

Tails From The Trail

Backcountry
Horsemen of
California

REDSHANK RIDERS
Monthly Newsletter

Backcountry
Horsemen of
America

Concerned Men and Women Dedicated to Working to Preserve the Historic Use
of Trails with Recreational Pack & Saddle Stock

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Issue 6

JUNE 2012

Hi Gang

I hope everyone has been doing well. We have been very busy. Working on the BCHC Rendezvous committee, monthly rides, meetings, work crew pack in and pack outs.

Well let me tell you about packing gear for the work crews. Audrey and I had our first one out of Mission Creek a couple weeks ago. The work crews were out there for 10 days. What an awesome experience to go to Mission Creek and Pack out supplies for the SCA Crews. AWESOME!, that sums it up. Mike Lewis was an out-rider on this trip, so if we needed a hand he could assist. Mike had been a trooper with Audrey and me as his apprentices. I bet he had no idea what he got himself into. Hey Mike, is it like herding cats? We have been studying and this day was "our first test". Audrey picked up Mike at dark thirty, then I pulled in behind them and off we went. Mike stated the day prior that it is closest to head from Anza down 74 toward the desert. So in my little brain I thought Humm. So that steep windy road we are gonna go down, ok sure. I hope I don't get to the bottom too fast. I thought about this a lot in the next 24 hours, so glad he didn't tell me a month ago! We met Chip and Linda from the San Geronio Unit. The two units have been doing many work crew pack days in the past. Audrey and I had to take our two pack animals in "naked, with only the pack saddle manties and lash ropes. Huh, we surely didn't practice that... Oh Mike, so is there a special way to do this part? I promised myself to try not to bother the "master" but here I am at the trail head with the question. Audrey and I lead the group to our destination. We rode about 1.5 minutes (not miles) before we had to do a tack adjustment on one of our lead animals. Oh I could see Mike in my peripheral vision. Its ok Mike, we are gonna make this happen, promise!

We rode along and saw the work crew hiking back to the trailhead. Audrey and I horses out walked everybody. At the beginning Audrey's filly said no way in crossing the creeks, and then we ended up crossing a bazillion of them and she was eager to get in. We continued to ride miles to the base camp which was 8.5 miles. We got to base camp and tied up the stock to bushes and some were hobbled. Well so far so good, we didn't lose a thing, oh yeah; we didn't have anything with us yet. We had a quick bite to eat then it was back to work. The crews had already packed the bear boxes, etc and were stacked nicely waiting for us. Audrey and I were the first two to get our stock packed up. Oh there was laughter of course. Two more animals to pack up and we were off back to the trailhead. Mike stated that usually if loads are not balanced you'll know in a few minutes, so far so good. But we do have 8.5 miles to go. We were wandering around, through creeks and along the trails. We came across some hikers* this is the PCT* and we took this time to talk and educate some. I guess one of the hikers thought we came from quite a distance, he asked where we came from. We giggled then said we are down the trail about 5 miles more to the horse trailer. We explained we were just getting the work crews supplies back to the trailhead. They told us thanks for our assistance to them. Made ya feel a bit good inside! Maybe one day we will make the adventure longer, more days at a time. I guess you'd think we came from a good distance since we had our stock all outfitted with the pack gear. We did manage to get all the gear to the trailhead and was welcomed with open arms from the PCT, SCA AND BLM guys. They took our pack animal from us, and helped us untie the loads. We made it back from the wilderness with our pack animals loaded with work party supplies... Woo hoo to us! Our horses did great. It was very cool and a fantastic opportunity. We also gave back to the SCA crews that are working so hard on the trails!

I am writing this message from the Atlanta Georgia Airport coming home from my Lexington Kentucky Trip. It was a trip of a lifetime for sure. I went to Lexington for a symposium given by Alltech Company. We are using some of their ingredient products in our Integrity and Star Milling Co horse feeds. Boy what a fantastic 4 days of learning. I have never been into this area of the world, and Lexington is famously known for HORSES AND BOURBON. I took a few extra days and I knew I would have a great time! Kentucky Horse Park, Ranches in the Lexington area, Daniel Boone burial site, Woodford distillery. Church hill Downs, Keeneland race Track, Red mile harness track, Three Chimney Stallion Barn. Oh my, there are so many places to see and a bit over 2 1/2 days total to achieve it... it aint gonna happen, I will need to return to this area soon!

The next monthly meeting will be at the Little Red Schoolhouse in Anza at 7pm on June 14th. Hope you can make it.

Cya on the Trail, Stacy and Joe with the pack mare

Redshank Riders May 10, 2012

Meeting Minutes

Location: Little Red Schoolhouse

Meeting began at 7:15 pm

12 Attendees

Anne read the minutes from April, Chuck moved to accept, Audrey 2nd

Treasurers Report: Mike reported that thanks to the Treasure Hunt we had an income of \$2,885.00. Expenses were \$1,017.44. Ending balance of \$5600.08

Membership Report: Stacy reported 11 new members signed up at the Treasure Hunt. We now are at 112 total. All new members were sent packets via email. Expired members were notified by email as well.

Trail Development & Maintenance: Mike reported on some of the classes that will be available in the upcoming Trail College.

Adopt a Highway: Saturday, June 2nd

Public Lands: Another article about RSR was published in the High Country Journal. Stacy asked who had made calls as requested concerning the Sierra Packer issue and many hands went up. Allison had done some investigation as to what the hikers' complaints were and found a lot of information on their web page. Ron Lawson announced a trail work day at Cedar Springs on Saturday May 19th.

Rendezvous: There is a Facebook page for Rendezvous 2013. We need to be involved in the upcoming committee meetings. RSR is in charge of the vendors, wine & cheese & beer. If you have any ideas for vendors please email them to Stacy.

Newsletter: No report

Historian: No report

Unfinished Business: No report

New Business: Pack saddle raffle tickets are available. Gretchen is going to raffle a pair of custom chaps as well.

Rides: The next ride will be to Eagle Rock on Mothers Day, May 12th and the June ride will be at

Santa Margarita River on June 3rd., the July ride TBD by Ron & Sandy Korman.

Meeting Adjourned: at 8:50 pm. Mike moved and Gretchen 2nd.

Welcome NEW or RENEWED MEMBERS:

Lynn Baker

Sherry Rondeau



14th Annual Anniversary Sale!
 Bring in this ad and receive **35% Off ANY ONE ITEM** with a purchase of \$50 or more
 June 29th & 30th

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Greg Bruce

Below is an announcement regarding the lawsuit that shut down access to the **Sayles Canyon Trail Head via Bryan Creek Road in the Eldorado NF.** This lawsuit has been going on since 2009. I would have hoped that the FS would have some idea that they should have notified the judge that Bryan Creek Road was an access road to the trail head that was just developed and to also advise him that the road was used for transport of stock to the trail head. Well maybe they did advise the judge, that I don't really know. Too bad though, now the FS is in a pickle, trying to figure out how they are going to get horses into the trail head. How long will stock users have to wait to use this trail head they just developed?

The Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation is the group that filed the lawsuit.

This is possibly a situation where if we had made contact with The Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation and made them aware that this road was an access road for stock use, we might have gotten them to exempt this one road.

I know there are other Forests here in California which have been sued over their Travel Management Plans. It might be best for us to have discussions with the Forest Supervisors about the possibility of loss of access for stock users if the judges are not aware of the need for continued access to trail heads. Obviously, the suits are aimed at OHV use and the judge will not know any better when making a judgment unless he is somehow notified.

Signed: Bob Magee ~ Public Lands

The Center for Biological Diversity

For Immediate Release, May 27, 2011

Contacts: Karen Schambach, Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation, (530) 333-1113

Lisa Belenky, Center for Biological Diversity, (415) 385-5694

Court Finds Sierra Nevada Off-road Vehicle Plan Illegal

SACRAMENTO, Calif.— A federal court has rejected the U.S. Forest Service's plan to increase off-road vehicle use in the Eldorado National Forest. The court decision, released Thursday, found the Forest Service's "travel-management plan" violated legal protections for fragile Sierra Nevada meadow habitat and the threatened California red-legged frog.

The Forest Service's 2008 travel-management plan authorized 1,212 miles of motorized vehicle routes across the Eldorado National Forest, including designation of 23 miles of routes created by off-road vehicle users in sensitive areas. The plan included nearly 40 miles of routes on soils susceptible to erosion, 10 miles of routes within meadows, 290 miles of routes near stream sides with 485 stream crossings, and routes in red-legged frog habitat.

"Off-road vehicle use can cause substantial damage to water, wildlife and soil resources and disturb quiet recreation," said Karen Schambach, president of Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation. "The court recognized that the Forest Service needs to fully weigh those serious impacts before expanding off-road vehicle use on the forest.

"The court's decision responds to a challenge brought by the Center for Biological Diversity, Center for Sierra Nevada Conservation and Forest Issues Group. The court found the plan violated the National Forest Management Act and the Endangered Species Act by favoring off-road vehicle use over protection of sensitive forest resources, including endangered species and meadow habitats. The Eldorado National Forest contains key recovery habitat for the California red-legged frog and many other imperiled species as well as clean-water resources critical to the state.

(Continued on page 4)



(Continued from page 3)

“The court recognized that the Forest Service failed to take the steps needed to adequately protect red-legged frogs and important habitat from off-road vehicle destruction,” said Lisa Belenky, a senior attorney with the Center for Biological Diversity. “The agency adopted a route system that unnecessarily cuts through important meadow habitat, impairs riparian conservation areas, and ultimately would undermine the health of the forest.

"The California red-legged frog is famously known from Mark Twain’s story “The Celebrated Jumping Frog of Calaveras County.” Once so common it was a staple cuisine, California’s largest native frog has now lost 90 percent of its historic population. Remaining red-legged frog populations continue to be threatened by habitat loss in aquatic, riparian and upland areas; water quality degradation; and pesticide use. Plaintiffs were represented by Dave Bahr of Bahr Law Offices, Erik Schlenker-Goodrich of Western Environmental Law Center and Lisa Belenky of the Center for Biological Diversity.

The Center for Biological Diversity is a national, nonprofit conservation organization with more than 320,000 members and online activists dedicated to protecting endangered species and wild places. www.biologicaldiversity.org

Good News for Packers: H.R. 4849: Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act passed.

On Tuesday, June 5, 2012, the President signed into law:

H.R. 4849, the "Sequoia and King Canyon National Parks Backcountry Access Act," which directs the Secretary of the Interior to continue to issue authorizations to commercial pack stock operators within designated wilderness areas of the Sequoia and Kings Canyon National Parks in California.

In what had to be music to the packers’ ears, Judge Richard Seeborg wrote, “It is not appropriate for one group of park users to impose its vision of wilderness etiquette over others. While plaintiff is correct that the Wilderness Act’s purpose is to maintain the primitive nature of park areas, the Ninth Circuit has repeatedly explained that in complying with the Act, agencies must engage in a ‘delicate balancing’ because Congress ‘did not mandate that the Service preserve the wilderness in a museum diorama ... Instead, Congress stated that the wilderness was to be preserved as wilderness and made accessible to people devoted to the public purposes of recreational, scenic, scientific, educational, conservation and historical uses.’”

The article stated: The only glitch is a 20 percent reduction in Stock Use Nights from 2007 levels, from a base of 3,200 to 2,650. The Sequoia Access Act, H.R. 4849, passed by the House in mid-May, had set use limits at 2011 levels, a short season for packers and guides due .

Italics reprinted from The Inyo Register June 4, 2012 by Deb Murphy/Sports Editor



Photos submitted by Stacy Kuhns

Eagle Rock Ride was a Success

We had a small group show up to go see this amazing rock formation. We had a few newbies to "the rock", which is exciting. We took some photo ops at the rock. The pics do not give it justice at all. The trail does need a bit of trail cutting back and we will do that when it gets cooler weather. Unfortunately there wasn't enough water so no pretty wildflowers and poppies. We had a couple up from San Diego Unit and they actually enjoyed hanging with us for the day. The weather was great and we had lunch up stream under the trees. My mare decided to lay down with the saddle on. I guess she was going to relax with us too. The day was awesome and a great time had by all!

Until next time... Stacy

Feeding Horses in a Group

Horses maintained in a herd will often establish a hierarchy. This pecking order must be kept in mind when attempting to feed horses in a large group. Aggressive or dominant horses might eat more than their share by chasing others away, and timid horses might not get enough feed.

The goal of group feeding should be to allow all of the horses to consume enough feed to meet their requirements. In order to minimize injury when feeding a group, the most dominant horse should be fed first and the least dominant horse fed last.

If feeding concentrates, feed tubs should be placed at least 50 feet (15.4 meters) apart and away from any fences. If using a trough system, offer multiple small troughs to prevent dominant horses from monopolizing the feed. It is a good idea to offer one more trough or feed bucket than there are horses in a pasture to allow each horse a better chance of consuming the feed.

When feeding hay on the ground, scatter it in different locations, spacing piles a minimum of 50 feet (15.4 meters).

<http://www.equinews.com/article/feeding-horses-group> (submitted by Stacy Kuhns)

Apple Canyon/May Valley Ride, Sunday July 15

This will be a 4-hour mountain ride in some of the most scenic areas of the San Jacinto Mountains. This loop ride starts in Apple Canyon, goes over Keen Camp Summit (elevation 4917 ft), traverses Johnston Meadow, and passes through May Valley. We'll stop for a snack and water the horses in the headwaters of Hurkey Creek, and then proceed down the "Missing Link" trail to complete the loop in Apple Canyon.

There will be a few water crossings, some rocky areas (it's a mountain ride, dontcha know?!), and the potential of mountain bikers on the trail.

Ride Level: 3 to 3.5 We will ride out at 10AM

RSVP: Ron/Sandy Korman 951-659-0332 or email kormanhaus@verizon.net

Directions: from Hwy 74 in Garner Valley, turn north onto Apple Canyon Road (about 1/4 mile west of the Lake Hemet store). Go 1 mile.

Bring: a mid-ride snack and water

This ride is open to all BCHC members

REDSHANK RIDERS BCHC TENTATIVE RIDE AND EVENT SCHEDULE FOR 2012

June 14 -17 Parks/CCC Fuller Ridge Pack-in

July 15 APPLE CANYON/MAY VALLEY RIDE Contact Ron Korman: kormanhaus@verizon.net (951) 659-0332

August TBA

September TBA

October TBA-Apple Canyon host Kormans (951) 659-0332

November 3rd Saturday-Unit Poker ride, location TBA.

Dec 2nd Sunday-Christmas ride location TBA

As you see, we have two months that we do not have a ride scheduled for, Aug and Sept. If you are interested in showing us your favorite ride, please contact Ron or Sandy Korman.





Helping Audrey pull the sling straps tight around the bear proof boxes and we started laughing. Then we got serious again. Great day.

Mike told her to put her knee against the box and it'll the strap. Pulled herself backwards and on her butt. Haaaa



Audrey Turpin



Stacy Kuhns



Chip Herzig & Mike Lewis

MISSION CREEK PACK-IN May 2012

Photos by Stacy Kuhns & Mike Lewis

Trails Report by Ron Korman

On Sunday, April 22, Sandy and I rode the Sloan Ranch trails-I know some have avoided that area because last year the Forest Service "chunked" the trails and roadways using a backhoe to dig "bomb craters" in the roadways in an attempt to stop motorcycle and ATV traffic there.

What's the phrase? "The best laid plans of mice and men sometimes go awry..."

Cattle, hikers, motorcycles and 4WD vehicles have "un-chunked" (that's a technical term!) the road, building do-able trails on the sides of the "chunks", making for an OK ride situation. There's horsewater in two lakes on this ride.

As of May 7, the Forest Service has closed an area near Herkey Creek County Park because of alleged sediment going into the creek. The trails affected by this closure are north and west of the campground into May Valley including portions of May Valley Road.

We had planned to have the RSR October ride in this area, but now we will need a new venue...maybe we'll have the ride at Sloan, and perhaps call it "The Chunky Cheese Ride"?

June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14 General Mtg. 7pm - Fuller Ridge Pack-In	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

**Next General Meeting Thursday, June 14 @
the Little Red Schoolhouse Anza ~ 7:00 pm**

CCC/State Parks, Fuller Ridge Project Upcoming Dates Now Set

Pack In: June 14th – 17th. **Re-Supply:** July 1st – 2nd

For the third year the Fuller Ridge project is a go with pack-in, pack-out, and re-supply dates already set. For those of you who do not know, the Fuller Ridge project is a realignment of the PCT along Fuller Ridge that will ultimately eliminate some 20 odd switch backs. For those who are thinking of getting started in packing, this is a great project to get your feet wet. Perfect loading and unloading areas along with a good trail and just over 6 miles to camp. They are estimating 40 loads for the pack-in and 6 to 7 loads for re-supply every two weeks through out the summer. Following are other tentative dates.

Tentative Future Dates

Pack In for Season:

July 10, July 24, Aug 7, Aug 28

Sept 4, Sept 18, Oct 2, Oct 16

Pack Out:

October 23-28th (whatever works)

Ideally looking for 6-7 animals per food re-supply

Come out and join in if you can. If you like you can ride along and just enjoy the view.

Submitted by Michael Lewis

2012 Treasure Hunt Sponsor's List

Gift Certificates ~ Hornblower Dinner Cruises

Gift Certificates ~ Anza Valley Veterinary Clinic

*Black, suede twisted fringe jacket.
donated by Ron & Sandra Korman*

Cali Produce, Anza

*PiratesDinnerAdventure.com
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*Star Milling Gift Certificates
donated by Stacy Kuhns*

Gift Certificates ~ Janae's Hair Cottage, Anza

Gift Certificate ~ Anza Valley Exotic Bird, Anza

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donated by Laurie Stanton*

*Medieval Times Dinner for 2
donated by Luxury Resorts*

*Horseshoe Frame donated by
Anza Valley Hardware & Feed, Inc.
& Variety Store*

Leather Art donated by Susan Gonzalez

*Ice Cream Cake
donated by Dairy Queen, Anza*

*Polished Aluminum Endurance Stirrups
donated by Carol Schmuhl*

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Jack & Gretchen Peckham of GreytThreads*

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donated by Gail McCreight*

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*Art donated by Rhonda Strickland
of RestLeSs Designs ~ RestLeSs D Graphics*

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*Equine Dental Float Donated by
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donated by Jack & Gretchen Peckham of GreytThreads*

*Figure 8 Hobbles
donated by Ron Lawson of RL Saddle*

*Goat Hair Handmade Pillow
donated by Susan Gonzalez*

*Montana Silversmith "Cowboy Kicker" slippers
donated by Laurie Stanton*

Limited Edition Collector's Plate ~ anonymous donor

*Handcrafted Glass / Iron Table
donated by Mike Lewis of MPB Construction, Aguanga*

*Ariat Animal Print Rope Bag
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*Iron Coat Hanger anonymous donor
Etched Wine Glasses donated by Stacy Kuhns*

*Dinner for @ Mama's Cucina Italiana
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donated by TechMixGlobal, Sue Schindler, Acct. Mgr.*

Assorted items from Big Horse Feed & Mercantile

*Equine Dental Float donated by
Just Right Horse Dentistry*

LET'S GIVE ANOTHER BIG THANK YOU TO LAURIE STANTON FOR ALL HER HARD WORK
IN GATHERING A FABULOUS ARRAY OF RAFFLE PRIZES. BRAVO!!!

at the Little Red School House
 ~ Thurs., Thurs. 14th ~
Unit Meeting

Agunga, Ca 92536

P.O. BOX 383

BCHC

Redshank Riders



***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.