

Backcountry
Horsemen
Of California



North Bay Unit

North Bay News

1007 B West College Ave. #153, Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5036

<http://www.northbayunit.com>
<http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

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Guinness World Book of Records

by Lisa Deas

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Horseback riders gathered at Fort Ord on Sunday June 13th to participate in a nationwide effort to set the first Guinness World Record for horseback trail competition. The record was officially made per Guinness the next day!!

There was a six-mile trail competition ride benefiting horse rescue organizations, which drew 45 riders and horses from throughout the Central Coast to Fort Ord.

Sgt. Allan MacDonald appeared at the ride wearing a vintage 1940s horse cavalry sergeant's uniform. MacDonald owned the last ceremonial cavalry horse on Fort Ord. The horse named Comanche is buried on Fort Ord.

SFC Alan MacDonald and Comanche II

Sergeant MacDonald, at 87 ½ years of age, was among the riders who visited the grave-site. He spent a few moments talking with fellow riders about the events that occurred at this site, generations ago. He described Ft Ord as it was back then and he spoke of his partnership with Comanche and the duties they performed together.

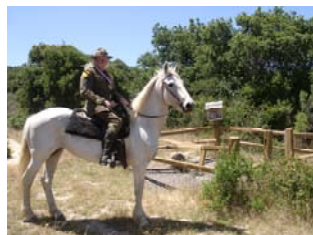
The following is from the original document that was once affixed to the monument at Comanche's grave site...

Comanche was truly a Calvary horse as she participated in many parades here on Fort Ord as well as throughout the state of California, Arizona and Oregon.

She started in the late 1960s for the last graduating class of basic trainees then in 1970 on the Main Parade Field, Drill Sergeant Field, and Fritsche Airfield for every commanding general incoming and outgoing - the 9th Calvary, the 10th Calvary, Basic Combat Support Brigade, Cook and Bakers School, and Air Brigade.

She paraded in the city of Marina, Seaside, Pacific Grove, Salinas, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Castroville, San Jose, King City, Paso Robles, Redding, Palm Springs, Reno, Redwood City, San Juan Bautista, Soledad, Gilroy, Morgan Hill, Walnut Creek, Ashland and Medford Oregon, and Yuma Arizona.

She won 1st place in most all off-post parades, and paraded in the Army Birthday Parade in 1976 on the Main Parade Field.



2011 BCHC
Rendezvous will
be in Red Bluff.
April 1-3

2009 OFFICERS

President: Denise Gilseth
dgilseth@sbcglobal.net

Vice President: Phil Monette
monette@mcn.org

Secretary: Nadine Lavell
nlavell@sonic.net

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Sanvan@grapevinetrading.com

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thunder.t@hotmail.com

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muledaze@yahoo.com

Membership: Michael Murphy
extra_mike@hotmail.com

President's Memo
"PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE"
by Denise Gilseth

PAST: Our Annual Spring Ride held the 3rd weekend in May was a huge success from every standpoint. We made money, got a few new members, and most importantly had a fun time. I can't thank enough our wonderful hosts, Gary Rasche Sr., Jr. and their hardworking Ranch Hand Hector for providing us with one of the most beautiful venues to ride, camp and have fun. Also my thanks to the "I can do it" volunteers, for without their help our ride wouldn't be possible. To our Silent Auction Donors and those people who bid on these items and services: without your generosity, this Unit would not have the resources to assist with the improvements we make to our local parks that benefit all users. **THANK YOU!**

PRESENT: LAKE SONOMA

Ranger Cynthia Rowe is looking for volunteers for a mounted patrol unit. If you think you and your horse would qualify, contact Cindy for the date and times of the next orientation meeting. (see our website for contact info): northbayunit.com. Dan and Thor also post scheduled work parties on our site, if you would care to volunteer for a little "shovel in the dirt" work!

CEPEC: an acronym for **California Equestrian Park & Event Center**. **JULY 20TH – 7 P.M. AT SCDRC**.

Come and hear what is being proposed in Sonoma County! Karl Bastian and Wanda Smith will present what facilities will be there, how big it would be, who is paying for it, and what has been done so far. They would also like to hear your suggestions/comments!

FUTURE: Your Officers have appointed a committee to revise our Unit's By-Laws and your vote on any changes will be required. Please be looking for this very important mailing and vote! The Northbay Unit of Back Country Horsemen is a member run organization and we need your involvement. Membership continues to grow. Linda Patrick has offered to assist Michael Murphy with keeping current our contact info for each of you. If you have a change of address, or are not receiving newsletters by email, please contact either Michael or Linda. (contact info on our website).

Finally, our meetings last about one and a half hours every third Tuesday of the month at 7 pm. Do you have an interest in getting more involved? Contact Dan or Thor for trail projects. Perhaps your skills are more along the lines of administration. Contact me (dgilseth@gmail.com) if you would like to consider filling a position on next year's slate of officers or joining a committee. The future of this unit depends on your help!

Happy summer, let's ride! ~Denise

Vice President Report

By Phil Monette

First of all I want to thank, again, all of the volunteers and attendees that helped to make this year's Spring Ride the best ever. So many members came together to help at the ride, it was incredible. We had the best attendance, the best raffle and auction ever.

I also want to thank all of the businesses and individuals that donated prizes to our raffle and auction; they are the people that help support our unit. The list of donors is too long to list in this report, but I encourage all our winners to thank them for their donation and let them know how much it is appreciated. Thanks to Linda (HorsesandThings.com) and John (Auction Rentals) for donating the use of a professional barbeque for our Friday night diner.

It was good to see so many people from all over come to the ride. There were riders from Mad River, Eureka, Castro Valley, Cool and Ferndale. We had perfect weather for the ride not too hot and not too cold. The Michael Paul Band played on Saturday night and every danced 'til late in the evening. This year we had more auction and raffle prizes than ever before.

I also wanted to let everyone know that the chicken for the Chicken S**t Bingo Game at the ride was granted a full pardon and will spend the rest of its life on a farm doing what chickens do and not on someone's dinner plate. Thank You Sandra.

If you were at the ride this year thank you for joining us, if you couldn't make it this year, I urge you to start planning to join us next year.

Happy Trails

Pack Clinic

North Bay Unit will be doing a pack clinic on **August 28th** at Lone Rock Horse Camp at **Lake Sonoma from 9 am till 3 pm.**

Come practice hitches and different systems for packing. Enjoy free BBQ lunch.

Please RSVP Dan Horn 707 544 4543





Campfire Corner

A place to share stories
and Backcountry wisdom

A Simple Statement.

I ride. That seems like such a simple statement. However, as many women who ride know, it is really a complicated matter. It has to do with power and empowerment. Being able to do things you might have once considered out of reach or ability.

I have considered this as I shovel manure, fill water barrels in the cold rain, and wait for the vet/farrier/electrician/hay delivery, change a tire on a horse trailer by the side of the freeway, or cool a gelding out before getting down to the business of drinking a cold beer after a long ride.

The time, the money, the effort it takes to ride calls for dedication. At least I call it dedication. Both my ex-husbands call it 'the sickness.' It's a sickness I've had since I was a small girl bouncing my model horses and dreaming of the day I would ride a real horse. Most of the women I ride with understand the meaning of 'the sickness.' It's not a sport. It's not a hobby. It's what we do and, in some ways, who we are as women and human beings.

I ride I hook up my trailer and load my gelding. I haul to some trailhead somewhere, unload, saddle, whistle up my dog, and I ride. I breathe in the air, watch the sunlight filter through the trees and savor the movement of my horse. My shoulders relax. A smile rides my sunscreen smeared face. I pull my ball cap down and let the real world fade into the tracks my horse leaves in the dust.

Time slows. Flying insects buzz loudly, looking like fairies. My gelding flicks his ears and moves down the trail. I can smell his sweat and it is perfume to my senses. Time slows. The rhythm of the walk and the movement of the leaves become my focus. My saddle creaks
And the leather rein in my hand softens with the warmth.

I consider the simple statement; I ride. I think of all I do because I ride. Climb granite slabs, wade into a freezing lake, race a friend Through the Manzanita all the while laughing and feeling my heart in my chest. Other days just the act of mounting and dismounting can be a real accomplishment. Still I ride. No matter how tired or how much my seat bones or any of the numerous horse related injuries hurt. I ride. And I feel better for doing so.

The beauty I've seen because I ride amazes me. I've ridden out to find lakes that remain for the most part, unseen. Caves, dark and cold beside rivers full and rolling are the scenes I see in my dreams. The Granite Stairway at Echo Summit, bald eagles on the wing and bobcats on the prowl add to the empowerment and joy in my heart.

I think of the people, mostly women, I've met. I consider how competent they all are. Not a weenie amongst the bunch. We haul 40ft Rigs. We back into tight spaces without clipping a tree. We set up camp. Tend the horses. We cook and keep safe. We understand and love our companions, the horse. We respect each other and those we Encounter on the trail. We know that if you are out there riding, you also shovel, fill, wait, and doctor. Your hands are a little rough And you travel without makeup or hair gel. You do without to afford the 'sickness' and probably, when you were a small girl, you bounced a model horse while you dreamed of riding a real one. Now you are there. I ride.

--Author Unknown (although, many of us feel she is our sister)

Public Lands

Thor Bodther

Hello everyone.....Summer Time has finally arrived and the rain has stopped. I am hoping that everyone is getting out and getting a chance to ride. On your travels if you notice anything that we can help the parks with, please pass that info on to me so that I can bring it to the table of the appropriate individuals. Also, if you keep finding that you ride the same park, why not consider become the Liaison for the Unit? All it involves is riding and reporting to Dan or me what you feel needs or might need special attention.

As you know, in April/May we tried to organize a work party in Jack London for taking care of downed trees. State Parks has that on hold. Be on the Alert for an email regarding this up and coming event.

It looks like we may have a project coming up at Helen Putnam in the fall with Sonoma County Trails Council. Will keep you posted on that one as well.

In Late June we did a last minute finish up on the manure bunker at Hood Mountain Trail Head, Raphael, and Dan and I ran out to Hood one evening and installed the wood on the bunker there.

Last but not least, please make sure we have your email address and don't forget to turn in your Volunteer Hours.... See you on the Trail



July Meeting 7/ 20 @ 7pm - SCDR Club House behind fairgrounds

We will be having a Guest Speaker from the Sonoma County Horse Council to bring us up to date on the New Equestrian Center they are planning.

Please come and bring a friend

Moon Light Ride

Sept. 25th, 2010

Come join us for a Moon Light Ride at the
Lake Sonoma Horse Camp

Arrive Saturday anytime, free ride and swim

Steak Dinner at 6 pm

Group Ride at 7 pm

Breakfast Sunday Morning at 9 am

Free to Members

Join North Bay Unit and the Ride is Free

Membership required

Contact

Dan Horn
707 544 4543
[Bearstrap@msn.com](mailto: Bearstrap@msn.com)

Denise Gilseth
707-695-5319
[dsgilseth@gmail.com](mailto: dsgilseth@gmail.com)

Limited to 50 Guests

RSVP by Sept. 20th 2010

Rules of the Ride

Bring **Your** own feed for stock

No fires at individual camps


Adult beverages can not be served on Trail

No Firearms ~ No Stallions

Every horse must have a rider

Mail To

North Bay BCHC
1007 B West College Ave. #153
Santa Rosa Ca. 95401

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

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 |
| Los Padres | San Geronimo | |

MAIL TO:
BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN
OF CALIFORNIA
PO Box 1610
OAKDALE, CA 95361-1610
<http://www.bchcalifornia.org>

Donate to BCHC
Education Fund?
Tax Deductible

Packer	\$10.00
Mule Skinner	\$25.00
You're the Greatest	\$50.00

MEMBER'S NAME –No Business Names; Please Print Clearly	SPOUSE/MEMBER'S NAME –MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS
---------------------------------------------------------------	------------------------------------------------------

ADDRESS			
CITY	STATE	ZIP	PHONE () _____

EMAIL ADDRESS _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____ **CHECK #** _____ **DATE SUBMITTED:** _____

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*

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

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

PARENT BCHC MEMBERSHIP TYPES
Individual, Family (Shared*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt Whitney. A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit. BCHC members may NOT hold more than one active Parent Membership.

*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.
- Associate Memberships may also be initiated at any time during the term of your Parent Membership.
- 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>

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS
I SUBMITTED AN Application Form for:

<input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership	\$ 40.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership	\$ 50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership	\$100.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership	\$250.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mt Whitney Membership	\$500.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Donation – Packer	\$10.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Mule Skinner	\$25.00
<input type="checkbox"/> You're the Greatest!	\$50.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Associate Membership	\$ _____
Total Remittance	\$ _____
Check Number _____	
Date Mailed _____	

Questions: Contact membership@bchcalifornia.org

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1007 B West College Ave. #153
Santa Rosa, CA 95401-5036



Backcountry Horsemen of California is now on Facebook.

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/Bakersfield-CA/Backcountry-Horsemen-of-California/196655795985?ref=ts>



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<http://www.ytbtravel.com/bchc>



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