



2017 Officers

Issue 9

SEPTEMBER 2017

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Presidents Message

Howdy Folks

Well the Fuller Ridge pack-ins have been going well. We even had some 4H kids join in the early hours to assist and learn about packing. Due to vacation and then truck problems, I have unfortunately missed some of the pack-ins. The good news is soon I will be back and enjoying the rest of them. We also have some other packing opportunities coming up this fall in looking forward to them as well.

Coming up on September 23 and 24 Susan Anderson is hosting a local endurance ride. Susan could use a few more volunteers to help ensure the success of the ride please give her a call and find out what you can do to help: 951-970-2252.

National Public Lands day is September 30th for those who would like be involved it locally at the Ribbinwood horse camp in Pinyon again. What we will be doing is some work to improve the parking lot, some minor trail work and maybe a little painting where needed. The forest service is very organized and, in the past, have divided us into groups with a lead person. We have accomplished an amazing amount of work in a short time. Some folks do the work and then leave however; I encourage those who help to stay after finishing. They have invited the workers to stay at the horse camp overnight.

I will be bringing my horses and enjoying the trails Saturday evening and Sunday morning. For those who have never been there it is a great local venue that we should be taking advantage of a lot more. If you would like to spend the night at the campground or have any other questions give me a call 951-514-9999.

The Kiosk is finally in and complete at the Tule trailhead so come on out and take a look then go for a ride. Also thanks to our local Anza Electric, the power poles are in for the trailhead sign. (See page 11 for photos).

Finally, I want to mention that this is my second year as president. Although we have relaxed on this in the past were really are only supposed to do a 2 year stretch. Therefore, due to personal things going on in my life, I will be stepping down as president and the board at the end of this year. It is something that I truly and thoroughly enjoyed and will gladly pick up again in the future if you are interested in having me again. I do plan to support in committees in the coming year. Start thinking NOW on who you want to become your new board and president for 2018

Happy Trails Yer Prez

Greg Bruce



REDSHANK RIDERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

(Draft) July 2017

ATTENDANCE: President Greg Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:10 PM and asked all members and guests to sign in.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Stacy Kuhns gave the secretary's report from the June meeting.

*The minutes were read.

*It was moved and seconded to accept the minutes.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Nyna Cheek gave the Treasurer's report.

*The beginning balance for June was \$5,544.41. Total income was \$618.50; \$338.50 from Dues rebates and \$280.00 from the Leave no trace workshop. Total expenses were \$870.00 from; \$750.00 for Wilderness Rider fees (for Ed Puett and Nyna Cheek) and \$120.00 for facility rental (School House). The final balance is \$5,292.91.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Carol Schmuhl

TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS: 78

TOTAL PERSONS = 115

TOTAL FAMILY = 37

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS = 33

TOTAL PATRON = 1

TOTAL BENEFACTOR = 1

TOTAL EXPIRING AT END OF JULY = 4

New Members during June 2017: Debra & Gary Morris/Lake Matthews CA

HISTORIAN'S REPORT: No Activity

BOOTH COORDINATOR: Rosie Grindle — NO REPORT

RIDE REPORT: given by Cindy Hay: nothing scheduled, possible October ride

PUBLIC LANDS REPORT given by Allison Renck

She asked for our support opposing HR1349. This bill amends the Wilderness Act to declare that provisions of such Act prohibiting the use of motorized vehicles, aircraft, or other forms of mechanical transport shall not prohibit the use of motorized wheelchairs, non-motorized wheelchairs, non-motorized bicycles, strollers, wheelbarrows, survey wheels, or game carts within any wilderness areas. She will put out a sample letter for us to use to contact Washington ASAP.

She also spoke about the Administration's proposed budget cut to programs that directly impact trails and the places where Americans ride, bike, hike, and enjoy the outdoors. The proposed budget for trails and the federal agencies that manage and maintain trails on federal lands fails to provide for even the most necessities needed to maintain and manage these critical recreation resources. She asked us to call our members of Congress:

- 1) To let them know that trails and outdoor recreation are important to you.
- 2) Ask them to maintain the Land and Water Conservation Fund in 2018 at least consistent with what Congress approved, in 2017
- 3) Ask that they support levels of funding that keep agency trail programs intact, as volunteers alone cannot be

expected to do it all

- 4) Ask that funding for trails reflect the growing importance of trails to the American public, including the outdoor "recreation economy", which directly supports 7.6 million jobs across the U.S.

PLEASE reach out to them immediately to let them know that you care about trails and trails infrastructure.

Allison also shared about the comprehensive trails meeting. Anza Area Trail Town is now a 501c3 non-profit corporation.

EDUCATION REPORT: Stacy Kuhns/Tom Firth

The BCHC Rendezvous will be held in Norco in March 2019
Wilderness Rider and LNT Master Course will be held at Big Meadow Horse Camp September 5th-12th, 2017

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY REPORT: - Cathy Haun-Firth

5th August, 8-10am. Meet @ Chevron, bring water, wear appropriate clothes

*Mike Lewis suggested placing signs @ each end of cleanup.

KIOSK REPORT: - Mike Lewis Carol Schmuhl contacted Ken Gierloff about purchasing 2 sheets of lexan at \$383.50 his cost. He will trade for 3 months of advertising. Motion to approve, seconded, check written.

*Allison suggested a trifold/map to put @ kiosk

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Treasure hunt or poker ride update-cancelled
2. Anza electric will donate poles for the Beauty Mountain trail head.
3. Confirmation letter received.
4. Robin Prinzing volunteered to clear space and erect poles.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Mike Lewis discussed a Pack clinic/demo @ Winchester Western Saddlery. He will organize it. Possible date 11/4/17
2. Mike Lewis made a group on Facebook for Red Shank Riders. Administrators are Stacy, Jack, Mike, and Rhonda.
3. Christmas party dates discussed 12/2 or 12/3 from 1:00 - 4:00 because NFR is 12/7-12/16
4. Greg thanked Allison for sending a letter of support to Jeff about Vail Lake.
5. Carol brought up paying for Rhonda's membership. Moved, seconded, and passed. Check written.
6. Greg asked for stuff for the news letter. Allison suggested a member highlight.

Announcements from the floor

Greg and all thanked Jack and Gretchen for hosting the pot luck and meeting. Next meeting Aug. 10th, 7:00 @ the little Red School House

Greg made a motion to adjourn at 8:02. The motion was seconded and passed.

Watched movie: 100 Mules Walking

August Meeting Minutes on next page:

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GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (draft) AUGUST 10, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Ed Puett, Mary Ann Puett, Tim Lewis, Pebbles Lewis, Gail McCreight, Nyna Cheek, Charlie Cheek, Carol Franco, Mike Esposito, Stacy Kuhns, Ron Lawson, Susan Kontoff, Carol Schmuhl, Robyn Prinzing

NEW FOLKS:

President Greg Bruce and VP Jack Peckham were absent. Ed Puett ran the meeting. He called the meeting to order at 7:00PM and asked all members and guests to please sign in.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: minutes were taken in July by Nyna Cheek & read by Mary Ann Puett. Moved, seconded and passed that Secretary's report be adopted as read.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Given by Nyna Cheek
Moved, seconded and passed that Treasurer's Report be accepted as read.

Beginning Balance - \$5,435.88

Revenue - \$86.50

Expenses - \$434.50

Net Loss - \$(348.00)

Closing Balance - \$5,087.88

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Carol Schmuhl

81 Memberships

37 Families

35 individuals

7 Associates

1 Benefactor

1 Patron

No new memberships during July

Two memberships expired during the month but both have renewed

HISTORIAN'S REPORT: No Activity

BOOTH COORDINATOR: Rosie Grindle – ABSENT – NO REPORT

RIDE REPORT: given by Mary Ann Puett (Cindy Hay absent)

1) nothing else booked for the year

PUBLIC LANDS REPORT Allison Renck was absent – no report

EDUCATION REPORT: Stacy Kuhns

Masters program in process – Ed Puett, Nyna Cheek, Tom Firth and Stacy Kuhns going up

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY REPORT: - Cathy Haun-Firth

Saturday in August –MEET IN FROM 8-10

MET AT CHEVRON STATION

8 members attended and covered route

OLD BUSINESS

KIOSK REPORT: - Lexan was purchased and has gone from Carol to Tim's. Tim will call for help when he is ready to finish it. Still talking about the tri-fold pamphlet to be attached to the kiosk. Information still needs to be decided for tri-fold – map and some info...

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Wilderness Rider Class – Nyna Cheek, Ed Puett, Tom Firth and Stacy Kuhns will be going up. First night – no dinner – perhaps Ed will cook?
2. Send July and August minutes to Rhonda
3. All Presidents were alerted that so. Rendezvous in Northern CA may not be as no one has committed to put it on. So. Cal has committed to 2019
4. Christmas Party – Garner Commons date in for December 2. Alternate date is December 3. Then need to wait for solid confirmation for the HOA.
5. Though Poker Ride Fund Raiser is cancelled, the unit is talking about selling RSR items and memberships at the Endurance Ride on Iron Horse Ranch
6. November meeting may be at Pizza place as it is free and our rent for schoolhouse is up in October
7. Movie night – Tucker's War???

Motion to close meeting by Tim Lewis and seconded by Gail McCreight. Meeting was adjourned at 7:27 PM by Ed Puett.



Future of BCHC—Starting her grandson James off right as a Redshank Rider!.

What Goes Up Day 1 shared by permission of Thomas Firth—Chapter One

I couldn't have been more lathered had I just ran the mile-and-an-eighth at Pimlico with a ninety-pound jockey on my back, as I stood there with nothing but a small, backpacker's towel that was only slightly larger than a Del Taco napkin, covering what essentially needed covering. Feeling like a penny waiting on change, I scoured the area looking for someone, anyone, to rescue me. **But I'm ahead of myself...**

Someone once said, "What goes up must come down." To that individual I say, "Bull butter!" Over the years, I have been known to come up with some marvelous ideas that can only be described as pure genius. A gift, one could say, so when the idea to hike the John Muir Trail in California's High Sierra Nevada Mountains popped into my head some years ago, it seemed like a good idea. After all, I've been all over the Sierra, and even many of the places along the JMT. Yes, I was perched atop a mule at the time, but it wasn't that big of a deal.

About the time I got serious and began making plans, I blew out a knee with a meniscus tear while hiking during deer season, and my JMT plans were put on hold. I then spent the next 15 months building a beer belly while dutifully going through all the pointless steps, waste, and nonsensical hoops that insurance companies make you jump through while trying to get the tear repaired. After therapy (which only aggravated the tear), cortisone shots, gel shots, a tonsillectomy, appendectomy, hysterectomy, x-rays, and MRIs, the tear was finally repaired and plans began once again for the hike.

Somewhere early on in my planning, my niece, Nichole Higgins Susi-Blair decided she was going to go along on this hike of a lifetime. This created a new wrinkle in my plans. While I was happy to have someone goofy enough to go along with me, this now meant that my training regimen would have to change from my two bottles of Sierra-Nevada Torpedo beers every afternoon out under the oak tree in the yard, to actual hiking. I know, stupid, huh? But, it was her idea.

At any rate, Pickle and I began practice hiking on the weekends, and I even did some hikes on my own during the week. The valley I live in is at 4000' elevation and we are surrounded by the San Jacinto Mountains with peaks raging from six to ten thousand feet. So I wasn't terribly worried for me about the elevations we would be traveling on the JMT, but I was concerned about Pickle since she comes from Huntington Beach, which as the name suggests, is located at sea level. The original plan was to hike from Tuolumne Meadow in Yosemite National Park to Mt Whitney, a distance of about 211 miles. But, since Nichole is cursed with having to pay bills and work for a living, and the fact we failed to draw that coveted permit, we decided upon entering just south of the Park boundary at Rush Creek out of June Lake, and hike to the Mt. Whitney Portal, thereby cutting the mileage to about 179 miles.

I carefully calculated that even with chronic arthritis in every joint of my body, 3 disintegrated discs in my lower back, neuromas in both feet, and a host of other entertaining ailments, and even without beer, I could manage ten miles a day. Even though I slept through most of math class during my incarceration in the public school system, with the help of my dog, as well as mine and Cathy's fingers and toes, I carefully calculated the trip would take us 18 days and we'd add in one extra for a zero day to rest and fish.

My goal was to tote a 38-pound pack. In that pack would have to be all of my gear plus a bear canister to contain our food. The canister is required, and if caught without one it is about a \$1500.00 fine. Hauling one around is about as enjoyable as bucking moldy hay. Pure, plain and simple, it's as awkward as a twelve-year-old with new braces, and a pain in the butt.

There was menu planning, preparing, and sending the goods off to the various resupply points along the trail where we could replenish our food stock. There were endless hours of figuring out the Rubik's Cube-like puzzle of fitting everything in our packs, then eliminating items deemed useless, then repacking and repeating the process over and over, trying for the proper balance. Finally the day arrived and we headed for Lone Pine in the eastern Sierra where we would pick up our entry permit and head up to Horseshoe Meadow which is located at 10,000'. There we could

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camp and acclimate for a couple of days before we headed north to hike.

Day One (Star log 2137): Our entry permit was for August 1st, so on July 31st we parked the truck in Lone Pine, jumped on a shuttle bus, and headed for June Lake where the plan was to camp one night at the trailhead, and then hit the trail on the morning of the 1st. I should mention that while at Horseshoe Meadow, we redid our packs one last time and carefully weighed them using an old packers scale, a handy little item for getting the approximate weights of panniers when stock packing. My pack consistently weighed in at 50 pounds; heavier than I wanted, but manageable, **I felt because, well, I'm an idiot.**

Following a bit of pavement hiking, hitchhiking, and more hiking from highway 395 to our jump-off point, we arrived at a little café and campground where we discovered there was a shortcut to hop onto the Rush Creek Trail, and thereby would bypass any pesky rangers checking for permits. We had researched this trail and were warned it was not only steep but completely sun exposed, and best traveled early in the morning while it was still cool. Even though we were a day early, we redid our bags one, last time, and at 11:30 am, we risked the wrath of a really, riled-up ranger, writing writs to rowdy rebellious hikers, a substantial fine, twenty-years in a federal penitentiary, and started up the trail. Why, you ask? **Because I'm a rebel and that's just the way I roll.**



Nichole began skipping up the trail, whistling and singing like a Girl Scout on a cookie drive, an annoying habit that would continue for the entire trip. Trailing behind, I ably managed to march about fifty yards where I commenced with the first of my thirteen-hundred and sixty-four thousand and twelve, **signature "rests", where I would strategically place my posterior on a rock, take the weight off of my back, and charmingly hack up the remnants of a chest cold from the week prior.** These "rests" are a trademark of mine, a wilderness survival move I have perfected over the years, and have, in fact, freely and unselfishly shared with others wishing to expand their skill sets in the great outdoors. But, I digress.

I should take this opportunity to point out that rumored abundance of snow and the record runoff in the Sierras is in fact a myth, at least on the first nine miles of the Rush Creek Trail. By mile 3, the remaining water in both of my Nalgene bottles was hot enough to hard-boil eggs, and by mile 4, I had consumed it all. **I'd also like to take this opportunity to thank the Edison Company employee at Waugh Lake who tossed me two bottles of water to keep me going until mile 9.1, where we crawled into what would be our campsite for the first night.** We had begun the hike at **7600' and were now at 9100' where the trail appeared to level off for the foreseeable fifteen feet.** I was drier than a popcorn fart and wore out as a neck-wrung rooster.

If there is one thing that annoys me like corduroy pants on a hemorrhoid, it is the song "Happy." If there is one thing that I detest even more than the annoying song, it is being awakened by the sound of my hiking partner whistling "Happy" while performing yogurt poses outside of my tent at butt-thirty in the morning. I must admit, however, after I crawled out of my tent and got a cup of coffee down, I actually felt remarkably good considering the previous days near death experience.

To be continued – check our next issue for Chapter Two.



National Forest Service Trail Stewardship Summit

November 2, 3, 4 and 5, 2017

San Diego, CA

The San Diego Mountain Biking Association and the National Forest Service are proud to announce the 2017 Trail Stewardship Summit to be held on November 2-5, 2017 in San Diego, CA. The summit will bring together the interested public with federal, state, county, and city agencies with the goal of facilitating stronger partnerships and developing a shared vision for our trails across agencies, stewardship organizations, volunteers, and trail users. The Forest Service has partnered with the International Mountain Bicycling Association to bring their professional trail building, maintenance, and education skills to this community event.

The purpose of this event is to engage community partners in trail operations and planning on the Cleveland National Forest, specifically the Palomar and Descanso Ranger Districts which surround the greater San Diego area. Through community partnership, the U.S. Forest Service will expand its ability to deliver high quality outdoor trail recreation opportunities, preserve natural and cultural resources, and grow public land stewardship.

This event consists of two sessions. Attendees are welcome to attend both sessions (all four days) or just one session (Th-Fri or Sat-Sun). The first two days will involve presentations by the U.S. Forest Service and partners. The second half will involve field training and certification of trail crew leaders for qualified individuals and general trail volunteers who want to increase their skills.

Workshop: Building Better Trails Through Collaboration and Community

Thursday - Friday, November 2 and 3

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Lunch provided) FREE

Lakeside Community Center (9841 Vine St., Lakeside, CA)

Workshops will be taught by USFS staff and other experts in the field. Topics include trail and partnership fundamentals, updated methodologies and best management practices applicable to volunteer and partner agreements, development of new trail opportunities and technologies and more. Local partners will discuss current projects, community needs, and new opportunities. These sessions are appropriate for agency and jurisdictional staff members, outdoor non-profit partner staff and volunteers, and other interested trail advocates.

Trail Maintenance and Building School

Saturday - Sunday, November 4 and 5

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$50 fee to help cover instructional costs*

Lunch provided

Locations TBD

Track #1: Advanced Trail Crew Leader Training

Intended for qualified individuals with considerable experience in trail building and maintenance, volunteer management, and the ability to commit to engaging with the Cleveland NF staff to plan and lead workdays.

Track #2: Basic Trail Maintenance

Intended for individuals who are new to trail work or want to hone their basic skills. Learn the basics of sustainability, maintenance techniques including updated water control and tread repair methodologies (rolling grade dips, armoring, and crib walls).

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Both tracks will include classroom and field workshop taught by regional experts with support from the USFS and IMBA. These are rain or shine events.

*Cost is waived for USFS staff

**A limited number of scholarships will be available. Details on scholarships will be outlined in registration process.

Social event may be planned for Saturday night.

More details including specific agendas and registration information coming soon.

Please email Susie Murphy at executivedirector@sdba.com

FYI.

Martin Jorgensen, President
Backcountry Horsemen of California—San Diego
www.bchcsd.com

Anza Days Parade ~ July 2017

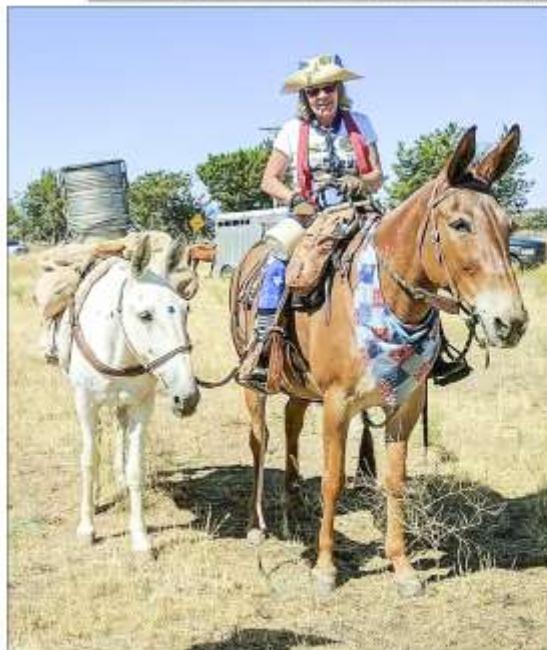
Photos
from
Cathy
Firth



The Hillbilly Girls



Redshank
Hillbilly
Packers
won
the
Grand Prize



Best Equine
Hillbilly
at
Anza Days
2017



Closeup of our hillbilly mule still

Cathy, ready to hit the road with her hooch

Public Land Notes and Issues

It's that time again to let all you Redshank Riders members know what's going on in the Public Lands Arena. (No pun attended, although I often feel like I'm riding around in an arena when we keep facing the same issues repeatedly)

1. HR 1349 the bill to allow mechanical transport into the wilderness is alive and well and it appears to be backed by big lawyers and business. Therefore, it is imperative that you voice your concerns to your US Congressmen and US Senators. Below are the reasons as stated by Backcountry Horsemen of America:

"Why oppose mountain bikes in Wilderness? In the continental U.S., less than 3% of the land is designated wilderness. That's just 3% of the landscape to which horseman can escape and be assured of a relatively primitive recreational experience. Further, according to the U.S. Forest Service, 98 percent of all the trails on land it manages outside of designated wilderness are open to bicycles. It and other agencies continue to create and open new mountain biking trails across the country. So it's hard for folks to argue that not allowing bikes in wilderness is restricting or harming public access. (*See Page 10 for info & sample letter*)

Other reasons bike use would be problematic include:

- The rapid speeds at which mountain bikes are capable of traveling, combined with their often-silent approach, would create significant safety hazards for horsemen on steep, narrow or winding trails.
- Worse still would be safety hazards for persons leading a pack string, where a bike startling the least-trained horse or mule among the pack string could bolt and/or endanger the entire party.

Solitude or a primitive and unconfined recreational experience would be lost if horsemen were forced to constantly scan the trail ahead and over their shoulder for rapidly approaching bikes."

2. After many long hours and hard work, the Rancho California Horsemen Association was finally able to get the Wine Country Community Trail Map passed by Riverside County Supervisors on August 29, 2017. This has taken them at least 7 years to complete. This time there was no opposition from the public. Now the hard work begins! They will receive no funding help to maintain or build new trails, because Riverside County will only fund and maintain regional trails. The county believes that the majority of its budget should go for funding public safety and social services programs, which leaves probably no funds designated to improve and build regional trails. It might be a good time for everyone to write their county supervisor and express their views that trails are important to us

3. The Riverside County Comprehensive Trail Plan will be presented to the Riverside County District Advisory Committee on September 7 in Riverside at the Park headquarters at 1pm from there it will go before the Board of Supervisors. If you get a chance, please call Riverside County Parks and Open Space to look at this plan, they will email it to you. It's not a perfect plan but at least there is one

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4. Santa Margarita River Trail in Fallbrook has a petition on their Facebook Page that needs to your signature if we want to keep this wonderful area to ride.

Please go to <https://www.facebook.com/FallbrookTrailsCouncil/> to read and sign it.

5. National Public Lands Day is September 30 and there will be work parties in Pinyon Flats supported by Forest Service and BLM.

Please read the message I received from Tracy from BLM; if someone would please take the lead for this please email her.

Hi Allison,

The NPLD event for 2017 will be celebrated in the National Monument at Pinyon Flats campground. Back Country Horsemen are welcome to participate (with and/or without horses) and to use the Ribbonwood campground that weekend.

The campground is in need of some trail improvement, road improvement (filling in potholes) campsite, signage and fire ring improvements. Dan Kasang, event lead is likely to have a walk through as done in the past to determine specific jobs as has been done in the past.

I understand last year's event did not include a request for a BCH group and felt there was definitely something missing. I hope the Redshanks can join the NPLD event as working volunteers, as educators of back country horsemen practices, or both. Let me know and we will reserve the Ribbonwood campground if you think members are interested in camping out.

If you are not the go to person please pass this on to the right person, and consider this a 'howdy' from me.

--
Tracy Albrecht, Interpretive Specialist
Santa Rosa and San Jacinto Mountains National Monument
Bureau of Land Management
1201 Bird Center Drive
Palm Springs, CA 92262
Ph. 760/833-7127

Well that is all the information I have in the public lands front, please, please do your part and send letters, sign petitions. It only takes a few minutes out of your time and it is important and appreciated by all of us that own stock. Also, pass it along to friends and family.

Thank you
Allison Renck
Public Lands Co-Chairperson

ACTION ALERT—Backcountry Horsemen of California Redshank Riders Unit Opposes H.R.1349 - To amend the Wilderness Act to ensure that the use of bicycles, wheelchairs, strollers, and game carts is not prohibited in Wilderness Areas, and for other purposes. 115th Congress (2017-2018)

Some of the reason include;

1. Wilderness trails cannot sustain wheeled use
2. Wilderness trails are single track trails that often have very limited visibility which could create dangerous situations if wheeled transport is going at fast speeds
3. Wilderness was designated in 1964 to preserve the wild areas of our country, so mankind can experience nature away from the constant noise of mankind.
4. Those that have difficulty accessing wilderness because of disabilities have the option of using horse transportation. Research has shown people with disabilities experience a decrease in anxiety and growth in confidence when introduced to horseback riding. Here is a sample letter in Opposition to HR 1349 which would allow wheeled transport on wilderness land. Please write your own personal letter (with your own personal flavor and words) or email or call your local congressional representative to oppose this bill.

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/115th-congress/house-bill/1349/committees>

Thank you, Allison Renck
Redshank Riders Unit Public Lands Chairperson

Tom McClinton
(202) 225-2511 - <https://mcclintock.house.gov/contact/email-me>
2312 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

Duncan Hunter
(202) 225-5672 - <https://hunter.house.gov/contact-me/email-me>
2429 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington D.C. 20515

SAMPLE LETTER:

Dear Congressmen McClinton and Hunter,

As the Public Lands Chairperson of the Backcountry Horsemen of California, Redshank Riders Unit, located in Anza California, I was asked to write this letter in opposition of your Bill HR1349. Our Unit represents 87 members that are opposed to this bill. Our organization is made up of likeminded people that do three things:

1. Help preserve trails by doing volunteer trail work by packing in supplies, or getting out with shovels and doing the labor intensive hard work of building and maintaining trails
2. We also educate trail users about outdoor ethics and teach the skills of “Leave No Trace” so both front country and backcountry areas of public lands can be preserved in their natural state.
3. We enjoy the use of our trails.

The 1964 Wilderness Act was painstakingly created in a manner to purposely leave “Wilderness Areas” unimpaired for future use as wilderness, and to provide for the protection of these areas, as well as the preservation of their wilderness character. The Act defines wilderness as an area where the earth and its community of life are untrammeled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain. It is an area of undeveloped federal land retaining its primeval character and influence without permanent improvements and with the imprint of man’s work substantially unnoticeable. It also does not allow any form of mechanical transport within the wilderness.

With the introduction of your bill, our unit believes that the ushering in of wheeled “mechanical transport” into America’s wilderness will substantially affect the wilderness character. This will occur because the trails in the wilderness were never intended for wheeled transport, and were not built to sustain this type designation. Wilderness trails were never designed to be more than small, single track trails. They were never made for heavy, sustained use. With the backlog of trail maintenance the Forest Service currently faces, these trails would be degraded to a point where they would be unsustainable if wheeled transport was allowed. This, in and of itself would cause trails to be closed in wilderness areas, that most likely would never be opened again.

According to research, wheeled conveyances have legal access to approximately 98% of the public trails. Our Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California is only asking that the remaining 2% of the trails be kept as a wilderness experience in which the Wilderness Act carefully set forth in 1964. A place where people can get away from our fast paced, cell phone driven, mechanical society for a few hours or days to see the beauty of the United States of America

**Kiosk completed
on
August 20, 2017
at the
Tule Peak Trailhead
and the
Beauty Mountain Wilderness**

by Mike Lewis, Tom Firth &
Stacy Kuhns with help from
Anne York & Carol Schmuhl



June's meeting was at the Mike & Pebbles Lewis' home.
Great friends and meeting, watched movie of Mulford's through
ride the PCT 1969



At the Little Red Schoolhouse General Meeting

Thursday September 14th ~ 7 PM
Speaker: Johnny Roberts from Manzanita Ranch

Redshank Riders
BCHC
P.O. Box 383
Aguaanga, CA 92536



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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.