



## Education Achievements Report

2001-2002

Backcountry Horsemen of California directs and supports an extensive and effective statewide education program for stock users. Each element of our education program is designed to inform our members and the public about responsible stock management and backcountry travel in the furtherance of our philosophy and purpose.

### Rendezvous 2002

Each year we offer a rendezvous to our members and the general public. This year the rendezvous was held at the Madera County Fair grounds, Madera, California.

Attendees of the 2002 Rendezvous accumulated over 2890 class hours during the classes, seminars and demonstrations. When comparing 2002 to last year (2001) we have an increase of 415 class hours. 23 silver pins were awarded to those who accumulated 100 points from Gentle Use classes. 40 green pins were awarded to those accumulating 50 points. In comparing 2001 to 2002 we had an increase in one silver pin awarded and 14 green pins.

Forty plus individuals provided instruction on 30 topics during 57 hours of classes. 17 of the 30 topics were certified for

Gentle Use points. Subjects were in five categories, Gentle Use, Stock Training, General Information, Packing, and Children's.

<b>Rendezvous Attendance</b>				
	FRI	SAT	SUN	TOTAL
Gentle Use	48	113	80	241
Stock Training	156	560	250	966
General Information	105	971	143	1189
Packing	54	207	92	353
Children's	0	141	0	141
Day's Dtotal	363	1992	535	2890

Plans for the 2003 rendezvous include and increase in children's activities and classes, expansion of hands on packing seminars and an added incentive above the silver pin.

## **Wilderness Rider Program**

In 1996 our Wilderness Rider Program was organized with the cooperation of the US Park Service, US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. The first training session was held in Yosemite Park and was attended by 10 students. Since its inception we have held five additional classes and now have 41 Wilderness Riders educating the stock using public about Gentle Use techniques and practices.

During 2001 our Wilderness Riders contacted over 2700 people through education workshops and trail patrols, 25,000 people through news and magazine articles and they contributed over 2000 hours of time in protecting the backcountry. In kind dollar figure totals \$143,000.

In August the Wilderness Riders will meet for an update on new developments and issues on backcountry packing, travel and camping and method of presenting Gentle Use techniques and practices to the stock using public.

## **Officers Training**

At the beginning of each year we offer orientation training to the new officers of the local units. The goal is to improve their leadership skills and abilities and to strengthen our organization.

This year sessions were held at four locations:

- ❖ North West Session hosted by the North Bay Unit at the Sonoma County Fairgrounds.
- ❖ Southern Session hosted by the Redshank Riders Unit at the Gardner Valley Commons.
- ❖ Central Session hosted by the Los Padres Unit at Santa Maria.
- ❖ North Session hosted by the Shasta Trinity Unit at Palo Cedro.

## **Publications Program**

Our Publications Program develops pamphlets on contemporary Gentle Use topics. The pamphlets are made available to our members and the general public through our web site. Additionally we are currently developing a Packer's Manual that will contain packing tips and techniques with an emphasis on Gentle Use.

Five pamphlets available:

- ❖ Gentle Use Tips and Techniques

- ❖ Backcountry Horsemen of California: Who We Are and What We Do
- ❖ Black Bear Sense
- ❖ High Country Manners
- ❖ Bare Bottom Basics

## **Youth Program**

Recently we have become concerned about the absence of young people packing into the backcountry, attending our classes, clinics and unit meetings.

With this concern in mind we added youth classes to the 2000 Rendezvous. More were added in 2001 and even more will be offered during the 2002 Rendezvous. The Education Steering Committee is planning to propose a youth training program that will be on the scale of the Wilderness Rider Program or the Gentle Use Pin Program. The program will have elements that can be offered at the state and local unit level.

## **Horse Expo**

The Horse Expo is held at Cal Expo, Sacramento. It attracts over 50,000 equestrians each year. Backcountry Horsemen of California has been a major participant since its inception and we plan to attend this year. This will be our 5th year.

Volunteers from the local units staff an information booth and a wilderness camp promoting backcountry packing and Gentle Use techniques and practices. Members present seminars on current subjects and issues with a focus on Gentle Use principles.