

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.

2011 Officers

Issue 05

MAY 2011

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Hi Guys

May is here and the cold is going to be a thing of the past. Knock that winter hair off your steeds and get ready to get busy riding. I recently pre-rode the upcoming Poker Ride with Audrey. Oh the flowers are blooming and it is flat gorgeous out there. So glad to ride when it is at least 65 degrees out. Yeah lucky us. . . we live where it is so awesome. Next time you are out riding, stop a minute and just take a long look around. It's spectacular. We are truly blessed.

Audrey and I ran up the state to attend Rendezvous. I think it was the best one I have attended. *No really.* There were a lot of vendors for our Backcountry interests. We actually bought used pack equipment. We said "what the hey, let's go for it". What better way to remember the knots than to buy the dang stuff. May luck be with us.

On a serious note I attended meetings all day Friday and learned some important information re: volunteer hours. They are so very important to do. We all do trail work and we have all the tools to log them and get them counted for the state level for BHCH. BCHC donated time worth \$4 million in public service and we are the largest percent of what they talk about "on the hill". I also learned there is a Partnership between the Back Country Horsemen of America and the Wilderness Society called Wild Riders. Things are changing around us. In one of the meeting with Bruce De Mott, the state public lands person, he said "WE ARE NOT JUST A PROTEST GROUP. WE HAVE TOOLS TO CO-ORDINATE WITH THE AGENCIES". This is powerful stuff. I see this within *our* group. There were others talking in the groups about how difficult the agencies were, with interacting with them. I said "Heck we are motoring along with the agencies and getting things accomplished. It is awesome! I was asked by a RSR member if we needed to make any changes regarding public lands and I said nope it is workin' just fine.

We will have an "easy to learn" how to fill out volunteer hours reports; what skilled labor is, which columns mean what, i.e. community service, travel, work, etc. It's easy once you get the hang of it. You don't need to take your shoes off to count that high or anything. Its technology my friends. I will bring my computer and we'll put it up on the big screen. I will have a bunch of copies for everyone. Mark your calendar for the JUNE meeting at the Little Red Schoolhouse at 7pm June 9th. If you are unable to make the JUNE meeting give me a call and I can walk you thru the forms. Keep track of the hours you are working in the meantime and we will make them count.

The meeting in April was a good meeting. We did a quick overview of things learned at Rendezvous and we also talked about the great headways with the local agencies. Yes we are working so well with some of the agencies they have offered to buy some pack equipment for our guys to replace used stuff... That's just so cool. It brings a tear to my eye. We are a lot of passionate folks and it is starting to all come together. Great things are happening and the group is happy with the progress. We looked over the Beauty Mountain Wilderness Map. Got great advise from Pete for the best place to put the staging area. Everyone seemed to enjoy the slide presentation narrated by Audrey and Myself on the adventure on the Grand Canyon. I was shocked that we were the only ones in the room that had ever done the trek to the bottom of the canyon on mules and yes make it back to the top. I hope we convinced some to go do it. It is a once in a lifetime adventure. I'd do it again!!

The May 12th meeting will be at Tom/Cathy's at 7pm around the campfire meeting. Bring a chair and a jacket. Fun times! Their address is 58395 Ramsey Rd, Anza

Cya on the trails, Stacy

I am putting this in the newsletter to remind some of the old timers and also to alert the newbies to **“why we do what we do”**. We are MORE than a riding group, we are a service group first and then a riding group. It is also important about the social partnerships we have built with each other and we have built the strength in numbers for our common goals. Thank you so much for everyone’s hard work. No matter if you are riding with us at a monthly ride, busting trails, or enjoying our social events, THANKS. Everyone can help in some way. Many hands make for light work. We should all be worried about our trails and helping keep them open. This issue will never go away, unless we do nothing and it will be gone like our trails. Thanks Stacy

BACKCOUNTRY Horseman of California Our Philosophy and Purpose

- ⇒ 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 the backcountry trails and forage areas open to horsemen on all public lands.
- ⇒ 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.
- ⇒ To promote public awareness and interest in the historical aspect of horsemen and stock in the backcountry and to help educate backcountry users on ways to use the trail and forage in a manner that conserves the backcountry resources.
- ⇒ To assist in keeping the public informed of the vital need for a clean backcountry.
- ⇒ To promote a working relationship with and keep the work and interests of the Corporation before our local, state and federal officials.

Redshank Riders April 14th, 2011

Meeting Minutes

Location: Little Red Schoolhouse, Anza

Meeting called to order at 7:03 pm- 12 Attendees

Members read and approved minutes from March Meeting. Pete motion to approve minutes 2nd by Allison

Treasurers Report: Mike read the treasurer's report. Ending Balance: \$6454.61

Membership Report: State level Chip Herzig has taken over the chair state level membership. Hope to have it on track and current soon as possible. To save BCHC State \$6000.00 in cost per year. Carol and Stacy to man Membership booth at the battle of the bands in Anza on April 30, 2011.

Trail Development & Maintenance: Mike reported that BLM Chris Halley has offered to hook us up and buy us packing gear. Mannies, panniers and slings. (Lions, Tigers, and Bears). Possible to put our Logo on mannies for parades. Also looking into tools and what we might need. Mike and Bob getting a list together. Pete suggested maybe getting a gravel dump bag. Ask Dan Hoin at the state level who makes them.

Mike and Tim have built 2 gates to be installed and placed on Winchester 700 RCC Property. Hope to have them in place by the May 1 Poker ride to show them off.

3 members have been fingerprinted and background check as per Riverside County request to work on RCC property.

Beauty Mountain Wilderness Map is done. Thanks Bob, Mike and Tom for all your diligent work. Stacy handed out some CDs with map. Looking for prices on printing. Bob and Stacy hoping soon to present copy to BLM. Photo op hopefully. This is BIG!!

Great job to all. Next project signs. Way to move forward everyone and getting some stuff done. Woo HOO!!! Yeah Team!!

Trail Committee met with Monica Argandona of the California Wilderness Coalition. She works directly with Rep. Darrell Issa and is introducing Bill HR 41 to add 13,635 acres to the existing 15,627 acre Beauty Mountain Wilderness established by legislation introduced by Rep. Mary Bono-Mack back in 2009. She asked for Redshank Riders BCHC input on trails and horse camp. Trail Committee to research and get with her to help with those items.

Adopt a Highway: Tentatively April 17 but April is filling up fast!! .

Rendezvous & Public Lands: Stacy and Audrey went north to Red Bluff. Learned why service hours are so important. Will be having a meeting on break-down of hours and how to input them on time sheets. Hours

equal dollars to the Forest Service and BLM.

Rendezvous was great! Vendors (SHOPPING) were excellent this year. Food was also great! And super raffles thanks to the Great Vendors (SHOPPING) Also great clinics and people. Go to Rendezvous and learn about BCHC and its ability to be such a super service organization. Next year possibility to be here in the south in Norco. (To be announced) Santa Ana unit wants to sponsor. So be ready that means Redshank Riders will be helping. And hopefully Tanner will quit trying to make an ass out of me.

Education: No report

Old Business: Trail Trials to be postponed to later in the year. So much to do. Battle of the Bands is April 30 10 am to 4pm. Ya all come out. Cow Horse Show to have Education display and Packing Demo by Tom. Poker Rider is May 1st at Mike and Pebbles house in Aguanga. Please RSR members bring raffles prizes so we can earn more money for all the work that we need to do.

New Business: Possible looking into membership cards. Also an address book for all members who want to be listed. Pete is to submit info on mustangs of Anza.

Product Info: Slow Feeder Grazer demo by Ron Korman. Contact Ron for names and phone numbers to get products.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:27 pm followed by slide show Grand Canyon Mule Ride by the HOLY TERROR GANG!!!! Ya all come back, ya hear!?! Minutes (really) respectfully submitted by Audrey Turpin VP

Unit Meeting Thursday, May 12

7:00 PM at the home of Tom & Cathy Firth

Address: 58395 Ramsey Rd, Anza





This is the Little Red School House in Anza

This is where many of the monthly unit meetings are held.

Stacy took this photo of a beautiful snowy day.

Business Card Ad

your ad will appear in every Redshank Rider Newsletter & the website for one year.

contact Anne: anne@starfiredesignstudio.com for more info

\$50 for 1 Year

Do you have photos you'd like to share?

Send them to me, Rhonda at

redshank.webmaster@gmail.com

Cow poop.
Yes, I have definitely stepped in cow poop.



I hate nature.

Apple Canyon Ride-Saturday, May 14th, 2011

This will be a medium-difficult ride in some very beautiful country in the San Jacinto Mountains. (Your horse will need to be in GOOD condition!). The ride will be 5 hours, with a stop for lunch or snack in May Valley. There are 12 water crossings. We will ride out at 10 AM.

RSVP to kormanhaus@Verizon.net or call Ron or Sandy Korman 951-659-0332

Directions: from Anza-at the junction of highways 371 and 74, turn left and head towards Lake Hemet, go past the store, cross Hurkey Creek and turn right on Apple Canyon Road. Go 1 mile north to the parking area.

The ride will take you out of Apple Canyon, up the mountain to May Valley, then over Keen Camp Summit, and back to Apple Canyon via "a great circle route".

SAN JACINTO MOUNTAINS CENTENNIAL SURVEY

Ah, Southern California! To those having never visited this unique area, the image of sunny Southern California conjures up images of blonde-haired surfers hanging ten at Huntington Beach, of chance encounters and bumping shoulders with Hollywood movie stars at Starbucks, or the Do-Dah Parade. Images of orange groves, quiet suburbs, the Redwood Forest, and Death Valley might come to mind to those less disturbed, and while all these pictures are well founded in So-Cal lore, we are also home to some of the most beautiful and rugged mountains in the country.



In May of 1908, Joesph Grinnell and Harry Swarth, sponsored by the University of Southern California led an expedition into the San Jacinto Mountains of Riverside County to study its biology. There, they would stay, exploring the area until September, studying the flora and fauna of this unique mountain range.

Traveling throughout the area, from the valley floor of the desert to the mountains' summit, the team collected mammals, plants, insects and birds, taking copious notes and photographs, and ultimately publishing their results (Grinnell and Swarth 1913). This expedition is one of the cornerstones of understanding for Southern California's biology and because this group did such a thorough job, it is considered the gold standard. This was also the only intensive study done of the area, thus, the expedition of 1908 stands as a unique benchmark, giving us the longest historic perspective possible on how the wildlife of southern California is responding to environmental change.

One hundred years later, Phillip Unitt, from the San Diego Natural History Museum, led a similar expedition into the San Jacinto Mountains in an effort to replicate Grinnell's 1908 effort and thereby establish a comparison. As Grinnell himself wrote, concerning the benefit of his work: "This value will not, however, be realized until the lapse of many years, possibly a century, assuming that our material is safely preserved. And this is that the student of the future will have access to the original record of faunal conditions in California and the West, wherever we now work."

On November 16th, 2008, my wife, Cathy, and I along with a number of other packers from the Back Country Horsemen of California were honored to be asked to help with our animals to pack this historic expedition into one of the original 1908 camp sites located in a remote area of Palm Canyon called Little Paradise. The eight biologists, each specializing in a different area of expertise were loaded for bear, as it

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

were, with traps, cameras, specimen containers and a myriad of other scientific equipment they would need for their week-long stay in the canyon.

Our group of packers managed to guide the expedition into the canyon and on to the group's intended campsite at Little Paradise where, believe it or not, we were able to get all their equipment transported safe, sound, and mostly intact.

We returned a week later to pack the group and their gear back out and they were obviously looking forward to getting back to civilization and a hot shower. This was a great adventure shared with a terrific group of people.

After the snows melted on Mount San Jacinto, in June and July of 2008, we again packed this same group and their gear up into the high country to Taquiz Meadow and then a week later on up to Round Valley to complete their expedition.

We have since packed this same group of biologists and researchers into Palm Canyon again to continue their study of the area. The interesting thing for me is that this is an ongoing study, and we, (the packers) are fortunate to share in the biologist's studies and successes by continuing to pack them into some the more remote areas.

Over this one-hundred year period since 1908, some things have changed, and while time doesn't permit me to list the findings and differences in the two studies you can discover them for yourself on the museum's website at <http://www.sdnhm.org/research/sanjacinto/index.php>. Some of the area's changes are attributed to the difference in time of year the two groups visited the same site. One group visited the area in the spring; the other did their studies in the fall. Some of the differences are no doubt due to the proximity of man and nearby Palm Springs as it pertains to evasive species in the area. And some of the changes may be attributed to climatic changes.

Whether you believe Al Gore's prophecies of doom and gloom and feel the need to rush out and purchase your carbon credits to save the planet, or maybe you side with those scientists who maintain these changes are simply part of the earth's natural cycle, you'll certainly find the San Diego Natural History Museum a fascinating, educational, and entertaining glimpse into our region's past, present, and possibly even our future.

For my part, these have been enjoyable pack trips into a rugged area that is seldom visited. This canyon has its own unique beauty and I highly recommend the trip to hikers and horsemen alike.



Submitted by Thomas Firth

Packers Corner

Written By: Michael Lewis

Wow! This month has just been crazy. After a winter of staring at my pack gear and wishing I was on the trail somewhere, the time has finally come. We have been loading up and heading for new trailheads nearly every weekend this month. This included three trips up Mission Creek (with a paddle I might add), two trips down Potrero Canyon, add to that a few days with my mules pulling a wagon through



part of the San Bernardino Mountains, (a story for another newsletter), and the animals are getting in shape fast. To start with on Sunday the 3rd we headed back to Mission Creek to pack a good

sized PCTA trail crew in 8 miles to camp. This took 8 pack animals, 5 lead animals, and support from some members of the BLM to accomplish. With us on this trip were Bob Jones, Tom and Kathy Firth, Danny Sullivan, and myself. We also



had a number of people just ride along including Don Salazar, who incidentally ended up leading one of the pack animals. We loaded up their gear and rode 6 miles up the canyon to the crew's old camp, picked up a 5 lb. propane bottle and went another 2 miles to a new campsite. There



we got a small surprise, not a thing to tie to. After a few tense moments and help from the other riders we got it all unloaded and beat feet back to the first camp for lunch. There we picked up two coolers and two bear boxes to take back down to the trailers. A long day but it all went well.

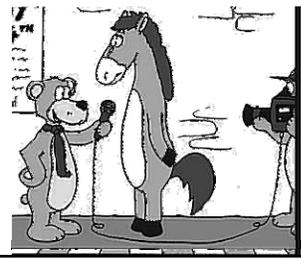
Just a week later we headed back up to the Mission Creek camp to bring the crew back out. This time we were joined by Chip and Linda Herzig, and Greg Palmer of the San Gorgonio unit. When we arrived at our take off point it was sunny and nice but the further up the trail we went the higher we got and eventually rode into the clouds. The temp also dropped and snow flakes began flying. Not hard mind you but enough to remind us it was still spring in the mountains. Needless to say we packed everything up pretty quickly and headed back down. Best part was the further down we went the warmer it got. Back at the trailers it was sunny and nice. Everyone unloaded with the help of the trail crew. After visiting a bit we all loaded up and headed home. It was another very successful trip with some good folks. Till next month, "Keep your loads balanced and your lash ropes tight".



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THE NEWS ROOM

Read, Discuss, Act



And In Other News

MULE DAYS
May 24-29, 2011 • Bishop, CA
TICKETS ON SALE FEB. 1ST

The return of the historic
20 Mule Team
with two weekend show performances
Saturday afternoon and Sunday evening
plus an appearance in Saturday's parade

Justin Boots & Tony Lama Boots present
Neal McCoy
Live in Concert Thursday, May 26th • 7 PM
Tickets: Reserved \$42 • General \$37
Co-sponsored by KIBS-FM, 100.7

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through April 1st and
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Riverside County Trails Committee Event Calendar 2011

*May 21 & 22 - Bogart Park Trail Work Day and Ride

**June 11 - Santa Ana River Trail Bicycle Ride and Equestrian Trail Ride with hosts Phil Bremenstuhl and Frank Hall

**July 16 - Hidden Valley Wildlife Area Night Hike with hosts Amie Kinne and Frank Hall

**September 17 & 18 - Diamond Valley Lake and Lake Skinner Camping Trail Ride, Bicycle Ride, and hike with hosts Lynn Mattocks and Bob Hewitt

*October 15 & 16 - McCall Memorial Park Trail Ride and Barbeque

**November 19 - Coachella Valley Reserve Hike with host LeGrand Velez

*Parks District sponsored event
** Trails Committee event

Please note that these are not BCHC sponsored events. Calendar is for informational purposes only.

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Proceeds to help maintain and expand our trails as well as help the environment

Contact Diane Offutt, California State Horsemen's Association Trail Rep,
at dianeocr@sbcglobal.net 925-833-8636

Collected at Owls Crossing Ranch Pleasanton, CA.

Redshank Unit Meeting Thursday, May 12

7:00 PM at the home of Tom & Cathy Firth

Address: 58395 Ramsey Rd, Anza

San Diego Natural History Museum Pack-In and Pack-Out

April has been a very busy for the RSR packers. Providing pack support for the BLM, PCTA, and the SDNHM has kept us busy every weekend this month.

One of the favorite organizations we lend a hand to is the San Diego Natural History Museum. We are all proud to be a part of the ongoing study they are doing throughout the San Jacinto mountain range and there was no shortage of volunteers for this project. In fact, we had pack animals to spare.

In the past our pack support was provided through RSR members who were also members of the Forest Service Volunteer Association. This year all pack support was provided directly through the BCHC Redshank Riders. As he has since 2009, Ron Korman did another outstanding job of coordinating logistics with the SDNHM to get all their supplies and equipment staged at their Little Paradise campsite Also, a special thanks to Ron and Sandy for going in ahead of time to brush out the trail to make it accessible for the pack animals.

The pack-in on 4/17 couldn't have gone any smoother. The SDNHM crew has had plenty of practice prepping their gear for packing so loading them up was a breeze. The ride into Little Paradise was about 6 miles down a narrow rocky canyon with a sandy bottom which made for easy travel. Everything was in full bloom and the weather was perfect... A great day with great friends!

The weather was again ideal for the pack-out on 4/23 and we had plenty of help. 11 pack animals and 13 riders. Enough that we were able to it pack out all the SDNHM crew's gear, including their personal packs. It's a long climb out of Palm Canyon and they sure appreciated not having to hump out their 50-60 lb packs.

Little Paradise is a great destination spot for rider or hiker, especially in the spring. It's a moderately easy ride about 4 hrs round-trip and there is a good supply of water running at the bottom of the canyon. All of this makes Palm Canyon a perfect place for an afternoon picnic for you and your horse.

Submitted By: Bob Jones



Tentative Event & Ride Schedule 2011

- May 1** - Poker Ride
- May 5-8** - Los Vaqueros Work Party CANCELLED
- May 5-8** - Ribbonwood Horse Camp
- May 7** - Pioneertown Ride (SGPU ride)
- May 12** - Unit Mtg at Tom & Cathy's (see page 1 for info)
- May 14** - Apple Canyon Ride (see pg 4)

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Integrity



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BCHC

Redshank Riders



REDSHANK RIDERS APPLE CANYON RIDE

Saturday, May 14th, 2011

See inside for Info

