Our Webmaster, Carrie Johnen, recommended changing service providers and has been giving our website an overhaul. It's really taking form nicely. Thank you Carrie for your continued support as our Webmaster!

In keeping with the topic of social media – MLU member, Pat Ryan, has developed a new Facebook page for us. Be sure to "like" us – Back Country Horsemen CA Mother Lode Unit! Thank you Pat! And watch for Twitter to be a part of outreach.

Rendezvous registration is open! The Registration Packet will be on the MLU website as well as the BCHC website. Those websites will give you more detail about what goes on at Rendezvous. Entry Forms for the Western Art & Craft Show and the Competitions (Dutch Oven, Pack Scramble, Odd Load, Hitch, and Trail Challenge) will be available on the BCHC website. Vendors will include Outfitters from Idaho, Colorado, and Oregon. This is MLU and Mid-Valley's last year for putting on the Rendezvous; in 2017, it will move to Bishop, CA.

There are lots of volunteer opportunities during the event. Let me know if you'd like to put your name on the list. Rendezvous will be in Angels Camp the weekend of March 18 – 20, 2016. We can use help on Thursday and Monday to set up and tear down as well as during the weekend. Volunteers helping on Thursday can arrive on Wednesday.

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

I hope to see you at our next meeting, work party, and/or ride. In the meantime, Keep Your Leather Side Up, and Your Steel Side Down! God Bless America!

Mike Kohlbaker



*Mother Lode members relaxing at Stewart Horse Camp*

## **GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY**

**September 28, 2015**

MLU packed tools and food to Lake Sylvia on August 2 and out on August 8 with some new members as out riders. We also packed tools into Armstrong Pass on 8/13. (The BCH Washington website has a good video demonstrating gravel hauling.)

Belinda Gail will do our Friday night concert at the Rendezvous .

MLU has been given two McLeods and has decided to purchase two sets of canvas and leather extra-large panniers for use in unit packing services.

BCHC has purchased a utility trailer for storing Rendezvous equipment and supplies. Brad Weston and Merrill Kagan-Weston have been supplied with BCH logo images and trailer dimensions to develop a design for wrapping the trailer.

Recent fires and the importance of clearing defensible space during the winter months were discussed. Members Carrie Johnen and Randy Hackbarth helped with animal rescue and care in Amador County.

New member Lionel Lavalley donated a small chainsaw to MLU. Thanks Lionel.

Lucy Badenhoop will attend the "Big Day of Giving" orientation. The unit will pay the \$50 fee.

## **MLU TRAINING AT POINT REYES**

By Lucy Badenhoop

On 23-25 October 2015, MLU made its annual trip to its favorite horse camp, Stewart Ranch, and ride the coastal trails near Point Reyes. It was the end of the ranch's camping season, and school had already started, so it wasn't crowded and our group could spread out a little. We had our usual pot luck breakfasts and suppers, so there was a lot of food variety and minimal work preparing meals.

Some folks arrived Thursday or early Friday and enjoyed their favorite trail on Friday afternoon. On Saturday, two groups headed out...one took the high trails into the hills; the other took the low trails through the rolling pastures. The trails were mostly shaded and the skies stayed clear with temperatures in the 70-80 range all weekend, which made for a spectacular ride in any direction.

As for training, there were numerous gate opening and closing exercises on the trails through a cattle ranch. Along with hiker foot traffic, there were other equestrians, so safe passing on single track sections was an important focus.

On Sunday, most everyone packed up after breakfast and took a short detour to the beach before heading home. Some of the mounts had never been around foaming waves and shifting sands, so it was amusing to watch their reactions. The most common sight was for them to be curious until the wave reached their feet and the sand moved...then they quickly danced away.



## GENERAL MEETING MINUTES SUMMARY

November 15, 2015, Loomis

Proposed 2016 ride schedules were discussed. Weekend rides will continue to be on the fourth weekend of the month, for the most part. Weekday rides will be on the second Wednesday of the month. Anyone interested in being a ride coordinator for one of the rides should contact Kathy Goodrich to get their name on the schedule.

The following officers were elected:

President Mike Kohlbaker  
Vice President Randy Hackbarth  
Treasurer Lucy Badenhoop  
Secretary Norma Kohlbaker  
Membership Chair Chris Chaloupka  
Education Chair Jerry Heitzler  
Trail Project Chairs Jerry Heitzler & Al Kaiser  
Public Lands Chairs Carolyn Gilmore & Cordell Van Rees  
Members-at-Large Bob Gilmore & Kathy Goodrich

Lucy Badenhoop was authorized to participate in the Big Day of Giving fundraising campaign on behalf of MLU and use the funds raised for the Caples Creek Trailhead.

The next general meeting will be on January 25, at the Denny's in Cameron Park.

Meeting adjourned for the pot luck and raffle.

## RENDEZVOUS RAFFLE TICKETS – I'VE GOT THEM!

by Norma Kohlbaker

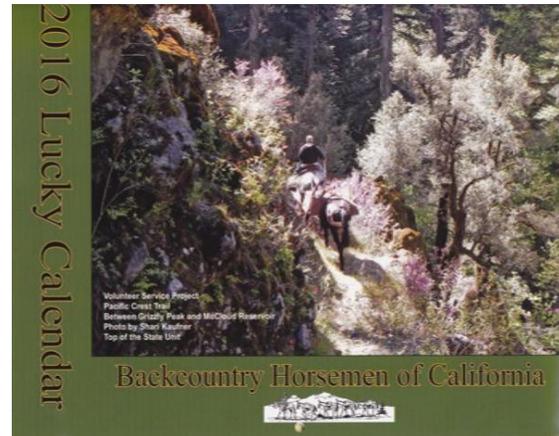
Each year, the Rendezvous committee selects two major raffle items and pre-sells the tickets. That way, even members who can't make it to the Rendezvous have a chance to participate in the Raffles. This year's major Rendezvous raffle items are:

\$500 toward Your Choice of Gun / Accessories at The Big Horn Gun Shop in El Dorado, or a two-Night Stay at the Pt. Reyes Country Inn and Stables. Your choice.

Tickets are \$5 each or 5 tickets for \$20. Buy some of each or put all your money on one. No need to miss out on these tickets! If you would like to order tickets, please send me a check for the number of tickets you want. Checks should be made out to "BCHC Rendezvous" and mailed to Norma Kohlbaker. I will

need your Name, Address, and Telephone Number to put on the stubs. Please mail your checks in time for me to receive them by March 12<sup>th</sup>.

## LUCKY CALENDARS/RAFFLE STILL FOR SALE



We still have 2016 Lucky Calendar Raffle Tickets. The drawing goes on all year, so you can still get in the drawings! For a \$25 donation, you get a chance to win cash from \$50 to \$3,000, plus a beautiful calendar to keep track of the drawing dates!

You can make your donations and get your calendars from either Vice-President Randy Hackbarth, or Secretary Norma Kohlbaker. Pick up a handful for your friends and neighbors!

## HORSE TRAIL WEBSITE

by Robert H. Sydnor

Here is a hyperlink to all 61 of my equestrian trailhead reports which have been written over the past decade. All are in a safe .pdf format, with no advertising.

<https://groups.google.com/forum/#!forum/horsetrails>

They are posted onto Google Groups website entitled "horsetrails". It is not a blog site, just a place wherein equestrians can scroll through a large volume of trailhead reports and download and print whatever they like. Several hundred equestrians have viewed this album of reports. I post a new one each month.

Robert H. Sydnor  
Hydrogeologist and Engineering Geologist  
AERC Trail Master and Mother Lode member

**2016  
MOTHER LODE UNIT OFFICERS  
AND MEMBERS OF THE BOARD**

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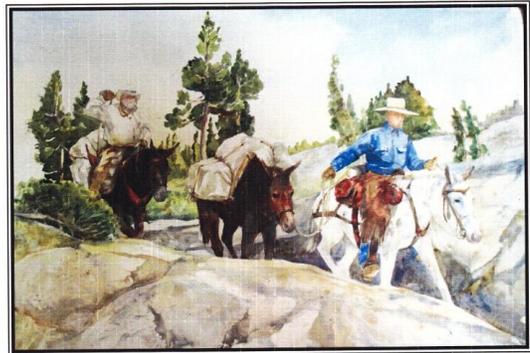
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MLU Note Card gift sets are selling for \$11 for 5 cards with envelopes. Contact Norma Kohlbaker

[Thinking about taking a trip?](#)  
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Up to 60% rebates go back to BCH when used for travel.  
 A World Class Travel Service for BCHC Members and supporters .

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**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA  
 PHILOSOPHY AND PURPOSE**

*To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness.*

*To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.*

*To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.*

*To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the backcountry resource by horsemen*

*And the general public commensurate with our heritage.*

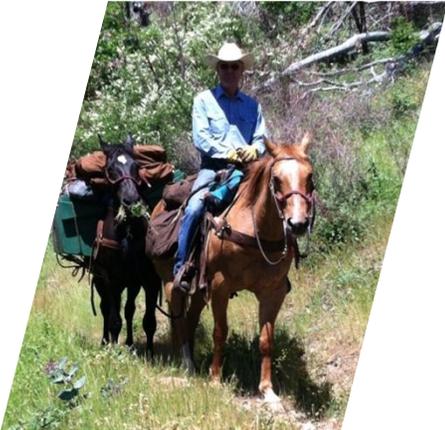
## COMING EVENTS 2016

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

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

|  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| 1/13<br>1/22-24                              | <b>Day Ride</b> – Hidden Falls, in Auburn<br><b>CAMPING</b> Camp Far West  | Coordinator:  |
| 1/25   | <b>ML General Meeting</b> , Denny's, Cameron Park  |   |
| 2/10<br>2/26-28<br>3/9                       | <b>Day Ride</b> – Auburn Overlook<br><b>CAMPING</b> Lake Comanche<br><b>Day Ride</b> – Empire Mine   | Coordinator:<br><br>Coordinator:                                    |
| 3/18-20                                      | <b>CAMPING</b> BCHC 2016 <b>RENDEZVOUS</b>   |   |
| 4/13<br>4/22-24<br>5/11<br>5/20-22           | <b>Day Ride</b> – Cronin Ranch, Pilot Hill<br><b>CAMPING</b> - Dru Barner with <b>PACK CLINIC</b> Saturday morning<br><b>Day Ride</b> – Fleming Meadows, Pollock Pines<br><b>CAMPING</b> - Potter Valley<br>(BCHC North Bay Fund Raiser) | Coordinator:<br><br>Coordinator:                                    |
| 5/24-29<br>6/8<br>6/10-12                    | Mule Days, Bishop<br><b>Day Ride</b> – Sayles Canyon<br>Horse Expo, Sacramento   | Coordinator:  |
| 6/17-19<br>6/24-26<br>7/13<br>7/22-24        | <b>CAMPING</b> - Caples Creek<br>Half Ass Flat Ride (BCHC Redwood Unit Ride)<br><b>Day Ride</b> – Wrights Lake<br><b>CAMPING</b> - Loney Meadows   | Coordinator:  |
| 8/10<br>8/ 26-28<br>9/14<br>9/23-25<br>10/12 | <b>Day Ride</b> – Caples Creek<br><b>CAMPING</b> – Tells Creek<br><b>Day Ride</b> – Olmstead Loop Trail<br><b>CAMPING</b> – Mountain Meadows (Wine Ride Fundraiser)<br><b>Day Ride</b> – El Dorado Trail ( Latrobe Road)                 | Coordinator: Lucy Badenhoop<br><br>Coordinator:<br><br>Coordinator: |
| 10/21-23<br>11/9<br>11/19<br>12/14<br>12/17  | <b>CAMPING</b> – Point Reyes<br><b>Day Ride</b> – Falcon Crest, Folsom Lake<br><b>DAY RIDE</b> – Pena Adobe<br><b>Day Ride</b> – American River Parkway<br><b>DAY RIDE</b> – Rattlesnake Bar (Folsom Lake)                               | Coordinator:<br><br>Coordinator:<br><br>Coordinator:                |

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*This is the official publication of the Mother Lode Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the board. Articles, comments, and suggestions are solicited. Newsletters will be published in January, March, May, July, September, and November.*