

# REDSHANK RIDERS



An Affiliate of Backcountry Horsemen of California

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

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

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Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2011

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Hi Guys

Well I hope all is well in your camp. Boy these days have been whizzing past... the weather has finally decided to give us a taste of summer and it is not stopping us from riding. We just ride later in the day and ride till dark or after.

Vaquero Days 2011 has been canceled due to passing of Mike Martin. The Jerry Tindell clinic will continue. If you are interested in the clinic please contact Gary McClintock 619-445-3946. Also make a note that Equine Affaire Pomona was cancelled but now new event planners (same company that does the horse expo in Sacramento) are bringing the event back at the Pomona fairgrounds. It will be Horse Expo. The new dates will be Thurs-Sat Feb 2-4, 2012. This will not be during super bowl Sunday! Mark your calendars. New event planners, new things in store!!!!

The membership drive event will be in November at Fobes Ranch. The date is Sunday, November 13th. Come in on Saturday afternoon for some other things we have planned; Oh we've got plans baby. Mark your calendar and we will give you some clues as we get closer.. Did someone say overnight campfire stories and treasures? Oh yeah!!

We are at 133 members which is spectacular.. Reminder to everyone, if you are wanting to do something you are not seeing being done, please contact one of the board members and let them know. Remember, we all make this unit a success. Welcome new members

We have a chance to work with the PTCA on building trails. Mike Lewis will be putting details on this in this newsletter. (see pg 6 & 7)

Audrey, her hubby Tim and I got back a couple weeks ago from a pack trip in the Golden Trout Wilderness. What a fantastic time. It was a memory builder to say the least. We met some great people, stayed at a cow camp that was surveyed in 1882. Kool deal and the real deal. Lots of laughter for sure. "WHAT I LEARNED AT COW CAMP" is the title of my trip diary. Oh we had a helicopter close encounter, a suspension bridge, and a super long narrow bridge over a bog. The suspension bridge was soooooo kool.

(Continued on page 2)

*(Continued from page 1)*

Our horses had to "country up" and hang out in a 5 acre pasture with a bunch of horses and mules. Oh our city horses! Joe pulled a shoe off in the bog, as well as Pete. And Tanner apparently put his head where it did not belong. We now call him "scar face". Tanner lost his shoe somewhere during the ride back to the trail head at Lewis Camp. We slept out in cowboy bedrolls for 4 days and the stars were awesome to say the least. What else was really great was watching all the Forestry Personnel from both sides of the Sierra's working together and getting supplies to the Hand Crews that were working on the Lions Fire. Mule was the only way to get the supplies to them. It got ya tingly watchin' the pack animals doing their part. Good Times! (see pg 4 for more about this.)

We are very close to getting the utility trailer to keep all the units stuff secure and in one place . We discussed selling logo spots and we will get you more info at the next meeting. We are giving a last call for newsletter name contest. This is your last chance to show everyone how creative you are. Shoot me an email or call me with your idea, Leave it on my phone and we will enter it. There is a prize for who submits the winning name. Good Luck!

We have some folks showing up on Saturday, Sept. 23rd on the south side of Cahuilla to do some hands-on with the forestry. If you are interested in helping please contact me. If you signed up at the meeting you are on the list to help. Food will be provided for the worker bees.

Mike Lewis is working on a Fall packing clinic. We will get you all more info as we put it in stone. There will be a work party at Tule Springs on the PCT with the PCTA on Nov 11-19<sup>th</sup> working with Sam and his crews putting up a retaining wall. Come out an join in. Contact Mike Lewis for more info The September ride is Sunday September 25<sup>th</sup> at Ramona Trail. It will be hosted by Ron and Sandy Korman. (See page 9 for the info.)

We had a great ride and meeting at Anne York's place in August. Good times had by all. She had been working on to get everything ready for us... way to go Anne.

The September monthly meeting will be at the little red school house at 7pm on September 8th. The event committee will meet at 6pm.

Life's short, ride often!!!

It'll keep ya sane.

Cya on the trails, Stacy



*\*For your convenience, all board members contact information is on the 1st page of each newsletter*

## Redshank Riders August 21, 2011 Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Anne York's, Anza Meeting began at 2:10 pm

24 Attendees/ 3 guests: Sherry Freeman, Janet Worts & Mary. Anne read the minutes from July. Mike moved to accept and Susan 2nd.

**Treasurers Report:** Mike reported that there was no change since last month. Ending balance \$6364.53

**Membership Report:** 133 members, 2 new family memberships - Greg & Susan Bruce & the McFaddens. Three new members joined at meeting/ride: Charles from Idylwild, Gretchen Peclham from Idylwild and Phyllis Sickles from Winchester. (See pg 7 for updates on the projects).

**Trail Development & Maintenance:** Mike told us about packing up the Deer Springs Trail. There are 3 more re-supply dates to come before October. Volunteers are welcome. The Forest Service is asking for volunteers on Sept 24th to work on the Cahuilla trail out of LRE. Gretchen, Sandy, Rosie, Bob, Stacy & Anne signed up

**Adopt a Highway:** October date TBA

**Public Lands:** BLM completed a land acquisition of 400 acres - Janet explained where it is located. Mike inquired about BLM acquisitions and connectivity

**Education:** No report

**Newsletter:** Add space available For \$50/yr. We haven't chosen a name yet. The 3 new members requested newsletter by email.

**Historian:** No report

**Rides:** Possible Membership drive ride at Forbes Ranch on November 13th. We are looking for raffle items. On the committee: Pebbles & Mike, Robyn, Felicia & Valerie. Sept. ride is the Ramona Trail with the Kormans - Sept 25th. The San Gorgonio Unit has rescheduled the Treasure Hunt Ride for Sept 17th

**Unfinished Business:** Still looking for a trailer to store our supplies. Audrey made a motion to increase our budget to \$2500 and to sell sponsorships for space on the trailer. It passed with a unanimous vote.

**New Business:** Equine Affaire is back on - Feb 2 - 4, 2012.

Susan announced the Garner Valley Home Tour on Sept. 10th -info at [www.garnervalley.org](http://www.garnervalley.org)

Mike reported about doing Tule Springs Trail work, Nov 11 - 19 will be a nine day project.

The next general meeting will be held on Thursday, Sept 8th at the Little Red School House, 7pm.

Guest Janet Worts told us about her upcoming endurance ride to be held in Chihuahua Valley Nov 5th. She is looking for volunteers and participants. Bob is organizing a work party for Oct 15th to work on trails.

Gil asked about the Packing Committee. Mike wants to hold a day long Packing Clinic - (date TBD) to educate out membership. Bob explained that becoming reliable packers is a way to offer our services to the agencies. Stacy & Audrey told us a little about their recent experience with novice packing training out of Sequoia Natl. Park. Bob reported that Jennifer from BLM. contacted him about a tire stash in Joshua Tree that needs to be removed. Looking for help & ideas for the project.

**Meeting Adjourned:** 3:30 pm



Unit Meeting/Ride

Thursday, Sept. 8th

At the Little Red School House

See Page 8 for info. Map & directions at

[www.redshankriders.com/rsimages/littleredschoolhouse-directions-web.pdf](http://www.redshankriders.com/rsimages/littleredschoolhouse-directions-web.pdf)



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## \$50 for 1 Year

## Novice Pack Trip August 12-15, 2011

Submitted by Audrey Turpin

It all started back in April at rendezvous. I pick up a flyer that was advertising a Novice Pack Trip sponsored by the High Sierra Unit BCHC. For a minimal amount of money this group will take on greenhorns and take them into the backcountry for 4 days and literally show them the ropes!! A quick phone call to Nancy Hamill and this very nice lady assured me that indeed they will take us in and teach us how to pack. Well, sign us up. Best friend Stacy and husband Tim went along for the ride with me with our horses, Tanner, Pete, and Joe.

About 2 weeks before we were to leave we all met each other and had a pre-trip meeting at the BCHC state treasurers house Lynn Joiner. What a great group of people BCHC has. Open their doors and just make you feel welcome. We meet face to face Nancy Hamill and Don McDonald our teachers in the backcountry. What to bring, what not to bring was all discussed. We were handed a very complete and thorough notebook with just about anything and everything to know to get you started into packing. Excitement is building and can't wait to get started.

We left our home Thursday morning at 3 am. We needed to make an 8 hour drive with stock to the Golden Trout Wilderness in the Sequoia National Forest and it has been warm. Make the Lewis Camp trail head about 2pm without a hitch. The trail head is busy with forestry packers and volunteers packers because of a backcountry fire. They are packing in supplies and packing out trash for the forestry. This is what BCHC is all about, being of service. At the trail head we meet up with Don and his sharp looking red mules and very cute horse. Right off the start this kind man started teaching us the what's, where's, and how too's. Soon he introduces us to Bradley and Emily Miles, our hosts of the cow camp we will be riding to tomorrow. They are riding and leading 2 pack mules and a trio of dogs circling around. They assure us we will have hot showers awaiting us tomorrow when we ride in to their camp. I'm a bit confused. Hot showers in the backcountry??? They ride off down the trail and soon Nancy Hamill and her daughter Alice Kampen haul in and start unloading stock. Every one says their howdy doos and then we ramble off to our soft beds in the trailers. For the next 4 days we plan on roughing it sleeping on the ground in our new cowboy bedrolls and mini camp pillows.

Friday morning dawns with a red mule with white socks running around the trail head having a great time. The CCC man is there to refuel the forestry crews on the fire with food and is trying with a carrot to get the mule to come to him. The happy mule wants nothing to do with him and continues jumping around camp. Tanner and Pete although leaning over their pen and are begging for the carrots, "Screw the mule guy, over here!" The trail head was so busy it looked like LA with mules. We get up and Nancy, Alice, and Don are laying out gear and ready to teach. First though, breakfast with bagels, muffins and oatmeal.

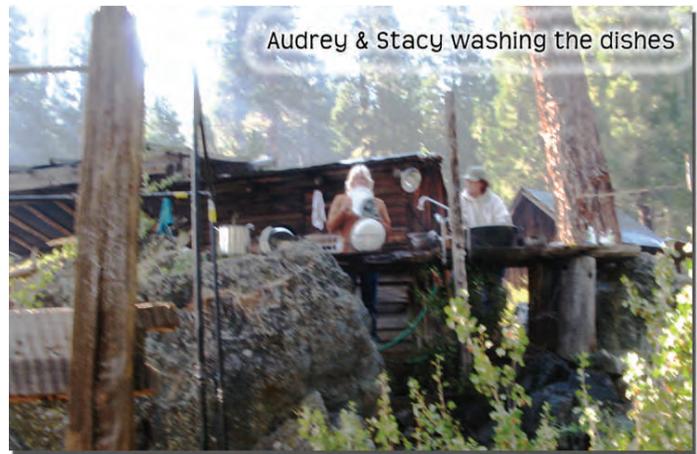
After breakfast we get down to work loading packs. Our teachers explain the different panniers such as leather ends, bear proof, soft VS hard and braces to haul in ice chests. We weigh and balance loads with accuracy within ounces. Everyone brings in their gear to take down the mountain and lays it all on a tarp. We fill the panniers up. We learn about top loads how much a mule can carry depending on their size and age. Don now mentions we need more stuff to fill packs because you want full packs with nothing rattling around. Out come our big pillows, extra clothing, and the not so necessary items for extra comfort. Alice our

official cook brings out the ice chests and we redistribute the food and icepacks so they ride snug. Glancing, ok I'm checking out the food I see tri-tip, chicken and dumplings, desserts OMG. I don't eat this good at home!!!

Now we have everything pack and start loading the mules. They show us how to load and hang starting on the offside. The older mules such as Zach get the lighter softer loads and Don's young red sweet mule Annie get the heavier loads. Soon we have all 6 mules packed, mannies placed and we get a quick lesson on box hitches.

We have the horses saddled and are ready to head out. Now Tanner, Pete, and Joe are very

*(Continued on page 5)*



Audrey & Stacy washing the dishes



Out in the pasture

(Continued from page 4)

savvy trail horses so that wasn't a worry for us but we usually ride together. We split the horses up and Tim rode Pete down with Don and his string, I rode Tanner down with Alice and her string and Stacy rode Joe with Nancy's String. The plan was to send the groups spaced out, so not to have all the dust and not to have the mini herds looking out for the next herd around every corner. I butted up Tanner head behinds Alice's mules and went around to the side to another nearby trail head so give us some necessary spacing from Don and Tim's string. Tanner realized his herd buddies were not with him and was a little worried. He was looking up at the trailhead and at every corner and not seeing his stable mates. He realized his new friends were mules and better get used to it. Down the trail we went. Huge beautiful trees, nice wide trails, stream crossings and forever views we went the seven miles without hardly a hitch. (Except when Alice's pack mule had a jumping bucking moment because the rear mule said something nasty and smart ass) Crossed the baby Kern river and admired the suspension bridge that the stock use when the river is high.

Getting down to the canyon we come into a huge meadow/pasture fenced with more mules grazing and I see Pete the paint running with his tail up enjoying his freedom. Walking along the side of the pasture on a trail we come to a gate announcing we have arrived at cow camp. I open the gate and step down into a stream and see this forever narrow boardwalk/bridge heading to some old outbuildings and tents which is Bradley's and Emily's cow camp. The idea is to jump out of the stream onto the bridge and head in. Well Alice's big mare so NO and then Tanner asked if I was crazy and would much rather jump around in the bogs on either side of the bridge. Soon behind us comes Nancy and jumps up her horse onto the bridge and mules kinda scramble around behind her. Tanner then falls in behind her, next Stacy on Joe and Alice and her string. Note to self: It is always good to have a brave horse around to lead the pack.

We ride into camp and are greeted by Don, Tim and Emily and Bradley our camp hosts. Everyone made it in safely and we start to unpack mules. Stacy is excited! She crossed the suspension bridge on Joe with Nancy. Lucky dog I bet that was fun!! The horses are tired and behaved themselves on the trail. Stacy starts to walk around to unpack the stocking legged red mule. (Yes the same one running around the trailhead!) and this little mule makes the slowest side swipe at her I have ever seen. She is not hurt and we have a new appreciation for mules and their control of their feet. Unpacked, we turn all the animals out in the pasture and let them sort themselves out.

Now back in camp there is a 100 hundred year old shack where we put all the food. Above the windows is a sign that says surveyed in 1882. Bradley and Emily have made improvements to this camp with a wood stove to cook, heat water, shade covering over a huge handmade table and yes a HOT outdoor shower overlooking a gorge where the stream flows. This is roughing it??? There is also a huge tent with a wood floor and cots, a two holer outhouse, and scenery that only the Almighty can create. That night we sit down to an excellent dinner thanks to Alice, great conversation and the wonderment how we have been so lucky and blessed to be able to do this.

The next day after a fantastic breakfast of biscuits, gravy, eggs and bacon, we bring up the mules and have a solid morning of packing, learning box hitches and how to pack funny loads. All three of us have learned the box hitch in various ways. Then after lunch we plan on a ride. We bring the horses up and lo and behold 2 horses have pulled a shoe running like mustangs thru the bogs in the pasture. Tanner is the only one who has all 4 but he has cut his head below his ear and has pretty good gash there. Silly city horses. I go out with Bradley and Emily and have a relaxing trail ride. That evening we have a dinner of tri-tip, a rousing game of Mexican Dominos and an impromptu class room on packing and gentle use. It's great having conversations with new people as you learn new things, hear new stories and new jokes. Don is passionate about having new people in the back country learning the old traditions and fulfilling the BCHC purpose. Both Nancy and Alice are knowledgeable teachers with generous spirits to help you learn, Bradley and Emily with their unbelievable hospitality, stories and history of the area. What an awesome week-end!!

Sunday was more of the same with a hike to the ranger's station, learning the ways of the backcountry, and general enjoying the day. The horses were learning that to walk down to the creek to get a drink. Tanner likes to snatch and grab grass on the trail but now that they have grass to their knees they are hanging out on the dirt lot. Go figure. Another great meal, good times and off to bed.

Monday morning is breakfast, wash the dishes then lay out the gear and load the mules. We do our box hitches and head out the trail. Alice allows me to lead one of her mules and I look like a real packer. Down the narrow boardwalk Tanner takes the lead and away we go. We make the trail head with no mishaps, smarter horses, and confidence that we can do this. Thank you to Nancy Hamill, Alice Kampen Don McDonald Bradley and Emily Miles for your generosity, kindness, wealth of information and conviction we can get this done



Audrey Leading Alices' mule

# Packers Corner

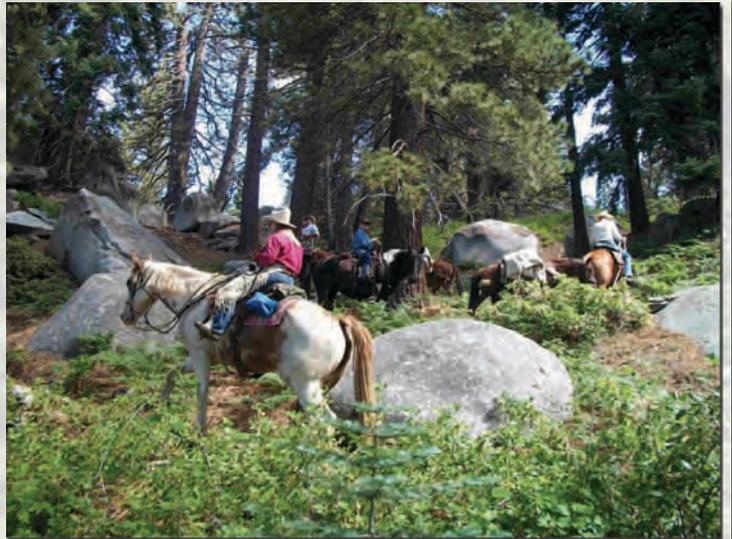
By: Michael Lewis

As August comes to a close I find it more difficult to find anything new to write about. Our packers continue to do very well on the trail and pack without incident, which leaves nothing really exciting to talk about. We do get to ride new trails and see new country, and continue to have other members join in. Coming up in within the next few months we will be scheduling a packing clinic for any members to attend. It will include stock handling, load prep, balancing, tying with safety in mind. Plan a full day with lunch and drinks. There will also be an arena course set up to practice leading and maneuvering obstacles.



## **Mt. San Jacinto State Park / CCC Fuller Ridge Project:**

This project is still in full swing with more re-supply dates coming up. We have made a few trips this month while being joined by Ron and Sandy Korman and Leslie Klien. Ron led Bobs pack pony on one of the trips and did very well. The remaining re-supply dates are **8/30, 9/13, 9/27, 10/11** with the pack out scheduled for **October 24-28**.



**See page 7  
for more info  
on upcoming dates**

To all Redshank members,

Below is an excerpt from the latest PCTA newsletter with the local trail projects. FALC stands for "Fast Attack Light Calvary", or packers. If interested in helping out contact Michael Lewis, Stumblin' L Ranch [mike@stumblinranch.com](mailto:mike@stumblinranch.com) [951 760-9255](tel:9517609255)

**Oct. 14-16. Fri. - Sun.** Section "B" Chihuahua Valley Rd. (CDP&R) FALC needed to bring in tools to work site. Meet at trail head on Chihuahua Valley Rd. each morning by 7:30 am. First meal Friday night. We may start this project on Thursday morning, if interested please let me know. Contact Don Line @ 619-520-9431, email @ donline41@gmail.com

**Oct 19 - 23. Wed - Sun.** Section "B". Desert Divide. SBNF/San Jacinto Rd. Maps B - 8 & 9. Clear 11 trees and repair rockwork along Desert Divide between Tahquitz Peak and Antsell Rock. Need 6 volunteers and packer support. From Humber Park near Idyllwild ascend Devil's Slide trail 2.5 mi (up 1600'), then turn south 3.7 mi. on PCT to spike camp near Red Tahquitz. Contact Pete Fish 8056586540, or email @ pickaxepete@sbcglobal.net

**Oct 28 - Nov 6. Fri - 2nd Sun.** Section "A". Laguna Mountains. (CNF) Descanso Rd. and Anza Borrego DSP, near Julian, CA. This Student Conservation Association trail crew will lead volunteers as they perform trail maintenance, tread rehab, brushing, and erosion control. Project will be split administratively between Cleveland NF and Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Five volunteer positions are available. Car camping is available in a developed campground; hiking distance from camp to project site is 1 - 3 miles. Fitness Requirement: Level 1. Suitable for a wide range of abilities. Project may include hiking up to 3 miles to the worksite and/or elevation change of less than 500 ft. This level is great for beginners. Other Things To Do in the Area: Julian, CA is full of history and has the world's greatest apple pies. Laguna mountains are a popular recreation area with plenty of hiking and amazing views. Questions? Ready to register? Contact Merrit Hoeh, Tel.: 916-285-1838, Email @ mhoh@pcta.org

**Nov. 5. Sat.** Section "C" Catch-up. (SBNF) Meet at Mormon Rock fire station at 7:30 am. Contact John Hachey @ 909-605-3219 or email @ goaliejhachey@msn.com

**Nov 11 - 19. Fri - 2nd Sat.** Section "B" Tule Springs. Anza Borrego DSP, near Anza, CA. Five volunteers will join a Student Conservation Association crew as they do rock work, check steps and drains on steep grade, and possibly build a rock wall in the draw. Camping: Car camping in the front country. A high clearance vehicle is needed to access the camp location. If volunteers do not have a high clearance vehicle then they can be shuttled into the site. Fitness Requirement: 2. Intermediate fitness levels. Volunteers will need to hike 1 mile to the project site each day. This level is suitable for most volunteers who are in good physical condition. Most people who are physically active can perform at this level. Other Things To Do in the Area: Nearby are Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail and Anza Borrego Desert State Park.

Questions? Ready to register? Contact Merrit Hoeh, @ 916-285-1838, Email: mhoh@pcta.org

The mission of the Pacific Crest Trail Association is to protect, preserve, and promote the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail as an internationally significant resource for the enjoyment of hikers and equestrians, and for the value that wild and scenic lands provide to all people.

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

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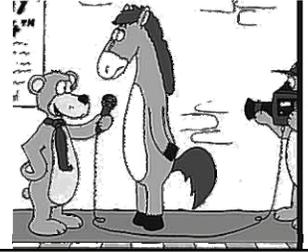
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Greg Bruce

# THE NEWS ROOM

## Read, Discuss, Act



Thursday night our friend Valeri Sexton was watering her plants at home at dark and was bitten on the ankle by a rattle snake. Possibly a Mojave Green rattler. She is now at Loma Linda hospital in critical but stable condition. Couldn't be at a better hospital. This doctor is the one you see on Animal Planet, the world renowned Venomologist. I saw her on Friday she is under sedation and a paralytic drug, not conscious and on heavy pain medication. The next two weeks are critical .

At that time she had received 20 vials on anti-venom so far. We will post more information as it becomes available. When she is able to have visitors we will let you know. With Valeri in the hospital we have someone that is physically feeding her animals but we are looking for some help. Big Horse feed is donating dog food, there is a need for help in purchasing horse feed.

**Update Tuesday AM:** Her stats are same. She is still not able to have visitors. She will be on anti-venom for another week and a half, maybe taken off the ventilator today. She was able to communicate with doctors today and she is on less sedation now.

**Update Thursday PM:** I just got off the Phone with Felicia that spoke with Valeri on the phone late today. Valeri is very tired and she is very happy to have all the horse friends taking care of her animals while she has been at hospital. Thank all of you for keeping her in your prayers and thoughts

If anyone would like to help donate feed, there is an account set up at Big Horse Feed under Valeri Sexton. Their ph # is 951-676-2544 for credit card donations or just stop in. If you would like to donate cash call me at 909-633-1705. Audrey is working on at her work getting days donated because there is going to be at minimum recovery of a month and will continue once home. Contact Stacy for any details regarding helping out. Please continue to keep Valeri in your prayers! Thanks so much.. Stacy  
You can send a card if you'd like to Loma Linda.

Valeri Sexton/patient

c/o Loma Linda University Medical Center

11234 Anderson St.,

Loma Linda, CA 92354-2804



Bob telling us the news  
about the BLM donations at the July  
meeting / potluck held at Laura  
Stanton's.

Unit Meeting/Ride Thursday, Sept. 8th

General Meeting at 7pm

At the Little Red School House in Anza on Hwy 371 & Contreras Road

To download a map & directions go to

[www.redshankriders.com/rsrimages/littleredschoolhouse-directions-web.pdf](http://www.redshankriders.com/rsrimages/littleredschoolhouse-directions-web.pdf)

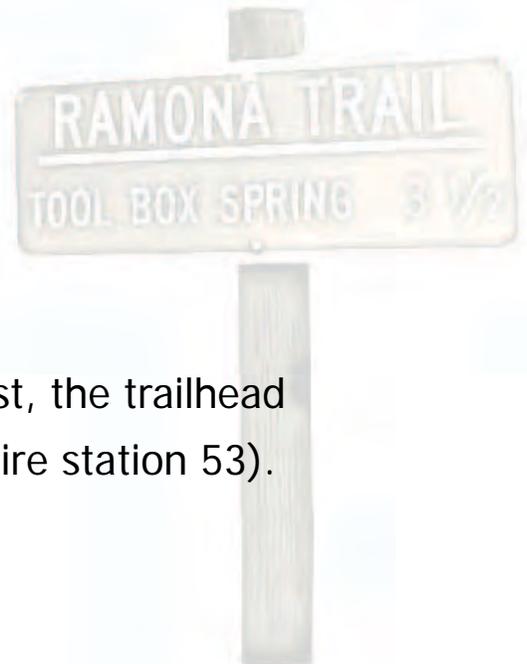
## Redshank Riders Ramona Ride—Sunday, 9/25

This will be a 5-hour ride, starting at the Ramona trailhead in Garner Valley; we will ride to the Tool Box Springs campground, do a loop near the top of Thomas Mountain, and return on the Ramona trail. Great views of Garner Valley and the San Jacinto mountain range. The ride will take us up to the pines on the mountain.

This ride is a medium difficult level 3 event. We will be trucking horse water to the Tool Box Springs campground. Bring a snack for this mid-ride rest stop.

RSVP: call Ron or Sandy Korman  
951~659~0332  
or email [kormanhaus@verizon.net](mailto:kormanhaus@verizon.net)

Directions: From Anza-Hwy 371 to 74, go west, the trailhead will be 1/4 mile past Morris Ranch Road (Cal Fire station 53).  
We will ride out at 9AM



### Tentative Event & Ride Schedule 2011

Sept 8 - RSR Unit meeting 7pm Little Red School House  
Sept 17 - BCHC—SGPU Treasure Hunt  
Sept 24 - Work party with forestry service at Cahuilla  
Sept 25 - RSR Ramona Ride (see above)

Oct 2 - Riverside Recreational Trails Ride ~ [www.rstrails.com](http://www.rstrails.com)

Nov 11-19—PCTA Work Party at Tule Springs (see pg 8 for other dates & locations)

Nov 13 - RSR Membership Drive @ Fobes Ranch

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BCHC

Redshank Riders



Redshank Riders  
 Unit Meeting  
 ~ Thursday, Sept. 8 @ 7pm ~  
 @ The Little Red Schoolhouse

