

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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*Backcountry Horsemen of California*

## RENDZVOUS

Building Wilderness Skills

April 1-3, 2011  
Red Bluff, CA  
Tehama County Fairgrounds

**FREE Admission to Fairgrounds**

Events	Seminars
Horse Trainers Contests • Vendors Raffle • Kids Activities Dinner, Dance and Auction Wine & Cheese Fundraiser Cowboy Church on Sunday & More	Packing 101 • Trail Trials Gentle Use Skills Wilderness Safety Equine & Human First Aid Dutch Oven Cooking Public Lands Access Saddle Fitting & More

Open to the Public! Fun for the whole family!  
Advance Your Backcountry Riding & Packing Skill!

For more information, visit [www.bchcalifornia.org](http://www.bchcalifornia.org) or contact Larry Shuman at (530)527-8907 or (530)526-0590 or email: [Lshuman62@gmail.com](mailto:Lshuman62@gmail.com).

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

## 2009 OFFICERS

**President:** Denise Gilseth  
[dgilseth@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dgilseth@sbcglobal.net)

**Vice President:** Phil Monette  
[monette@mcn.org](mailto:monette@mcn.org)

**Secretary:** Nadine Lavell  
[nlavell@sonic.net](mailto:nlavell@sonic.net)

**Treasurer:** Sandra Van Voorhis  
[Sanvan@grapevinetrading.com](mailto:Sanvan@grapevinetrading.com)

**Education:** Dan Horn  
[Bearstrap@msn.com](mailto: Bearstrap@msn.com)

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[thunder.t@hotmail.com](mailto:thunder.t@hotmail.com)

**Newsletter:** Lisa Deas  
[muledaze@yahoo.com](mailto:muledaze@yahoo.com)

**Membership:** Michael Murphy  
[extra\\_mike@hotmail.com](mailto:extra_mike@hotmail.com)



**Don't miss this event.  
Registration packages  
are on the  
BCHC State website  
[http://www.bchcalifornia.org/2011-  
rendzvous.html](http://www.bchcalifornia.org/2011-rendzvous.html)**

**Download your forms  
and mail them in now!!**

## President's Memo

I would like to start off by thanking the previous board members for all of their hard work, dedication, and perseverance. Thank you to our former president Denise Gilseth, Secretary Nadine Laville and Treasurer Sandra VanVoorhis. Your many contributions to the Unit are greatly appreciated.

The next meeting, on March 15, will be a social event and we invite all members to come and participate. It will be at 7 pm at the Sonoma Riding and Driving Club at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds. We will share all of the many projects we have worked on over the past year and we will pass on new information about what is happening locally as well as nationally. This meeting will be a potluck and the board will be providing the main course from Pasta King. Please contribute by bringing a side dish or dessert.

At this meeting we are encouraging everyone to come and bring your ideas of what you, as members, want from this Unit. We need your ideas, thoughts, and suggestions regarding the direction we want to go with Backcountry Horsemen. We want you to tell us what you liked, what worked and what we can do differently to promote our service Unit. We need your help not only planning service projects but social events and educational events as well.

We hope that you come to the March meeting and bring a friend. We are always looking for new members who have the same desire to preserve and develop our local trails, while building friendships with fellow horse lovers.

**Happy Trails ~ Thor**

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## Vice President's Memo

First of all I want to thank everyone for all of the volunteer hours they have contributed working on our projects. This past year has been a busy one as well as a rewarding one. The North Bay Unit has been working on several unit projects, Lake Sonoma, Willow Creek, Tolay Regional Park, Doran Beach and Jack London State Park to name a few.

Your new board has been planning for the upcoming Rendezvous in Red Bluff in April. This year we are co-hosting the reception on Saturday April 2, 2011 and we are looking for local wineries to provide some of their products to showcase the counties Wine Industry. If you know any winery owners who would like to donate some of their wine for this fund raising event (tax deductible) have them call myself or Thor so we can discuss the details.

Also, we would like to see you at the this years' Rendezvous, we are sponsoring The Marines again this year, they were the hit of the 2009 Rendezvous in Turlock and put on a great show for the attendees.

This year I want to ask all of our members to contribute to our upcoming Spring Ride, in a very simple and easy way. Each of us know someone or some company or companies that could contribute a raffle prize for our drawing, all you need to do is ask. We are hoping to have donated some bottles of wine, a piece of tack, a gift certificate to a store, or a gift basket. All you have to do is ask if they would like to contribute. I will do all the collecting and the pickup work. All we need is the name, address and phone number of the contributor and what they would like to donate.

You can send your info to:

Thor - [thunder.t@hotmail.com](mailto:thunder.t@hotmail.com) or

**Phil Monette** - [Monette@mcn.org](mailto:Monette@mcn.org)

Thank you for your help and your support.

# New Privacy Berm At Lake Sonoma Horse Camp

*Dan Horn*

A few weeks ago Thor, Ranger Joel and I took a ride up to Liberty Glen to check on the progress at the Water Filter Station. Looks like it is about ¾ done, which means water this summer. On the way back down the hill we spotted a County Roads guy unloading a dozer at their dump yard, so we stopped to ask about a pile of ground asphalt that has been lying there for months. During the conversation he asks if we would be interested in about 600 yards of fill dirt. Joel and I both lit up like a light bulb, for years we have talked about a berm at the horse camp but didn't know where we would get the dirt.



So after clearing the project with the higher ups, that following Monday the trucks started to roll.

Joel was on site First thing to show the trucks where to start dumping. We had decided that Friday to lay it right down the fire break line.



I had to pull the high line poles on that side to make room and to insure I did not kill them with the tractor. So we will have to do a work party to put them back.

The next day was the Friends of Lake Sonoma monthly meeting, so Donna Meier asks them for a donation to buy some straw to cover our new project. They donated \$200.00 for straw and cover seed. So on Wednesday Thor met Donna in Geyserville at Harry Bosworth's to pick up the materials. Donna even got some wild flower seed. A few of the loads on Wednesday afternoon were a bit wet, so I spread them out and we all took Thursday off to let them dry. On Friday I pushed up the last of the piles while Donna, Joel and Barry spread straw and seed.



I relocated the sand roll pit just up the hill a ways, which will make it a lot dryer. This summer we plan to do some planting on top, maybe Bay Trees. At least they grow fast enough to make some shade before we all get to old to enjoy.

Thanks to the crew  
Joel, Donna, Thor, Barry  
And

Thanks to Friends of Lake Sonoma for  
the donation.



# Campfire Corner

A place to share stories  
and Backcountry wisdom

## RULES OF THE BARN

- I am human. You are horse. What I say goes. Please take that into consideration when you are standing on my foot.
- Spilled grain is not "fair game", especially when it is spilled in another horse's stall. It still belongs to that particular horse. You have no reason to go in and eat it.
- Poop does not need to be hidden. I clean your stall every day. I will find it. Do not hide it.
- I do not need your help when I clean the barn, nor do I need your supervision, or even your presence. I have been cleaning the barn and stalls ever since you lived here. I know what I am doing. Standing at the door staring at me, will not make me clean faster.
- There is no need to go into the barn and help yourself to the feed. Meals Are given at specific times of the day -am and pm. There is a feed schedule. You know the schedule. I know you know the schedule. You know that I know that you know the schedule. There is no need to help yourself.
- Water buckets are not toys. Neither is the gate, pitchfork, and wheelbarrow, whatever is in the wheel barrow, fence, or the occasional dog. The wheel barrow is there for a reason. Please do not try to move it while I am cleaning your stall.
- Just because I go into the Barn doesn't mean you automatically get food. There is other stuff in the barn. Stuff you don't want. Like the wormer and fly spray, shots, medicine.
- Sheath cleaning will NOT be enjoyed...by anybody.
- Water travels through the hose. If you are thirsty, do not stand on the hose. The water buckets will fill much faster.
- Not everything has to be high drama. None of the following things will kill you: fly spray, plastic bags, balloons, hoses, chipmunks, and other small rodents, or bright blue tarps.
- Although I understand the need for you to go to the bathroom, it is not necessary to hold it in all day until the moment I finish cleaning your stall and put away the wheel barrow.
- Accidents happen. However, I'm not altogether sure you're trying to kill yourself. Next time you decide to impale yourself on some sort of object, please try to do it when it's not hailing, midnight, the weekend, or Christmas.
- While I appreciate your need to be clean, pooping in your water bucket does not make my job easier, and it deprives you of water. Please find a new spot.
- Whinnying as loudly as you can in my face does not make me feed you any faster.
- I have to wait patiently too while you are having your shoes tacked on. There is no need to bite me.
- Please refrain from practical horse jokes while I am in your stall - taking a gulp of water and dribbling down my back in freezing weather is not funny.
- Please go to your own stall for your feedings - hiding your face behind the stall door does not mean that I cannot see you in the wrong stall. Sorry that the real occupant of that stall gets more than you do but any additional grain on your lips goes to those widening hips.

## Twelve Hundred Pounds of Instinct

By

JoDean Nicolette

Think you can ride? I can walk, trot, and canter. I can sit an occasional buck; I've even pushed my aged constitution, my balance, and my nerve a little by switching to bareback equitation. But, truly, I have no illusions about my lack of experience and beginner status on the back of a horse. I found myself even further humbled this last week on my riding vacation in the rugged New Mexico countryside at the Double E Ranch.

The Double E is a working cattle ranch occupying several thousand acres in south western New Mexico. The ranch borders on 30,000 acres of BLM, and 3 million acres of the Gila National Forest. It's just wide open, undeveloped countryside out there. Arid, but not desert, conditions make for a real change from what we are used to here in NoCal. The Double keeps several hundred head of longhorn cattle on the ranch and the BLM land.



Because of the wild nature of the place, fences are hard to keep, and those doggies could be anywhere. Periodically the ranch needs to round them up for tallies, vaccinations, branding, or gelding. They are delighted to have help with these tasks.

Several weeks a year, the Double E invites guests to "round up" the longhorns. But hold onto your hats, and most importantly hold your horses: longhorns ain't no run of the mill cattle. They are tougher, wilder, meaner, and more easily riled than your average Holstein or jersey. If you want to head out for a vacation pushing Tillie, Mollie, or Bessie, head for

Iowa. At the Double E you'll be locking horns with the likes of cows more aptly named Fang, Spike, or Ace.

The terrain is another matter. The canyons are rocky and dry, and spectacularly colored, especially in the setting sun. Guests ride Double E horses. These equines are mixed-breed, and tough. They sport names like Durango, Poncho, Lefty, Waylon, Willie, Woodrow, and Captain. My sissy horses could never do the consecutive 30 miles days these round ups require. And never mind the distance, it's the uneven nature of the rocky ground, and the trail-less circumstance that provides the biggest challenge. You can try to post trot, but you'll just end up eating sand. It's better to just sit down and separate your top and bottom to maintain the uneven gate over the miles.

I have visited the Double E a half-dozen times, and enjoyed each stay. The trips vary from relaxed trail rides to hard riding round ups, up and down hills (cliffs!), through water, and across plateaus. This last trip I had a new experience. We found the loose horses. The ranch turns out unused horses to live on the plentiful BLM. "They do just fine," they assure the guests. In the past, I have only seen them from a distance. This time, we have to push them in from a neighbor's property. When we spotted them (waaaaayyy far away), and loped the miles over to them, I was surprised at how well they looked: shiny and fat. I was comforted by the fact that I know these horses from previous visits. "Look, there're Ranger and Trojan, and Poncho and Lefty!..And there's Juan," I thought, "How cute to see them out here in the wild!" Right.

When those loose horses saw us, they perked right up. "Time to go in," they thought! "Hay and alfalfa pellets, here we come!" Two dozen horses looked at us, then at each other, then started to mosey our way. Then they trotted. Then, one at a time, they started to lope. It all gets blurry from there. I was seated rather comfortably (and smugly) on a big, gray Driftwood-line Quarter Horse named Woodrow (Woody for short). Woody is five years old, and has spent quite a bit of time roaming the BLM with his buddies in the off season.



I have even seen him from a distance ranging and roaming with a horse I currently own, having brought him home from Double E—my bad boy Bear. Woody was getting more and more excited. He clearly felt he should be with his herd, not sedately toting around this city-slicker from Wine Country on his back. When Woody sat on his hind quarters, spun, and tried to head out with his buddies, I held him back. He tried to be good, he really did, but his wild heritage and herd mentality kicked in. Under me, I felt something I've never felt before: Twelve hundred pounds of instinct coiled up, and ready to explode. "Shit," I thought, "Talk about over your head."

Luckily the wranglers and the other riders were on older, seasoned horses. I had wondered why Alan had raised an eyebrow, smiled, and seemed surprised I wanted to ride Woodrow that day. As Woody popped off his front feet and started to buck, the calm horses around us and the words of encouragement really helped as I instinctively pulled the gray gelding's neck around and dug my heel into his flank to disengage his hindquarters. We spun and spun and spun as the horses galloped by. The whole of twenty seconds probably passed, but it seemed like all day. Mark yelled, "Look back, look in the direction you're going...Keep it up you've got him under your control. Stop when he stops moving his feet. Face away from the herd." Finally Woody and I stopped and we both sighed loudly. When I had relaxed, the wranglers told me not to move. I froze. During the scuffled, by cinch had broken; I was lucky to still be on. We "ranched" my girth with the billet from someone else's back cinch, and slowly moved off to follow the excited herd.

Our ride back to the ranch was relatively uneventful. Our goal for the horses was simply to move them back onto Double E land, which they mostly managed themselves. They galloped past us two more times on the way back. Woody, certain that he was being taunted, tried to break loose and run free again, and I found disengaging his hindquarters easier each time, and with an increasingly rapid response on his part.

The loose horses were breathtaking in a literal sense, and brought tears to my eyes. But if you visit the Double E and you don't see the horses on the BLM, your stay will still be worth it. Moving the longhorns is unique. The wildlife, from bighorn sheep to bear are awe-inspiring. You might even catch sight of the cougars, or the newly introduced wolves. But take care. If you don't have your guard up, you might come home with a horse. I did.



# Backcountry Horsemen North Bay Unit ANNUAL

## Spring Ride

Rasche Ranch, Potter Valley  
May 13th thru 15th, 2011

- Reservation Deadline May 6, 2010
- Rain or Shine --- No Refunds
- Ride Limited to First 150 Riders
- Cost per Person \$135.00  
   16 and Under \$65.00  
   Sat. Dinner & Dance & Sunday Breakfast \$55.00  
   (BCHC membership not required)
- Families Welcome  
   (Under 18 must be supervised by adult)
- RSVP – No On-site Registration

*Live Music Saturday Night*

### *Michael Paul Band*

Contact:

Dan Horn 707-544-4543

Email: [Bearstrap@msn.com](mailto: Bearstrap@msn.com)

Thor Bodtker

415-328-4545

Email: [thunder.t@hotmail.com](mailto: thunder.t@hotmail.com)

**Auction Items** James Kelley 415-577-6666

**Fully Catered**

### **Friday**

**Arrive After 12 noon till---**

**BBQ Dinner 6 to 8pm**

**Entertainment**

**Auction Review**

### **Saturday**

**Breakfast 8 to 9 am**

**Guided Ride 10 am**

**Lunch on Trail**

**Dinner 6 pm**

**Dance 7:30 to 11:30 pm**

**Auction**

### **Sunday**

**Breakfast 8:30 am**

**Ride 10 am**

**Lunch**

**Break Camp After Lunch**

The Auction will be back stage and results will be posted on a board. This will leave more time for dancing.

Everyone will have to check their own tickets.

The guided ride will be about 4 hours with stopping for lunch. Free riding on the ranch is ok. Trails are rocky, shoes are advised.

## Rules of the Ride

Must be prepaid, there will be no on-site registration

Bring **your** own feed for stock

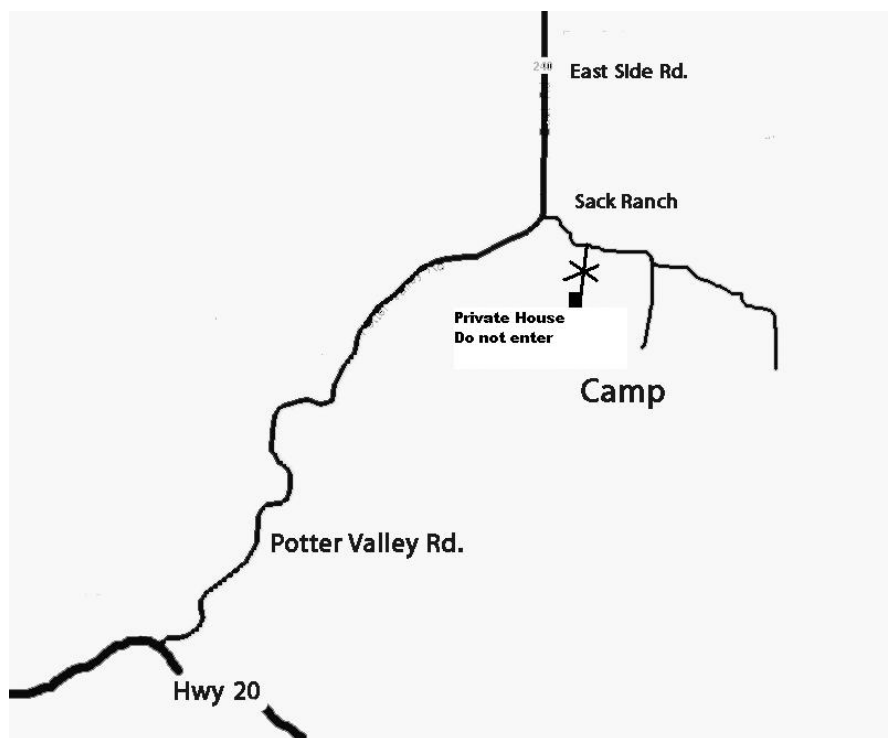
No fires at individual camps ~ No smoking on trail

Adult beverages can not be served on trail

**No Dogs ~ No Firearms ~ No Stallions**

Every horse must have a rider

## Directions



Take Hwy 101 to Ukiah, north of Ukiah take Hwy 20 east approx 8 miles, turn north on Potter Valley Rd.

Just follow signs from Potter Valley Road to Camp

# Reservation Dead Line May 6, 2011

Please reserve my place on the  
"Spring Trail Ride Weekend"

Number in Party\_\_\_\_\_

Names\_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ Street\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone\_\_\_\_\_-\_\_\_\_\_ Email\_\_\_\_\_

\$135.00 per person / Children under 16 \$65.00 /  
Sat Dinner, Dance & Sunday Breakfast only \$55.00

TOTAL

INCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

Please Make Checks Payable to BCHC North Bay Unit  
Mail to:  
BCHC North Bay Unit  
PMB#153  
1007 B West College Ave.  
Santa Rosa, Ca. 95401-5036

\*\*\*\*\*Would you like to get involved? We can use your help\*\*\*\*\*

### Please Sign Up at Check-in

- Friday Night Dinner Set-up
- Friday Night Clean-up
- Saturday Morning Lunch Set-up
- Saturday Night Dinner Set-up
- Saturday Night Raffle Set-up
- Raffle
- Saturday Night Clean-up
- Sunday Morning Breakfast Set-up
- Sunday General Grounds Clean-up [Leave No Trace]

Any involvement would be appreciated and a great way to meet fellow members!!  
Each job is around 2 hours

# "The Shovels in the Dirt Gang"




North Bay Unit Volunteer Hours Report 2010

	P1 Totals	Rate per hour/mile	Total Value
Total Basic Hours	3147	\$15.00	\$47,205.00
Total Skilled Hours	812	\$25.00	\$20,300.00
Total Trail Recon	2032	\$15.00	\$30,480.00
Total LNT - Education	500	\$15.00	\$7,500.00
Total Public- Meeting	773	\$15.00	\$11,595.00
Total Administrative Service	11498.5	3% x hrs x \$15.00	\$5,174.33
Total Travel Time	1353.5	\$15.00	\$20,302.50
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>8617.5</b>		<b>\$142,556.83</b>
Personal Vehicle	30375	\$.90/mile	\$27,337.50
Stock Hauling	22008	\$1.10/mile	\$24,208.80
<b>Total Miles/ Dollars</b>	<b>52383</b>		<b>\$51,546.30</b>
Power Equipment	54	\$23.00/hr	\$1,242.00
Heavy Equipment	63	\$78.00/hr	\$4,914.00
<b>Total Hours</b>	<b>117</b>	plus \$3.00/hr	<b>\$351.00</b>
<b>Total Equipment Dollars</b>			<b>\$6,507.00</b>
Total Stock (Pack and Saddle)	159		
Total Stock Days	1564	\$100.00/day	\$156,400.00
Total Donations	1		\$1.00

Le Grand TOTAL

**\$357,011.13**

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

**MAIL TO:**  
**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN**  
**OF CALIFORNIA**  
**PO Box 535**  
**Beaumont CA 92223**

**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    |                    |

**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 Back Country Horsemen of America*

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**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](mailto:membership@bchcalifornia.org)**