

2019 Officers

ISSUE 4 / 5

APRIL / MAY 2019

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Folks

Wow! What a great time we had at this year's Rendezvous. Our Redshank Rider unit was simply the best. Throughout the three-day event, our members organized activities, competed in a variety of events, and put on instructional clinics.

Jack and Gretchen Peckham were recognized as "Top Hands" for our unit and received personalized mugs. They also did an outstanding job with the RSR booth.

Pebbles Lewis did a bang up job decorating our dinner tables and earned a second place in the competition. She was also fantastic putting together the Beer and Wine Tasting event.

Greg Bruce and Jack Peckham were big winners in the Packing Competition each earning \$100 in gift certificates. And...Greg won the grand raffle prize of a Dan Horn custom made pack saddle! I don't think we will ever get the smile off his face.

Nyna Cheek was once again terrific as the "Impact Monster", educating folks regarding the proper use of the backcountry and "Leave No Trace" principles.

Many of our membership were enjoying the entertainment, shopping, attending instructional workshops/clinics, admiring the art show, or helping with the Red Shank booth. Dave Stamey left us "spinning", the BBQ dinners Friday and Saturday were delicious, and the auction was both fun and profitable. See photos on pages 6 & 7.

The greatest accolades go to Stacy Kuhns and Mike Lewis. Their dedication and hard work showed through for everyone to see. Mike was the driving force behind the packing competition and scheduling the event's clinicians. Jack, Greg and the 4H girls from Anza benefited so much from Mike's tutoring and expertise. Stacy was simply amazing. Her knowledge, experience, and organizational skills made all the difference in putting on an event of this size. It looked easy, but few people know the hours of **selfless work that these two put in to make this year's Rendezvous a success.**

Thank you so much to the San Diego and Santa Ana River Units for all their help - you were great. And...A special Thank You to all of the members who took the time to help with the RSR booth or attend the many activities and functions. Too many of you to list but each of you are greatly appreciated and I hope you had a fun time.

Happy Trails

Charlie Cheek



REDSHANK RIDERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

April 11, 2019

Little Red School House, Anza CA
7:05pm – 8:13pm
Next Meeting: May 9, 2019

Members present: Michael Lewis, Charlie Cheek, Nyna Cheek, Cindy Hay, Doug Hay, Mary Litch, Jack Peckham, Gretchen Peckham, Allison Renck, Greg Bruce, Gail McCreight, Cathy Firth, Tom Firth, Ruth Ronan and Stacy Kuhns

4H Guests: Annalisa Vesey, Debbi Vesey, Jessica Bell, Henry Bell, Savannah Bell, Madison Heberts

President Charlie Cheek opened the meeting at 7:10pm.

Reports:

4H Kids are here that participated in the Rendezvous

Secretary's report: Cindy Hay

March minutes were emailed to members prior to meeting. Motion to accept minutes as written by Allison R, seconded by Jack P. Unanimously accepted.

Treasures Report: Nyna Cheek

March 2019

Beginning Balance - \$9,132.51

Revenue - \$113.00

Expenses - \$235.00

Net Gain/loss - \$122.00

Closing Balance - \$9,010.51

Membership Report: Report read by Charlie Cheek, (Carol Schmuhl absent, sent report via email)

Total memberships = 55

Total persons = 82

Family = 27

Individual = 26

Associate = 1

Mt. Whitney = 1

Affiliate members = 15

Other:

17 memberships have expired since the first of this year

One new member acquired at the Rendezvous / Andrew Carter – from the clinic at Winchester Western ...

One "Re-up" Anne York

Welcome Andrew and glad you are back, Anne!!!

Adopt a Highway Report: Cathy Haun-Firth

May 4, 2019 for next highway cleanup

Public Lands Report: Allison Renck

June 1, 2019 is the National Trail day Anza area hike. Starts at the Gymkhana field, goes

to the museum then to the school.

Approximately 5 miles. Sign-ups at 0730, starts at 0830.

Volunteers needed at water stations

What the horse sees T-Shirt opportunity

Education Report: by Stacy Kuhns.

Train the Trainer Course:

First weekend of June

Ride Coordinator Report: Gretchen Peckham

Gretchen Peckham's tentatively scheduled April ride for "Shorty's" is postponed. Trail needs work.

A request was made for a short, flat ride to help get horses in shape. Discussion regarding state of "Fobes". Should be good for trailers and the ride. Scheduled for May 12th, Mother's Day.

Need dates for the Beauty Mountain Dedication Ride and the Poker Ride.

Agency Representative/Packing: Mike Lewis

No report

Old Business

Rendezvous:

Overall Great! Few challenges.

Roles: Stacy – Vendors, Pebbles – Wine and Cheese, Mike – Packers and Clinicians. Did lots of great work!

RSR Booth: Had plenty of help! Sales were good. "What the horse see's" T-shirts sold well, and other units would like to sell them through the RSR.

Auction very successful

Dutch oven cooking – 2 people one day, 1 the next

Top Hand award: Gretchen and Jack Peckham RSR won the 2nd place for Table Décor.

Dave Stamey – may find different entertainment for the next event. He had a few other engagements in Norco in same time period, so not a full house.

All animals were adopted!

Parking people were efficient, all helpers did their job

A few vendors didn't fit; Olive oil for example 152 dinners sold...not a great turnout

Marine Corps Mounted Color guard; last group in the Country to ride, last ride.

Rode mustangs.

Overall would like to see more people at the event, more participants, more help.

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

New Business

Guests – 4H kids, Savannah, Madison and Natalie said they had FUN, learned a lot at the rendezvous, Special thank you to Jack, Stacy, Greg and Mike for their efforts. Read their thank you cards to the membership. Allison said thank you for you generosity in time and energy to teach the 4H kids skills.

4H kids were invited to come to the Winchester Pack Clinic in fall to participate. Ramona – Greg Bruce. Show has been revised. Can buy tickets for this coming Saturday, at a discount, through Tom or Greg. Easter egg rice krispy cups courtesy of Gretchen and Jack, Cookies courtesy of Nyna and Charlie Cheek!!!

Motion To Close The Meeting At 8:15 By Jack Peckham and seconded By Greg Bruce



LEAVE NO TRACE TRAINER COURSE

Date: June 1-2 2019

The Leave No Trace Trainer course is a two-day, "hands-on" course designed to enhance your understanding of LNT practices and ethics. You will also gain the knowledge, tools, and ideas necessary to reach the public with the LNT message in a variety of settings - such as schools, camps, parks, Wilderness and front country areas.

Anyone who is involved in the outdoors: volunteers, educators, agency staff, and recreationists alike will benefit from this course. Each participant will lead a 15 to 20 minute lesson on one LNT principle.

Cost: \$40.00 **RSVP BY MAY 16 class size is limited, call now

Instructors: Nyna Cheek, Thomas Firth, Stacy Kuhns

Time and Location: Fobes Ranch in Garner Valley, Ca 9am-5pm

Contact Information: Nyna Cheek 951-491-1679 therockincranch@yahoo.com

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



RIDING WAREHOUSE

BCHC has partnered with Riding Warehouse to give our members a 15% discount!

Ask your Unit Secretary for the discount code!

www.ridingwarehouse.com

WELCOME NEW
& RETURNING MEMBERS

Dave Capron

Anne York



www.bchcalifornia.org

PCT from Paradise Cafe south to mile 145.4 and back

Photos and story generously shared by Ride Host: Mary Litch

It was a beautiful morning with perfect weather for a ride. The group of three (Tammy, Susan, and ride leader Mary Litch with their horses Sage, Mystic and Gracie) saddled up and rode out from Paradise Cafe shortly after 9am for a planned 15 mile ride.

The first mile was a flat jeep road paralleling Highway 74 that connected the Cafe and the PCT. Once on the PCT, we headed trail-south, climbing up a side ridge of Lookout Mountain and out of earshot of the noisy traffic on 74.

Almost immediately, we met the first of what was to be a dozen northbound thru hikers that we encountered on this ride. For most thru hikers, they hit this section (roughly 150 miles from the Southern Terminus of the PCT) during their second week on the trail ... and every one of them is looking forward to a giant burger at Paradise Cafe to celebrate completion of the first 150 miles of their journey.

All three horses and riders were experienced riding trails, and handled the multiple drop-offs encountered on this section of the PCT with aplomb. At about the halfway point, we passed by the edge of Horse Canyon (aka, Anza's Grand Canyon) with beautiful views down into a deep, steep-walled canyon and across to Santa Rosa and Toro Peaks.

The trail continues steeply down to Alkali Wash, and then steeply back up to the main ridgeline of Table Mountain. All along the way, we had to be on the lookout for approaching hikers, since we were going "against the flow" on our outbound leg and some short sections of the trail are too narrow and steep for a horse to safely pass a hiker.

Shortly before our turnaround point, we rode up to an unnamed knoll offering fine views of Terwilliger Valley, Borrego Valley and the Beauty Mountains. From here it was a short half mile to our turnaround spot and lunch, which the ride leader prepared at her property abutting the PCT. During lunch, the horses had a chance to rest, drink some water, and eat some hay, while we dined on grilled chicken.

Once lunch was over, it was time to explore the PCT hiker oasis maintained by the ride leader on her property. In 2019, the oasis is named "Brooklyn Ferry" in honor of the poem by Walt Whitman, who celebrates his 200th birthday this year.

The return leg, this time "with the flow" of northbound thru hikers, was uneventful. There was a nice meadow with fresh grass a couple of miles out from our trailers. We were in no hurry to return, so we decided our horses deserved a chance to nibble on this rarity in arid Southern California: succulent fresh grass. (I know my horse appreciated this treat!)

We returned to our trailers at about 3:30, happy to have squeezed in this ride between the frequent rainy days this winter in Anza.



2019 BCHA National Board Meeting

Submitted by Allison Renck

NUMBERS

Here are the numbers collected for 2018 associated with volunteer work:

Basic Hours	91,416
Miles Driven	1,057
Stock Hauling	666,815
Stock Days	10,956
Total Hours	322,125
Value	\$12,105,284.00

The total for the last 22 years is 5,419,862 hours for a total donated dollar value of \$151,910,976. Wow!! Thanks BCHC Members for all your hard work and help achieving these numbers.

BCHA income for 2018 came from

Dues	55%
Donations	32%
Grants	11.5%

Total Income	\$205,993.94
Total Expenses	\$199,144.22
Net Ordinary Income	\$ 6,849.72
Legacy Fund Donations	\$ 36,921.66

What is this Legacy Fund? Is being set up to assure our future financial security. The long-term goal is to raise \$500,000 from donations and bequests – after life gifts. Once the goal is achieved, income from those funds will provide an annual income for BCHA. It is hoped that the fund value will increase after attaining the initial goal.

Five (5) principles of BCHA

- * To perpetuate the common sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness areas.
- * To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational use.
- * To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- * To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise and sustaining use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- * To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.

2019 BCRC Rendezvous Norco, Ca



The Marine Corp Mustang Honor Guard at the Rendezvous Opening Ceremony.



Greg Bruce and Jack Peckham were the big winners in the packing competition



Ray Spence gave several instructional clinics on trailer loading and navigating gates

Nyna Cheek performed as the impact monster and entertained

educated on the Leave No Trace principles



Audrey Turpin and Ann York with two friends having a great time at the vendor booth



The Red Shank Rider booth was manned by "Top Hands" Jack and Gretchen Peckham, who did an excellent job.

2019 BCHC Rendezvous cont'd



Pebbles Lewis, Nyna Cheek, and Stacy Kuhn's looking sharp while working the beer and wine tasting

Ray Spence asks Gretchen Peckham what kind of beer is that At the beer and wine tasting



Greg Bruce takes a moment to watch the people enjoying themselves at the beer and wine tasting



Photos & captions shared by President Charlie Cheek



HIGH COUNTRY 4-H THANKS REDSHANK RIDERS



As the High Country 4-H Horse Leader I'd like to Thank Redshank Riders for giving the 4-H Horse project members the opportunity to learn the skill of packing and providing them an opportunity to test those skills at the BCHC Rendezvous Youth Packing Competition held in Norco on March 30. These 4-H members began practicing with Mike Lewis, where he taught them about putting on the pack saddle, loading the pack boxes and tying the load. Stacy Kuhns and Jack Peckham helped Mike at some of these practices and helped encouraged the young people to become very confident about tying the load.

These 4-H Members were loaned an iron mule and pack equipment by Mike Lewis to be kept at their project meeting place and these

members practiced on their own at horse meetings. Once these project members practiced when it was so cold they reported their fingers were not working very well.

Seven of the 4-H Horse project members became well versed in packing a load and four of those project members competed in the Youth Packing Contest at Rendezvous. At Rendezvous the 4-H members packed on live animals and were timed. They all did a great job and earned some wonderful prizes for their efforts. One of the youngest members reported that "this was the most awesome experience, because I got to learn a new skill, that as a group we could practice together."

As a 4-H Leader and a Redshank Rider I'm always very happy when I see youth involved with horse activities. With our changing society, it appears that less young people are involved in activities with horses. One study I read, reported that the limiting factor to involvement with horses for youth was family finances and the pressure to spend more time on academics. With this in mind those of us that don't want to see equestrian ownership go the way of the dinosaur, must find ways to involve youth in our activities. It may mean we have to find inexpensive ways to get them involved and around horses and mules. It could mean sharing our horse or mule with a young person, taking a young person along with us on a trail ride or teaching them to pack.

From my perspective Redshank Riders did an excellent job in getting these 4-H Horse project members involved and I'm pretty sure these kids won't forget it. The study I read on youth involvement with horses reported that youth that had engaged with horses in some way, 94% of them reported they had a desire to remain involved with horses in some way in the future.



Story & photos shared by Allison Renck



4-H and Redshank 2019

Overcoming Fear Submitted by Elaine Bailey

Last year my mule and I had an experience that would shake my confidence in the saddle, and I am not a novice rider. While riding in the Sierras, something scared my mule, and with two other riders in front of me, he decided to fly over large logs. I did well on the first two, but when I had the opportunity to bail, I did, right into some very large sticker bushes. I am so thankful to all the people that spent a lot of time, pulling thorns out of my back. After having help getting it together I rode back to camp with my friends. My mule was fine, but it took more than my blood, it took my confidence. For the past year, I have been working on it and want to share some of the knowledge that I have learned.

We tend to think that people who lack confidence are novice riders, which is not true. We all need to improve our riding skills in being proactive, in what could spook our animal. It is important to stop the horse from being fearful before the behavior happens. It's also important to practice emergency stops, know how to dismount quickly, work on balance and having a good seat. Practicing these skills will help improve our self-confidence. Just like anything in life, it's better to be proactive than reactive.

Now that we are living most of the time in Arizona, we rode in the Chiricahua Mountains, which was incredible. The trail was very narrow at times, and I did not want to look down, as the drop off was very steep. I was so thankful that I viewed the trail online before hand, because I have a horse that I am not comfortable taking on that type of trail. She becomes very nervous, and forgets where her feet are. Thank goodness I chose the horse that thinks before she steps. It's crucial to choose the right horse for the specific trail. Well, I don't want to have a different horse for different trails, so I need to work with the animal by getting her/him reliable to take me wherever I want to go. In doing that, it's important to break your goals into segments, while addressing steps one at a time. Be patient, and take it slow. Have the animal realize that the trails are fine, and they have nothing to fear. The riders are not the only ones that deal with nervousness as it transcends to the animal below.

Fear as we all know is psychological. Once we let it take root, it is difficult to remove. The longer you wait in dealing with the emotion, I have found, is harder to deal with. Start out with what you are comfortable with, grooming, tacking, lunging or just riding at a walk, in a place that you are relaxed.

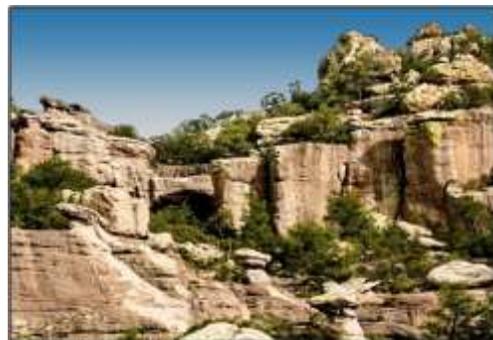
If wearing a helmet helps you to feel more secure, wear it. Looks of helmets have evolved over the years and they are beautiful. I don't wear a helmet, but I am aware that it could save my life. If you can, it's wise to wear one, as riding is a dangerous sport and we need to be aware of what could happen. Helmets can make you feel more secure, and confident. If we are able to address our fears one at a time, do it. Riding my mule on the property is not a problem, but the concern comes in riding out alone. I have started out with 15-minute segments, and am increasing my time by adding 10 minutes to each ride. I find this method works for me, and that is what is important. You, and only you, have to find what helps build your confidence.

The level of risk of course varies on the rider, but a good risk is one that can increase your level of confidence, and personal growth. See what you want to accomplish and mentally walk (or ride) it. There is no shame in getting off, and checking the trail ahead. It's also very important to be physically fit, so work on your strength, balance, and coordination. This in itself helps us to feel better and more confident.

To conclude, as you know, I'm working on overcoming my fear with my mule and I am determined to do it! We can never allow fear to keep us from what we enjoy.

Feel free to contact me with any thoughts you might have. Remember, you control the fear, not the other way around.

Elaine Bailey... eandrqualityfeed@yahoo.com



Next General Meeting
Thurs. May 9, 2019 - 7:00pm
@ The Little Red Schoolhouse

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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.