



2023 Board Members	Newsletter	Summer 2023
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**Presidents Message**

We have been pretty busy since our last newsletter. To start with, on July 10th a few of us packed some botanists to Skunk Cabbage Meadow for a week of collecting samples. It's the first time I had been on the Devil's Slide Trail in a few years. While this is a rough trail once on top the riding is fantastic. Then the following Friday we brought everything back down. Thank you Danny Sullivan, Jack & Gretchen Peckham for your support. Also, in preparation of a pack support trip to Round Valley for California State Parks, we put together a couple of trail projects to clear the Willow Creek Trail. This is the only access to Round Valley for pack stock. However, it has been blocked to equestrians for quite a few years because of the number of fallen trees blocking the trail. Wilderness to boot, no chainsaws. On July 19th we began our push to clear the trail with the help of State Park employees, Eastern Sierra Conservation Corp crew members, Forest service volunteers, and RSR members. With a pack mule loaded with gear and extra water we went to work. We made the decision to go around the trees we could and remove the ones we could not. Well, it appears the biggest trees fall across the trail where there is no alternate route. With crosscut saws, levers, and rigging, we managed to move just a handful of trees off the trail. After eight hours on the trail and a two hour ride back to the trailhead it looked like it would take more than one trip to open up the trail. Six days later on July 25th, we headed back up with a smaller crew and went back to work. We were able to cut, pry, or drag another bunch of trees off of the trail which would get us as far as Willow Creek. It was not enough though to get us to Round Valley. Park employees and the corps crew took it from there. We finally got word that the trail was clear to Round Valley, so two days before the pack-in, Jack & Gretchen Peckham and myself decided to pre ride the trail. We made the nearly 16 mile round trip to Round Valley to find while we could ride all the way, there was no way to get pack mules past a number of obstructions. Namely two trees that were not cut back enough and a couple of boulder outcroppings that crowded the trail on the side of a hill that led to the Hidden Divide. In the end, the trees got cut back and we got their food within two miles of camp. Enter hurricane Hilary. After she had passed, there were as many trees blocking the trail as we had previously removed. The trail was open for a total of two weeks. Needless to say, pack trip number two was canceled. But, plans are already being made to go back next spring with State Parks, corp crews, and volunteers to make another run at it. Stay tuned. Coming up are more projects on the Cahuilla Mountain Trail, PCT, and trails in the San Jacinto Wilderness. We will also be returning to Palm Canyon to provide pack support for the ongoing Tamarisk abatement project. Presidents message is Continued on the next page.....



*Presidents message Continued from page 1*

On a sad note, I am sorry to say the San Diego unit of BCHC has dissolved due to irreconcilable differences between members. I expect it won't be long for another unit to form. I am so thankful that within our unit we are all moving in the same direction and have the same goals. Keeping our trails open. Don't forget our Treasure Hunt in November, we will need everyone's help so let Jack & Gretchen know where you can pitch in. Hope to see everyone at next month's meeting hosted by Hope and Greg. Details to come.

-Michael Lewis, President, Redshank Rider Unit, Back Country Horsemen of California

## Potluck Recipe Corner !!

*ROASTED RED POTATOES* (Shared by Nyna Cheek). Serves 6!

### Ingredients

- 1.5 lbs baby red potatoes (halved)
- 1/4 cup olive oil
- 2 tsp minced garlic
- 1.5 tsp salt
- .5 tsp pepper
- 1 tsp Italian seasoning
- 1/4 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 2 Tbs chopped fresh parsley (sprinkle on top)
- Cooking spray

### Directions

1. Line cookie sheet with foil
2. Put potatoes in bowl, add ingredients and toss to coat
3. Bake in oven @ 400 degrees for 35 min.

"It is of interest to note that while some dolphins are reported to have learned English—up to 100 words used in correct context—no human being has been reported to have learned dolphinese."  
— Carl Sagan



### Editor's Note:

Hello again! I'm still the editor for the newsletter!

I truly hope you all enjoy the newsletter, and find it to be a valuable part of your membership. I have included your favorite areas of reading excitement, which includes favorite (successful) potluck recipes, an area for recommended books or videos, maybe some humor, and horse campgrounds.

Most importantly, for the future, *please contribute*. Please send content you would like to share...a favorite recipe, movie, a story, jokes.... [membership@redshankriders.com](mailto:membership@redshankriders.com) Cindy Hay

## Member Spotlight



### Introducing Debbi Vesey, Redshank Rider Unit Secretary

I have been involved in local organizations and events since moving to Anza in 2014. In addition to volunteering with Redshank Riders, I am currently a leader for High Country 4-H. I have a horse (we are both in training!), chickens, a herd of dairy goats, and 4 dogs. My interests include native plants, herbs, hiking, gardening, local history, and natural health. I'm also a Realtor® specializing in homes and land in our rural area.



## The Redshank Riders Unit Youth Program

Several members of the Redshank Riders have been creating our Youth Program for just over a year. The idea behind our program is that the decisions that the younger members of our unit will be involved in will be chosen and managed (as much as possible) by the younger members themselves! The adults will serve as mentors, guides and supervisors (as needed). So far, we know that everyone is interested in the rides, and we are planning a ride, this fall, in Lake Riverside Estates. More information will follow!

One issue we have is that we really don't know how many kids are interested in becoming more active. Our membership list from BCHC identifies members as being either individuals, families, youth or other categories. The kids are hidden within the category of "family". We will be sending out a survey to identify just how many people are interested in being more active and what activities they want to participate in!

The current steering committee includes Lisa Russ-Robertson, Stacy Kuhns, Mike Lewis and Cindy Hay. Nyna Cheek has offered her expertise as an educational consultant, since she was a teacher for about a million years!

You can read about the BCHC youth program information on <https://bchcalifornia.org/programs/youth-program/>.

Thanks,

Cindy Hay

# Redshank Treasure Hunt

November 4th, 2023 at "Horse Camp of Chihuahua Valley"



## **Overview**

Redshank Riders will be holding a treasure hunt ride at the **Horse Camp of Chihuahua Valley** near Warner Springs. It will be on Saturday Nov. 4th, 2023 with camping available Friday through Sunday.

## **Ride Info**

A Treasure Hunt is a bit like a scavenger hunt on horseback, the goal being to follow a map & clues to find as many treasures as possible. The riders are divided up into teams & will be sent out at timed intervals. This is NOT a timed event & not a race. There will be several LNT questions as a tie-breaker. There will be prizes for the winning team. We will have a catered Mexican dinner! We will also be having a raffle & a silent auction.

## **Location Details**

Horse Camp of Chihuahua Valley, a beautiful equestrian camp near Warner Springs  
31523 Chihuahua Valley Road, Warner Springs, CA

Day use is \$10/horse (tie to your trailer)  
Limited campsites (15) \$40/night includes 2 corrals  
Extra stalls \$10/day

## **Contact:**

Gretchen or Jack Peckham  
[gretchen@greytthreads.com](mailto:gretchen@greytthreads.com)  
951-763-4249  
[jack@greytthreads.com](mailto:jack@greytthreads.com)  
909-226-0065

**Redshank Riders Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of Calif.**

## Horse Camp Spotlight \*\* "Ribbonwood"

According to [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov), *Ribbonwood Equestrian Campground* is an ideal mountain escape for equestrian campers. The campground overlooks Palm Desert and the Salton Sea in southern California and provides visitors with access to hundreds of miles of terrain for exploration and enjoyment. Elevation is at about 4400 feet. The campground is temporarily Closed during the peak summer months (reopens September 1, 2023). I tried to visit prior to the September 1 date, and couldn't enter the campground. The entrance road was chained closed, and I wasn't about to get out of my car and walk in. LOL.

Reportedly, there is a 5.3-mile "Sawmill Trail" that begins within the campground and traverses an old road with 2,220 feet of elevation gain. It also intersects with the Cactus Spring Trail near the campground's parking area.

Campsites are only available by advanced reservation through [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov); First come, first served sites are NOT available. <https://www.recreation.gov/camping/campgrounds/234530?tab=campsites>. Campsites are \$15 per night!

The campground offers 8 spacious pull-through campsites with room for large vehicles and trailers. Each campsite has a picnic table, fire ring, two horse corrals (10' X 10") hitching racks. There are accessible flush toilets, showers and drinking water. Roads are gravel, and are probably not level. This campground was recommended by Greg Bruce.

Here are some representative photos, from the [Recreation.gov](https://www.recreation.gov) site:



**REDSHANK RIDERS 2023 EVENT / ACTIVITY SCHEDULE  
( tentative )**

01 - January	01/12 01/21  01/26 01/28	Membership meeting, soup potluck (Mike & Pebbles) Cahuilla Mtn. Trail work party #2 (Jack & Gretchen Peckham / Michael Lewis) contact Jack - <a href="mailto:jack@greytthreads.com">jack@greytthreads.com</a> or Mike - <a href="mailto:stumblin155@gmail.com">stumblin155@gmail.com</a> Officers Training / Budget Meeting 4:30 PM (Mike & Pebbles) "By invitation only" Packing Practice ( Mike & Pebbles) 12:00 noon start contact Mike: <a href="mailto:stumblin155@gmail.com">stumblin155@gmail.com</a>
02 - February	02/04 - 02/05 02/09  02/11  02/25	BCHC State meeting - Visalia Membership meeting, potluck (Stacy Kuhns) contact - Stacy: <a href="mailto:stacykuhns@aol.com">stacykuhns@aol.com</a> Eagle Rock Ride (Greg Bruce) 10:00 Ride out from Barrel Springs contact Greg: <a href="mailto:ribbinwoodrider@gmail.com">ribbinwoodrider@gmail.com</a> Packing Practice ( Mike & Pebbles) 12:00 noon start contact - Mike: <a href="mailto:stumblin155@gmail.com">stumblin155@gmail.com</a>
03 - March	03/09  <b>03/24 - 03/26</b>	Membership meeting, potluck (Hope Adams) contact Hope - <a href="mailto:gaitedhorsesrus@gmail.com">gaitedhorsesrus@gmail.com</a> <b>BCHC Rendezvous - CRC Ranch, Temecula</b>
04 - April	04/06  04/13	PCTA Mission Creek pack-in 6 head of pack stock minimum needed contact - Mike: <a href="mailto:stumblin155@gmail.com">stumblin155@gmail.com</a> Membership meeting, potluck ( Jack & Gretchen Peckham) contact - Gretchen: <a href="mailto:gretchen@greytthreads.com">gretchen@greytthreads.com</a>
05 - May	05/10  05-13	PCTA Mission Creek pack-out pack stock needed TBD contact - Mike: <a href="mailto:stumblin155@gmail.com">stumblin155@gmail.com</a> Membership meeting, dutch oven ( Mike & Pebbles Lewis) Starts at 12:00
06 - June	06-10	Membership Meeting, Ride, & BBQ - Overnight? ( Art & Diana's)
07 - July	07/13 07/28 - 07/29	Membership Meeting Hamilton Museum & Ranch Foundation fundraiser ( at the Hamilton Museum) Would like to have a booth and do some demonstrations
08 - August	08/10	Membership Meeting
09 - September	09/14	Membership Meeting
10 - October	10/12 TBD	Membership Meeting Treasure Hunt - Members Only The Meadow at Lake Hemet?
11 - November	11/09	Membership Meeting
12 - December	TBD	Membership Meeting, Year End Party, Elections
TBD	TBD	Brown post campsite development Saw certification class

# REDSHANK RIDERS



THINGS THAT SEEM FUNNY (to me) !

Charlie Cheek recently shared several corny jokes with me. Here are my top 4:

1. How much money does a bronco have? A Buck!!
2. What makes a horse sneeze? Hay fever!
3. What do you call a horse that likes to stay up late? A night mare!
4. What kind of bread do horses like to eat? Thoroughbred!

ANIMAL RELATED BOOKS OR MOVIES THAT YOU MAY ENJOY:

Movies:

Brightly of the Grand Canyon (1967), Brightly is so cute!

Hotel for Dogs (2009), This is one of my favorite feel good movies!

Oddball (2015), It's all about the Penguins!!

Books:

Waldo, Andrea Monsarrat "Brain Training for Riders". 2016. Trafalgar .

Videos:

Deersprings to Deer Camp, by Jack Peckham (a YouTube video from 6 years ago!)

<https://youtu.be/VMaa4NaNLt4?si=gXEdFDg6R-7-qI-5>

SOME LOCAL EVENTS TO BROADEN YOUR HORIZONS AND MAY CLUTTER UP THE LOCAL ROADS!

- Caltrans Slurry Seal & Rumble Strip work on the 371 and 79, continuing forever
- Anza Community Hall Swap Meet....the 1st & 3rd Saturday of each month, Anza Community Hall
- Craft Fair, Chili Cook off, and Breast Cancer Walk. 10/14 @ Anza Community Hall
- Temecula Half marathon & 5K. 11/11 @ Galway Downs

SOME UPCOMING EQUESTIAN EVENTS

Lions Gymkana....Lions Gymkana Field, 9/2, 10/7, 11/4

Sanctuary Stables....Equine Wellness Workshop 10/14 @ 1pm

Eventing Championship.....Galway Downs, 11/1-5

Blue Diamond Horse Shoe Facility..... Richard Winters Horsemanship Clinic 11/4-11/5, 8am-5pm

California Ranch Company and multiple other venues have numerous events which can be found on their web-sites.



BCHC – Redshank Riders  
P.O. BOX 383  
Aguanga, CA 92536

[www.RedshankRiders.com](http://www.RedshankRiders.com)



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

### Attn: Members

If you are interested in hosting a trail ride please contact our Ride Coordinator, Gretchen Peckham to discuss it.

#### Email:

[ridecoordinator@redshankriders.com](mailto:ridecoordinator@redshankriders.com)

Ph.: 951-763-4249



### RIDING WAREHOUSE

BCHC has partnered with Riding Warehouse to give our members a 15% discount!

Ask your Unit Secretary for the discount code!

[www.ridingwarehouse.com](http://www.ridingwarehouse.com)

amazon smile



You shop. Amazon gives.

SHOP ON AMAZON >> DONATE TO BCHC  
An Easy, No-Cost Way to Make a Difference

You can support Backcountry Horsemen of California every time you make a purchase. Amazon shoppers can sign up at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to BCHC. There is no cost to you! Sign up and designate BCHC as your charity of choice. Then anytime you wish to make a purchase, shop at [smile.amazon.com](http://smile.amazon.com) and know you're making a difference for BCHC. It's that easy!

## Objectives and Purpose of the Backcountry Horsemen of California

*from the BCHC Bylaws*



- To improve and promote the use, care and development of California backcountry trails, campsites, streams and meadows; to advocate good trail manners.
- To promote the conservation and utilization of our backcountry resources in concert with livestock transportation.
- To keep current information before the Corporation membership and its local Units regarding new legislation or management plans related to government regulations of the backcountry.
- To support or oppose new proposals, plans and restrictions as related to the interest of horsemen and those persons interested in recreational stock use and enjoying the backcountry.
- To promote the interest of people who, due to health or physical factors, need transportation other than by foot on backcountry trails.