

REDSHANK RIDERS



An Affiliate of Backcountry Horsemen of California

www.RedshankRiders.com

A group of dedicated men and women working to preserve the historic use of trails with recreational pack and saddle stock.

2010 Officers **Issue 8** **AUGUST 2010**

<p>PRESIDENT Bob Jones (951) 445-3890 drumbeat2000@gmail.com</p> <p>VICE-PRESIDENT Chuck Streeter (951) 659-2167 streeter@greencafe.com</p> <p>SECRETARY Robyn Prinzing (949) 293-6602 robynpr555@hotmail.com</p> <p>TREASURER Teri Baron (408) 206-6051 teri@seanconnery.com</p> <p>NEWSLETTER EDITOR & WEBMASTER Rhonda Strickland (951) 951-522-8757 redshank.webmaster@gmail.com webmaster@redshankriders.com</p> <p>NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR Teri Baron</p> <p>EDUCATION CHAIR Tom Firth (951) 551-9711 lecil_hadley@hotmail.com</p> <p>PUBLIC LANDS/STATE REP Co-Chair: Pete Spencer (760) 782-3747 muleman2@wildblue.net Co-Chair: Tom Firth (951) 551-9711 lecil_hadley@hotmail.com</p> <p>MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR Teri Baron (408) 206-6051 teri@seanconnery.com</p> <p>RIDE COORDINATOR Alison Renck (951) 763-0374 ali9591@aol.com</p> <p>HISTORIAN Carol Schmuhl (951) 767-1061 Ifeedemandleadem@aol.com</p> <p>ADOPT A HIGHWAY Robyn Prinzing (949) 293-6602 robynpr555@hotmail.com</p>	<h3>August President's Message</h3> <p>I'm already late getting this to our newsletter editor so I'm gonna keep it short this month (applause!!)..... Not that there isn't a lot to write about. This summer has been super busy and it doesn't look like things are going to slow down anytime soon.</p> <p>The most exciting thing I have to report is the reception that our new BMW map is receiving at the BLM. With Jennifer Taylor, our BLM Wilderness Volunteer Coordinator, being out on maternity leave (the baby is doing great by the way) and the fact that the Palm Springs office has been short staffed lately, not much has been happening in the BMW the past few months. They were literally thrilled to hear that our group had made the effort to map the trails and are anxious to have a map that they can distribute to the public so that more people can get back in there and explore the area.</p> <p>I also discussed trail signage with them and they were very receptive to that as well. It looks like they may be more than willing to provide all the signage needed and are glad to have our help in placing them..... I must say that I am relieved and excited at how this has turned out. Our new partnership with the BLM is developing even better than I had hoped and rightly so. We have worked hard and I think we are proving to the BLM that the BCHC Redshank Riders are and will be valuable partners in the BMW.....</p> <p>With the PCTA trail crews having moved up into the Sierras for the summer our packers have switched gears and have begun providing more pack support for the San Jacinto Ranger District. Mike Lewis will be giving you more details on that in the Packer's Corner, but on that subject I would just like to say how proud I am that our group gives so much volunteer effort to our local Forest Service District. Before the year is out our members will have donated literally thousands of volunteer hours to the FS and it shows. Our local FS trail system is in better shape now than it has been for years and our contribution to that effort has helped make that difference... We <u>are</u> making a difference and we should all be proud to be part of it....</p> <p>With that thought I will sign off for now. I hope to see you all soon. If not at Sloan Lake, then maybe for our next meeting which will be at Goff Flats (Sloan Ranch staging area) on August 22. With the heat and all I thought that a short late afternoon ride followed by an early evening potluck/meeting sounded good. Goff Flats is a beautiful setting with lots of shade and will make a great place for us to gather and socialize some.....</p> <p>Hope To See You Soon, Bob</p> 
---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------	---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

Yes, that is it. Out of all the things I could say, the memories of each and every one of you that I have met through Redshank Riders has been great. So many wonderful memories that I will take with me.

You might be wondering at this point why I am conveying this in the past tense. Well, unfortunately, I am resigning my posts as Treasurer and Membership Coordinator. I have some pressing family obligations that are demanding more of my time and energy and I just have to give up something or go crazy, so I decided not to go crazy (at least any more than I already am!)

It has been a pleasure serving all of you and perhaps in the future I will be able to pick it up again. In the meantime, the Board will need to fill these positions. If you think you might like to help, please let me know or contact the Board. If you are not sure what is involved, I would be happy to talk to you about it.

See you out on the trail,
Teri Baron



Dear Teri,

We want you to know how much all of us appreciate the dedication and hard work that you have provided our group over the years. Although we are sad that you must take your leave for the moment, we understand that family comes first and we support your decision to do what is best for yours. Based on the commitment you have given to our organization we would expect nothing less.

Be assured that you will be sorely missed. All of us understand how demanding and time consuming volunteering can be and we want to make sure you know that we are there for you in any way that you need.

When demands on your schedule lighten, we will look forward to your rejoining the group and to your future participation..... Best of luck

Sincerely,

From all of us with the Redshank Riders

AUGUST MEETING & RIDE/POTLUCK

Sunday, Aug 22nd at 6:00 pm

The August meeting will be on Aug 22nd at Goff Flats in Garner Valley. There will be a short afternoon ride up onto Sloan Ranch starting from the Flats at 3:00 pm followed by a potluck dinner at 6:00 and short meeting afterwards. Lynn Mattocks, current county trails committee chairman, will be talking to us about the county "Adopt a Trail" program.

We'll be flipping some burgers so bring your favorite dish to go along with that. Be sure to bring along a comfortable chair and your beverage of choice.

Directions to Goff Flats: Take Hwy 74 to Morris Ranch Road in Garner Valley (Station 53 sits at the junction with Hwy 74) Go north on Morris Ranch 2.6 miles to USFS road 6S53 (where the power lines cross over road). Close gate after going thru. Go 3/10 mi. on dirt road to Goff Flats.

1st ANNUAL Sloan Lake Rendezvous

Saturday, August 7th , 2010

Things are shaping up nicely for our overnighter at Sloan Lake. There are about a dozen people signed up so far. Please remember that due to the logistics of staging feed and packing in our own food we need to know how many animals and humans we'll be feeding. So if you're planning to go please give me a call by August 5th

A few people have expressed interest in riding up for dinner and then heading out before dark. That's certainly doable and we welcome it, but it's a 1 1/2 hr ride out, so keep in mind that you'll have to hustle up after dinner to get back to your rigs by dark.

Meanwhile here's a list of some things you might want to bring:

Sunscreen

Bug repellent

Lightweight sleeping bag & camp pillow

Flashlight

Halter & lead line (preferably with swivel type clip)

Things that will be supplied:

Alfalfa (2 feedings per animal)

Buckets for watering your stock

High line

Scrumptious dinner & breakfast

Drinking water

Pop up privy setup w/ TP & sanitizer

I'm really looking forward to this trip and sure hope that more of you will be able to join us. Please call me if you have any questions.

See Ya at the Lake,

Bob

Directions to Goff Flats:

Take Hwy 74 to Morris Ranch Road in Garner Valley (Station 53 sits at the junction with Hwy 74) Go north on Morris Ranch 2.6 miles to USFS road 6S53 (where the power lines cross over road). Close gate after going thru. Go 3/10 mi. on dirt road to Goff Flats.

Tentative Event & Ride Schedule 2010

August 2010

Aug 7th - Rendezvous at the Lake

Aug 22nd - Redshank Meeting / Ride / Potluck

September 2010

Sept. 2nd - LOS VAQUEROS HORSE CAMP - Camp Out

Sept. 18th - SGPU Ride

Ride Coordinator: Allison Renck (951) 763-0374

RIDE THE CANYON WITH BCHC- SAN GORGONIO PASS UNIT

~
**Saturday
September 18
4pm-7pm**
~

**Guided trail ride on single-track
and double-track trails from
San Timoteo Canyon to the
high plateaus south of
Live Oak Canyon.**

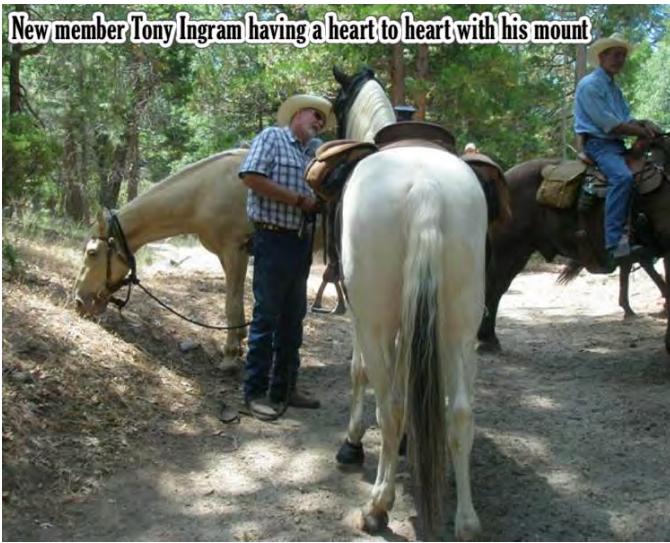
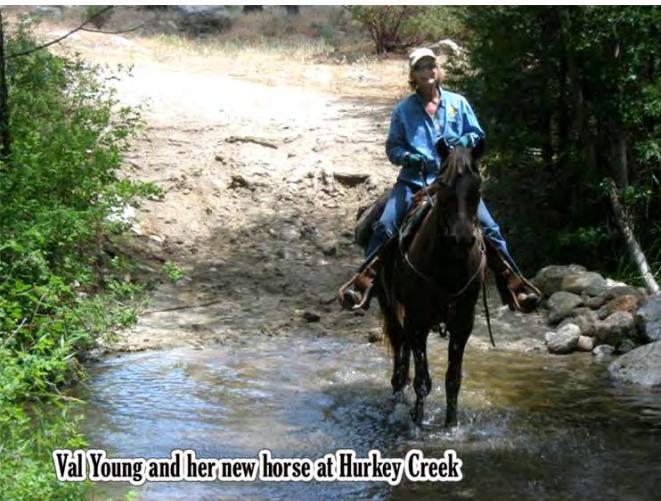
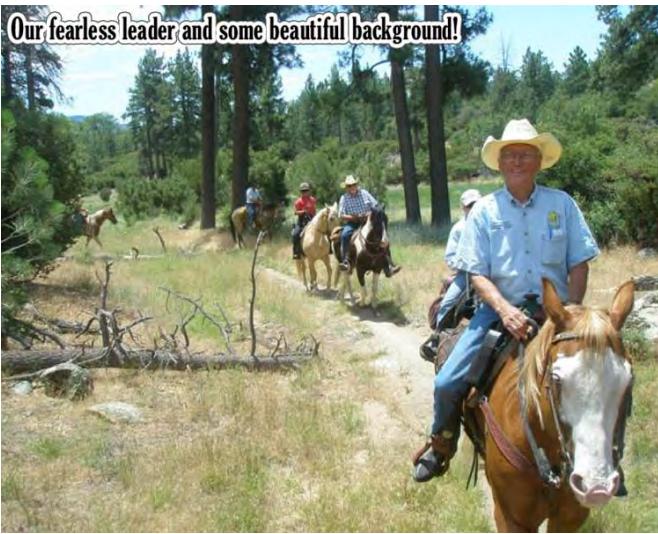
~
**Trail Boss~
Sherli Leonard
(909) 389-7810
sleonard@keyway.net**

~
**Stage north of San Timoteo Canyon
Road, one mile east of Redlands Blvd, in
large pull-out area south of RR tracks.**

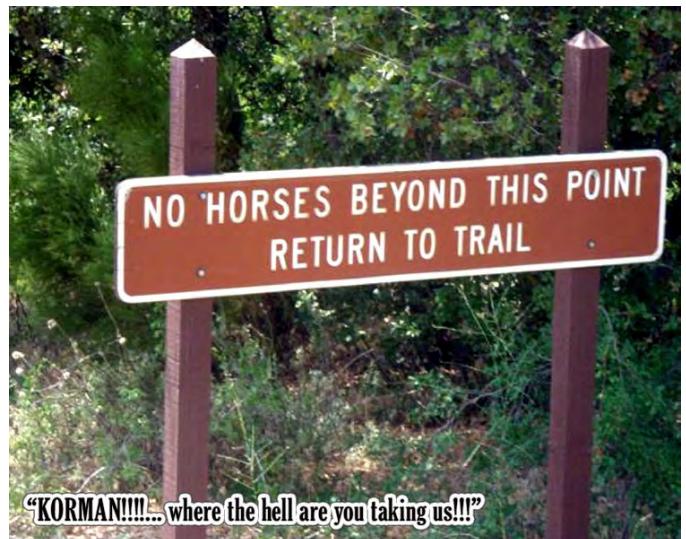
**If traveling west (toward the sunset) on
San Timoteo Canyon Road from I-10 in
Beaumont, turn right onto the dirt road
with the sign for East Side Ranch with the
silhouette of the sliding horse - maybe 5-7
miles from I-10; if traveling east (toward
the sunrise), turn left onto the same road,
about a mile past Redlands Blvd that goes
to Moreno Valley; if coming from Moreno
Valley area on Redlands Blvd, turn right
onto San Timoteo Canyon Road at the stop
sign, then left onto the same dirt road.**

The Creek Ride

July 25, 2010



On Sunday, July 25, ten stalwart Redshank Riders gathered at the Keenwild Ranger Station in Mountain Center in preparation for "the Creek Ride". Wonder of wonders, the advertised departure time actually happened!...we were on the trail at 10AM.



The first part of the trail was down, down, down into Coldwater Creek. (Later, Bob Jones confided this thought- "Korman, where in hell are you taking us????").

At the first water crossing- a threatening 6 inch wide puddle- a couple of the horses were convinced that there was at least one crocodile and a rhino lurking there. Using their best "powers of persuasion", their riders prevailed.

We rode into beautiful May Valley, where the views of Lake Hemet, Garner Valley, and the various peaks along the Desert Divide greeted us. Then, on to Hurkey Creek (remember, this was the "Creek Ride") where there was a goodly amount of water for the horses to drink, play in and enjoy...a rare sight in this area and time of year

We then headed north in the direction of Tahquitz Peak, and stopped to view an ancient Indian acorn grinding area. We headed back on the USFS road that passes just below the heliport (luckily, there was no chopper activity!). We arrived back at the Keenwild Ranger station with the same number of people (and horses!) we started out with. We survived a few polite mountain bike meetings, another horse group, and a mid-ride "rodeo performance" by none other than the trail boss...(me)

Story Submitted by Ron Korman

Photos by Bob Jones

**August Redshank Riders Monthly General & Board Meeting
Sunday, August 22,nd, Ride at 3:00 pm & Potluck - Meeting at 6:00 pm**

LOCATION: Goff Flats in Garner Valley., See above for directions to the meeting.

PACKERS CORNER

Article's by: Michael Lewis

Photo's by: Bob Jones, Don Salazar, & Michael Lewis

This has been a pretty busy month for the packers. We have had the opportunity to work with the Forrest Service, CCC, Park Service and the PCTA. On occasion even try out new animals.

Park Service / CCC Fuller Ridge pack-in



Looking back

As was told in previous Packers Corner's, the Fuller Ridge project continues. Earlier this month, Bob, myself, and a number of others had a chance to help out packing food and supplies to the work crews base camp in the Jan Jacinto mountains. We met Tuesday morning at the Idyllwild Nature Center to meet up with the other packers (6 packers and 10 pack animals) and pick up our loads. The folks from the Park Service did a great job preparing the loads. Everything there was marked with its weight, coolers were set together in pairs of equal weight with the heaviest being 160 lbs. total. Also included were grip hoists and cable. There was also extra help there to help load the animals which is always a big plus. We hit the trail for the 7 mile trip in and all went smoothly. The trail had been improved and widened for the pack animals for all but the last $\frac{1}{2}$ mile which was pretty rugged. At one point my back mule got his packs wedged between two rocks but with a few lunges he got himself free. At camp there was also help for unloading. As a side note, we received an email that told of the great progress they are making on the Fuller Ridge project.



Bob packed & ready to go



The pack crew



Bob and fellow packers

Forrest Service Admin Camp / Taquitz Lookout pack-in

San Jacinto Mountains

July 8, 2010



Members Ron and Sandy Corman put out the call for packers for a trip up "Devils Slide" to what is referred to as the "Admin Camp" and also the Taquitz Lookout Tower. The plan was for Bob and I to take some canvas shelter tarps with a few other items to the Admin Camp with fellow packer Mike McCann taking water to the lookout. Thought it would be a good opportunity



Tower from below

to try out my young molly mule packing on the trail. On our arrival at Humber Park, Ron had a revised plan. Mike to the Admin camp and Bob and I to the tower. Neither Bob or I had been to the tower so we looked forward to seeing it. We packed up the mules and headed up the Devils Slide trail a little over 2 miles to Saddle Junction where we parted ways with Mike and continued on another 1 ½ miles to the tower. Ron, Sandy, Bob, and I headed down



Unloading area

the Taquitz Mountain trail heading towards the tower. About 3/4 of a mile from our destination we stopped at a windy saddle to regroup and Sandy says “ **I have never ridden this part of the trail, just hiked it, I think I'll get down and walk.**” Bob and I looked at each other and thought, what have we gotten ourselves into! As if that wasn't enough to think about Sandy's next comment was, “ **My son in law has the job of retrieving the bodies of people that have fallen from this section of trail.**” OK!!! Really? Bodies? Green horses and mules on a trail that Sandy does not want to ride, sounds like trouble. As it turned out Sandy stayed in the saddle, we lined out behind Ron and her, and moved on. I would like to personally thank Sandy for imparting the confidence in us to continue??? The trail was narrow and slightly uphill with nothing but up to the left and a lot of down to the right. Once you start this trail there is no turning back and you pray you do not meet someone along the way. Most of it was smooth till the last few yards where the animals had to jump up through parts of a huge rock pile to get to a flat area just below the tower. The unloading area was pretty tight but fortunately all the animals stood pretty quiet. With a bit of juggling and gymnastics, we got everything unloaded and up to the tower. We then returned by way of the Admin camp where we had lunch, picked up the other packer, and continued back down to the trailers.



Inside the tower

from this section of trail.” OK!!! Really? Bodies? Green horses and mules on a trail that Sandy does not want to ride, sounds like trouble. As it turned out Sandy stayed in the saddle, we lined out behind Ron and her, and moved on. I would like to personally thank Sandy for imparting the confidence in us to continue??? The trail was narrow and slightly uphill with nothing but up to the left and a lot of down to the right. Once you start this trail there is no turning back and you pray you do not meet someone along the way. Most of it was smooth till the last few yards where the animals had to jump up through parts of a huge rock pile to get to a flat area just below the tower. The unloading area was pretty tight but fortunately all the animals stood pretty quiet. With a bit of juggling and gymnastics, we got everything unloaded and up to the tower. We then returned by way of the Admin camp where we had lunch, picked up the other packer, and continued back down to the trailers.

CCC / Forrest Service Admin pack-in

San Jacinto Mountains

July 18, 2010

As of this newsletter our last packing assignment was a return trip to the Forrest Service Admin camp. Once again we got the call from Ron Corman that the CCC needed 8 loads of supplies taken to the camp. From what I gathered this was a CCC training spike and looking at the workers I believe this was the correct assumption. On the trip back down we passed the crew coming up the mountain. A dozen or so workers were strung out along 2 miles of trail, all wearing new uniforms and carrying new tools, some still in wrappers. We missed Tom and Cathy Firth this trip due to a lame animal and a broken down freezer. I did get to see some old friends of mine that showed up to help. Danny Sullivan and Bob Henry came with a couple of pack animals. The loads were pretty light and after eliminating a few mule wrecking rattles we were packed up and ready to go. Bob decided as I did the trip before to



Devils Slide trail



Don Salazar on return trip



One of the Admin cabins

Cont'd on pg 7

Cont'd from pg 7

try out a new pack mule this trip, and after a couple of de-di-do's and whoop-de doo's, along with convincing his pack mule to follow instead lead, we hit the Devils Slide trail once again. The trip was fairly uneventful even though we passed dozens of hikers coming and going on the trail. We had lunch at the admin camp, visited a bit and returned to the trailers to end another successful pack in.



Bob



Mike



Ron & Sandy

There are plenty of pack ins scheduled for the future and as always anyone interested in helping is welcome. Learn to pack, hold animals, or just ride along and see some new country. I am going to gather all the packing pics I have and post them on my web site. Take a look at www.stumblinranch.com/pack-ins

**RAMONA TRAILS ASSOCIATION'S ANNUAL LABOR
DAY WEEKEND CAMPOUT**
at LOS VAQUEROS HORSE CAMP,
CUYAMACA STATE PARK
THURSDAY, SEPT 2nd -- MONDAY, SEPT 6TH, 2010
Questions or Info contact:
Terry 760 789 5185 or email tlh9749@yahoo.com

Volunteer Spotlight

The nice thing about this group is that there is no shortage of members whose volunteer efforts need to be 'spotlighted'. The only problem will be getting them all recognized during what's left of my tenure. I can't speak



too much about the past history concerning this group since my own history with it is so short, so I'm just going to rely on what I know and what I've seen for myself.....

You veterans of the group already know what Tom Firth has done for our unit over the years. I suspect that most of it has been behind the scenes since I know Tom well enough to know that's how he likes to do it. I also know how embarrassed he will be by being singled out like this, but it can't be helped Tom. When credit is due, it's due. This is what I do know.... For the past couple of years Tom has worked tirelessly on developing trails in the BMW. I'd guesstimate that Tom has put in hundreds of volunteer hours, laying out, mapping, maintaining, and clearing trails. Sometimes leading groups, but mostly on his own. These are trails that otherwise wouldn't be there and that we are now using regularly. Trails that our kids and their kids, God willing, will be using down the road.... It is a legacy that he should be proud of and I for one want him to know how grateful I am for his hard work and for his contribution to us as a group and as a community.....

Thank you Tom.... For all that you've done and for what I know you will continue to do. It has not gone unnoticed and will always be remembered.

Submitted by Bob Jones

New Horse Gate at Sloan Ranch

July 15, 2010

Our latest work project was a new horse gate at Sloan Ranch. The existing step-over gate had been vandalized many times and it was time for something new. The new design is a model that has been used successfully by a Nevada BCH unit on Forest Service access points on the Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada. It is a simple design and since it was an already approved FS model, Ron Korman had no trouble getting it approved by our local San Jacinto Ranger District.

From conception, thru approval, to completion took us only 2 weeks, which goes to show that at least some things with the government agencies can move along quickly when properly guided (Thanks Ron!)... I believe that because we were



Singing in the rain, singing in the rain"



able to get this done in such short notice, that we have proved to the FS once again our commitment towards Sloan Ranch and that we will make valuable partners with them in the development and use of the Sloan Ranch property.

The crew consisted of Ron (our supervisor) & Sandy Korman (the one actually in charge), Pete Spencer (fabricator), and myself (lead grunt).... It was a beautiful day and all went smoothly right up until the lightning storm. As you can imagine, setting steel posts in a lightning storm is probably not the best idea. As we scrambled to finish in the rain there was talk about at least sending Sandy to the safety of the truck in case

we needed someone to call for an ambulance. Pete and I agreed that at least we wouldn't feel anything if one did hit us... But in the end we all survived, the weather cleared, and we got'r done. Now we will just have to see how well this new design works....

Thanks to all "The Crew" for another job well done!!

Submitted by:

Bob Jones

"The Crew"
Pete Spencer,
Sandy & Ron
Korman



Hey Mommy, Look What I Found!

In the world of theology there are Ten Commandments, ignore them and you deal with it by ending up in Purgatory, Hades, or the DMV line. In the world of Leave No Trace, there are seven commandments, or principles (eight if you are a stock user), and if you ignore them, often times it is the next person to come along who has to deal with it.

Number three on the list of LNT principles and certainly one of the top two in importance is; DISPOSE OF WASTE PROPERLY!

I recently returned from a month in the Sequoia National Park, Golden Trout Wilderness as a volunteer for the National Park Service. One of my duties was to check out campsites and clean them up. I'd like to share with you some of that experience.

A minimum of twenty-five miles into the backcountry from the nearest trailhead, here are some of the items I happened across:

A fisherman's live cricket basket holder.

The apparent final destination for cigarette butts when they die.

Six camp grills ranging in size from the backpackers lightweight special, (the most common) all the way to the fifteen-pound El Grande fold out special that would accommodate enough steaks to feed Hannibal's army.

One glove, (obviously Michael Jackson's).

Approximately one-dozen horseshoes.

Bits, pieces, and balls of aluminum foil. (Left in the fire pits).

Dozens of assorted tin and aluminum cans. (Left in fire pits).

Two tee shirts.

One spatula.

One handkerchief.

One aluminum cook pot.

One foot-thong, (broken).

Various items of food left behind, nearly all were tasty freeze-dried morsels, Top Ramen, instant oatmeal, banana, etc. Some of this food was left in bear boxes, some out in the open.

Rags of every color and size, and finally, the second most interesting and puzzling item I found; A black brassier, (size 36 C.) The bra was found in a bear box at the Kern Hot Springs, 38 miles from our trailhead. Oh how my imagination ran wild as to how it happened to end up there.

Anyway, my point is this; here we discovered all these items that in and by themselves were no doubt brought along to make that person's wilderness experience more enjoyable, but because they were left behind, they managed to take away from my wilderness experience. Not only did I have to spend the time required to pick it all up, but also, I was the one charged with hauling others garbage out. So please;

1. If you pack it in, please pack it out.
2. Before you leave, inspect your campsite or rest area for trash or litter.
3. Pack out all left over food, scraps, trash and litter.
4. Pack out hygiene products.

What was the most interesting and puzzling item I discovered left by a careless camper you ask?

Much of my time was spent in the midst of a lightning caused forest fire. It was during an attempt to put out a fire at the base of an ancient cedar tree that was near the ranger cabin. Poking at the smoldering embers in a hollowed out, cave-like opening at the tree's base, the ranger's shovel struck a metal object near the back. This opening was probably the result of a previous lightning strike or fire decades ago. At any rate, with curiosity peaked, the ranger reached in with her gloves and pulled out a # 10, eleven inch Dutch oven, part of the bottom rotted at one of the legs from who knows how many years of rest in the dark depths of its hiding spot. It was then categorized as historical, photographed, and returned to it's hiding spot where it remains today for someone else to discover in another hundred years or so.

See ya in the backcountry. Thomas Firth

Aguanga, Ca 92536

P.O. BOX 383

BCHC

RedShank Riders



REDSHANK RIDERS

RIDE, POTLUCK & MEETING

Sunday, Aug 22nd
See inside for Info

