



2013 Officers

Issue 5-6

MAY—JUNE 2013

PRESIDENT / STATE REP

Stacy Kuhns
(909) 633-1705
stacykuhns@aol.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Michael Lewis
(951) 760-9255
mike@stumblinranch.com

SECRETARY

Anne York
(951) 662-2928
anne@starfiredesignstudio.com

TREASURER

Gail McCreight
(951) 767-9453
gail@cwt-inc.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR & WEBTECH

Rhonda Strickland
(951) 951-522-8757
redshank.webmaster@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR

Stacy Kuhns

EDUCATION

Audrey Turpin
(951) 852-1708
upacreekbranch@netzero.net

PUBLIC LANDS

Stacy Kuhns
(909) 633-1705
stacykuhns@aol.com

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATORS

Carol Schmuhl
(951) 767-1061
lfeedemandleadem@aol.com

Beth Shook

(951) 734-8776
qdisjuly4th@yahoo.com

HISTORIAN

Carol Schmuhl
(951) 767-1061
lfeedemandleadem@aol.com

ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Beth Shook
(951) 734-8776
qdisjuly4th@yahoo.com

Hi Guys

For those of you that were unable to attend the Rendezvous in Norco you truly missed out on a lot of stuff. This was a first rendezvous for many of our members. There were many hands from Redshank Riders. We hit the event by storm. When Mike Lewis was not measuring and chalking the vendor area, he was in a class helping folks learn how to pack, and competing in the obstacle challenge among other things.

We all got together for Dinners down at the Hall, attending Dave Stamey concert, bought raffle tickets for cool stuff at the raffles. We all watched the Firth's bid on the Mule that was in the auction. Oh it got wild! The Firth family won the pack trip. Congrats, so when do WE leave???

Lori Stanton received Redshank Riders Top Hand award for 2012. She did an outstanding job and what was the best part is she was surprised! Rhonda Strickland judged and announced the unit winners for the newsletter award.

We have a new booth for events. Oh my Anne you do amazing work. The Redshank board unveiled it in front of a crowd in the vendor arena. Everyone loved it! Our unit booth was awesome. Had the backdrop, two rail fence with cool stuff on it... it was great. Shout out to Terry Wright for winning the Pack saddle outfit made and donated by Mike.

We had over 60 vendors which went really well. Our group was in charge of this huge task and we pulled it off. Pebbles headed off the group that interacted daily with the vendors to make sure they had everything they needed. The vendors were a great selection of the industry. Some of the responses from the vendors and attendees were "this is the best event", "we've never seen these types of vendors come to this arena"...oh it is great when you knock it out of the park

Audrey was in charge of the obstacle challenge. They did a great job. We received a call that the course was as good as any they had seen. This came from Robin Bond that goes to multiple states and also competed in Canada. You should smile large for that Audrey. Great Job! We did a first to have a pack division in the challenge. Thanks to all that got to show the

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public what we can do. Audrey's judges and gate crew worked multiple days prior to the event to learn how to score also. They worked their tails off. We had a little trail course afterwards at my place Audrey set up to thank the judges and let them play with their horses on the obstacles. We also had a potluck. Great time

The beer and wine event was great. Some of the comments heard were " great selection and glad it was in vendor area". Thanks so much for all of the servers. There was not, one for you, one for me...I is now a bit more knowledgeable on wine but I still prefer the beer... Val Young, Brandi, Chuck and wife did a great job pouring. Allison and Pebbles got to chat with each "drinker" when they checked them in.

Thanks EVERYONE that worked and also participated at Rendezvous, what a great event!!

Mark your calendars for a work party for the north side of Beauty Mountain where we will be moving the trail to Million Dollar out of the creek bed, It will be June 1st which is national trail day. Mike Lewis will be in charge of this work party. Riders and hikers will be staging at mikes at 8am.

Mark your calendars for the last Saturday in July." National Day of the Cowboy". We will be having an obstacle course and some education events at Minor Field... This will be a unit fundraiser. The details will follow as we are working on a flyer etc. A bit of background is the National Day of the Cowboy was started as a way to contribute to the preservation of America's rich cowboy heritage.

Our group is receiving more and more packing opportunities thanks to the hard work and dedication of Mike Lewis. Everyone is

looking to us for packing expertise! Thanks Mike, it's been a great opportunity.

The rendezvous committee has started meeting for the 2014 Rendezvous. We have a few things we would like to do a bit differently but nothing major. We will be in charge again of the vendor area, obstacle course, helping with education (packing) and the wine/beer event.

Until we see each other, enjoy the days and ride often...

Cya on the trails, Joe, the pack mare and Stacy



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Meeting Minutes Redshank Riders Apr 10, 2013

Location: Little Red Schoolhouse

Meeting began at 7:10 pm ~ 18 attendees

Guests: Gay Stanton, Nyna & Charlie Cheek

Minutes from March were not available

Treasurers Report: Gail reported expenses of \$889.89 income of 1195.08 for an ending balance of \$6199.93

Membership: Carol reported that we acquired 2 new members in March, bringing current

Total membership to 119. A membership booth will be in place at Horses Head to Hoof event on 4/21.

Historian: Laurie uploaded Rendezvous photos to our Dropbox on line

Trail Development & Maintenance: National Trail Day is June 1st. A trail/work party is planned to meet at Stone House at 8:30am to work at Million Dollar Springs.

Membership: This will be the 4th year on the Fuller Ridge project, this year between Strawberry & Deer Springs. There is a new trail off of Round Valley on the PCT north of 74.

Adopt a Highway: Two dates have been set; Wednesday May 1st and Saturday May 4th

Public Lands/Director: Once again we need to send letters to Yosemite National Park about the plan to eliminate commercial horseback riding and stables.

Education: Rendezvous: Audrey is planning to do a packing clinic at the Farmers Fair in October.

Newsletter: No Report

Unfinished Business: We have decided that we need a larger trailer for all of our gear, so we are on the lookout. No decals will be applied to the current trailer as we will be selling it as soon as a replacement is found.

New Business: Allison plans a ride for April 28th.

Rendezvous was very successful- lots of good feedback. It will be in Norco again next year. Audrey will organize the Trail Trials again.

Stacy is now on the Executive Board.

Meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm. Mike motioned and Carol 2nd



HIGHWAY CLEAN-UP

An additional hwy cleanup has been added to finish up the small section that remains. The next day for the opportunity to support our group is

Saturday May 18th at 9 am at the Mobil station in Anza.

So please mark your calendars -
Thanks in advance,
Beth - desertrealtor@yahoo.com

Rendezvous 2013 Obstacle Trail Challenge

By Audrey Turpin

Well, a year ago in 2012 I was suckered, I mean asked to help with the 2013 Backcountry Horseman of California Rendezvous. Being the first time this event has been held in Southern California in quite a few years I thought this would be great opportunity to promote our message and mission to a whole new generation of horseman and also the general public.

I have had a little experience with trail trials, obstacle challenges and cowboy races as I'm kinda known as the crazy buckskin lady. I've had at previous rendezvous; I had my buckskin horse Tanner attempt to jump over stall doors, (thanks Davey for cutting the door down and releasing the nut case), Tanner rearing at almost every obstacle in the arena, (I think we are there for comedy relief) and at the Rendezvous in Red Bluff I hauled him 10 hours to have him almost completely take out the first judge at the first obstacle then leaving stage door left in an awful hurry because of a little itty bitty black and white cowhide hanging on the gate. YES, I'm an expert on what obstacles can truly test (SCARE) certain buckskin horses. So yes, I wanted to step up to the challenge to help make rendezvous 2013 a success and a jolly good time.

First things first; I had a judging clinic at my house where all my dedicated and awesome judges came out in the snow, wind and cold to go over scoring, judging and to practice some obstacles to get a good feel of this. It takes a village to put something like this on and needless to say our unit did. Redshank Riders has some of the best people, they truly put their spirit into what ever we signed them up to do.

Having three divisions Novice, Open and Packers we were ready to go!

Taking our Rendezvous theme to heart "*From your backyard to your back roads to your backcountry*" in my vision wasn't as devious as some would think. We planned obstacles to reflect this starting with a gate coming out of your backyard (with a little itty bitty cowhide hanging on it I might say!). Then, taking out the trash (gotta do your chores), riding thru a construction zone with plastic, sand bags construction signs, and a huge tarp tape up to look like a road all the while trying to get to the backcountry.

Following the path around the arena the teams of horses and riders encountered round bridges with 360 degree turn arounds and bridges with real water around them complete with quacking ducks and chirping frogs. A tight turn representing switch backs (Oh yes with another hidden elk I might add). This is the backcountry ya know. A step over forest service gate, a big step up then a two foot step down. Open riders you handled that exceptionally awesome!

Next came the dead fall with real logs coming out of Montana next to a tent with a couple of stuff bears sitting in camp chairs around a camp fire. Finally, the path exited through a canopy of leaves to ride up to a tree with one of our sponsor's cool product, *Cinch to Hang* hook on to claim the competitor's prize filled with more goodies from more very generous sponsors.

The novice division certainly was a challenge and so many did so well even though many had never done anything like this before in their life. Novices, you made me proud by truly trusting your mounts and being so kind to them. Those horses really took care of their riders.

The open division also did extremely well. It is just amazing to watch the team work of everyone and the good camaraderie everyone had with each other.

Now the packers were a whole different story. Trying to get two animals over these obstacles was quite the test. Sure your string animal will go but did somebody forget to tell the pack animal. Or vice a versa when your lead animal won't go now what!!! Kudos to Pete Kriger for doing the big step up even if it wasn't on the course. Love that mule!

All said and done first place champions received beautiful buckles, reserve champions received gorgeous

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plates and we had awards all the way to tenth place.

I hope everyone had as much fun as we all did. The obstacle-challenge was certainly a crowd pleaser. Thank you to the judges, ring crew and our sponsors. I hope this will inspire more people to come out and compete next year. Now start practicing!



Education
Social
&
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RENDZ
2013

Photos by
Laurie Stanton
& Rhonda Strickland



HOT TOPIC: Yosemite National Park to eliminate guided day rides in Yosemite Valley

Dear BCHA members,

The National Park Service is making plans that require your public comment. In particular the Merced River in Yosemite NP and how these plans relate to horse use and public access.

Our Wilderness Advisor, Randy, has offered talking points at the end of this email for you to consider including in your letters. He has additional concerns with arbitrary restrictions proposed for commercial stock use in Park wilderness.

What is needed now is for our members to speak out on the NPS comment website: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/document.cfm?documentID=50778>, and tell the park how important it is for you to have this public access, now and for future generations. (comment period has expired but you can follow the progress at the website noted above.)

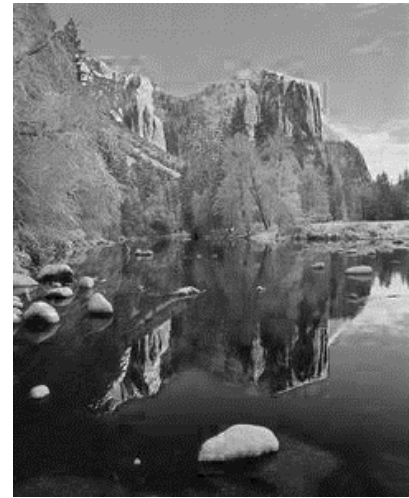


Photo from NPS.com

The ability to take an outfitted day or overnight trip is part of our Cultural Heritage. The NPS was founded on horseback, the area in question has always had horse access. The importance of both commercial access and private pleasure access has to be emphasized.

Please visit Congressman McClintock of California's website (below) & read his comments regarding his broad concern over the Park's proposal to close numerous visitor facilities and activities in the Yosemite Valley, including the proposed elimination of guided day rides. Posting your comments on the NPS website is easy and straightforward. Please take time now to register your concerns, be sure that your remarks note you are a horse or mule user.

Thank you,
Mike McGlenn
Chairman BCHA
April 12, 2013

"The National Park Service's (NPS) public comment period for the Merced Wild and Scenic River Draft Comprehensive Management Plan and Environmental Impact Statement, also known as the Merced River Plan, ended on April 30, 2013. However, public comments can still be made to Congressman McClintock's office using the attached comment form. If members of the public wish to protest the elimination of many of the Yosemite Valley's tourist amenities and iconic landmarks, their time is running out. My website, at mcclintock.house.gov provides guidance on how people can protest this action, and I strongly urge them to do so."

To follow what Congressman Tom McClintock is doing regarding this issue

go to: <http://mcclintock.house.gov/merced-river-plan.shtml>

NEWS YOU CAN USE

May 2nd, 2013

Aggressive Bees Encountered in Areas of the Temecula Valley

Kindly submitted by Juanita Koth, President – Temecula Eq-Wine Riders

Attention Local Trail Riders!

Recently Silver and I rode the mountain trails many of us locals love to ride, from Leoness above Glen Oaks to the lookout pad. I was in the lead when a swarm of bees aggressively started attacking my horse's head, getting inside his ears! I could not shoo them away despite my repeated efforts. I kept remarking that maybe they were drawn to my fly repellent that smells good (Endure), because they were focusing on Skye predominantly. There are no trees for hives up there, so I assume they were ground bees feeding on the many wild flowers. We have never encountered bees in this area before over the past 10 years of riding there frequently.

"BEE"WARE! There is a link to some great advice below on proper trail etiquette when encountering bees, which I followed. (This is not a trail for amateur riders btw.) Please share this information with your friends. It's a favorite trail of RCHA, TEWR, SRPRC and many other smaller groups. A person with a severe bee sting allergy would be in big trouble up there. Always ride with your Epi. pen if you are at risk for anaphylaxis, let your saddle pals know you have it along as well. Just wanting to keep everyone safe and give out info. on this new development.

Horse & Rider Bee/Wasp on Trail Article:

Worst-case scenario: If you see this situation develop or the lead rider yells, "BEES!" or "WASPS!", move fast - either ahead or off the trail. If you're on such a narrow trail that you can't detour, be ready to high-tail it past the nest (at a lope, if necessary), and don't hold up the riders behind you. If your horse gets stung and starts to buck, pull his head up and urge him forward to redirect his attention and lessen the chance of additional stings. The worst thing you can do is attempt to pull him to a stop, because that just gives the insects more opportunity to sting.

http://www.equisearch.com/horses_riding_training/trail-riding-safety/

A Creepy-Crawly Threat to Horse Health

A rising tick population could cause problems for your horse. *May 9, 2013*

Excerpts from American Horse Daily Dot Com – AQHA Corporate Partner Farnam - *Submitted by Carol Schmuhl*

Tick populations have been increasing, and experts are predicting even higher than normal numbers in most areas of the country. Migratory birds and white-tailed deer acting as carriers have expanded the range of many tick species, while conservation efforts such as decreased reliance on insecticides and the preservation of open space have helped them thrive.

Dangers Ticks Present to Horses

Even a tick that isn't transmitting disease can cause discomfort for horses. Symptoms of horses suffering from tick feeding include skin irritation, hair loss, restlessness and general crankiness.

Environments Ticks Thrive In

Ticks do not like open, sunlit environments and prefer shaded, moist areas. Taking control measures such as keeping pastures open, keeping vegetation outside of fence lines, cutting shrubbery, etc., are highly recommended.

Most of the ticks affecting horses come from wild animals, particularly the rodent and deer populations. There are a record number of deer this year, especially in the eastern half of the country and along the Pacific Coast.

Controlling Ticks to Prevent Infection

Prevention of tick feeding and limiting the time ticks have to feed is an essential part of tick control – the longer a tick remains attached to its host, the better the chances of disease transmission.

To read the full article to go:

<http://americashorstdaily.com/a-creepy-crawly-threat-to-horse-health/>

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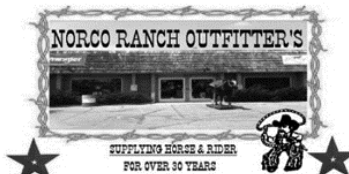
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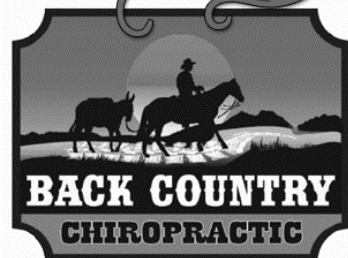


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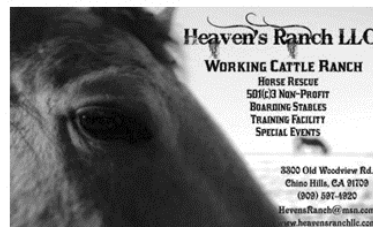
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June 2013

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1 Beauty Mtn— Million Dollar Work Party 8am
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Unit Meeting 7pm	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

REMINDERS

The next general board meeting will be on Thursday, Jun 13th at 7 pm @ the Little Red Schoolhouse. All are welcome to attend.



Unit meetings are always on the 2nd Thursday of each month unless otherwise stated.

All Members are invited & encouraged to attend the Unit Meetings.



Welcome New Member

- Marci Liefer

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***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.