Tails From The Trail
Backcountry Horsemen of California
Backcountry Horsemen of America
Redshank Riders
Monthly Newsletter
Concerned Men and Women Dedicated to Working to Preserve the Historic Use of Trails with Recreational Pack & Saddle Stock

2019 Officers | ISSUE 8 | AUGUST 2019

PRESIDENT
Charlie Cheek – 951-491-1679
president@redshankricers.com

VICE-PRESIDENT
Jack Peckham – 909-226-0065
vicepresident@redshankriders.com

SECRETARY
Cindy Hay – 760-831-9019
secretary@redshankriders.com

TREASURER
Nyna Cheek – 951-491-1679
treasurer@redshankriders.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR & WEB TECH
Rhonda Strickland – 951-522-8757
redshank.webmaster@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR
Stacy Kuhns – 909-633-1705
educationchair1@redshankriders.com

PUBLIC LANDS CO-CHAIRS
Allison Renck – 951-763-0374
publiclands@redshankriders.com

EDUCATION CO-CHAIR/ STATE REP
Stacy Kuhns – 909-633-1705
educationchair1@redshankriders.com

EDUCATION CO-CHAIR
Thomas Firth – 951-551-9711
educationchair2@redshankriders.com

MEMBERSHIP COORDINATOR
Position Open

ADOPT A HIGHWAY
Cathy Firth – 951-551-9711
adoptahwy@redshankriders.com

RIDE COORDINATOR
Gretchen Peckham 951-763-4249
ridecoordinator@redshankriders.com

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE
Michael Lewis – 951-760-9255
agencyrep@redshankriders.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howdy folks, the dog days of summer are upon us. Remember to ride in the morning or late afternoon when temperatures are at their lowest. Here is a handy guide to help you decide if it's too hot for the trail.

And don't forget the salt! Horses require 1-2 ounces of salt per day under normal conditions. Riding in hot weather situations or hard exercise can double your horses need for salt. Water consumption is critical in hot climates and can decrease if there is not enough salt. Free salt is best, then salt/ mineral licks, and if necessary electrolyte pellets. Be sure to keep those ponies hydrated! Summer vacations are always fun and I can't wait to hear about yours. For a quick getaway, Nyna and I visited fellow Red Shank members, Ray and Elaine, on their beautiful ranch in southeast Arizona. What a great time we had, checking out the Chiricahua National Monument, heading underground for a tour of the Queen Mine in Bisbee, and moseying through the streets of Tombstone. But the real thrill was that I rode a mule for the first time...and I liked it!

(Continued on page 2)

Redshank Members Nyna Cheek and Elaine Bailey tour the Queen Mine in Bisbee, Arizona. Learning about the important role thatMules played in the Mining industry.

(Continued from page 1)

Ray and Elaine's mule packed me very well and enlightened me to the wonders of this intelligent and surefooted equine. I think this experience has prepared me for next year's Mules Days in Bishop - See ya there!

Happy Trails

Charlie Cheek

President
BCHC Redshank Riders

HELP WANTED

Carol Schmuhl has opened a new chapter in her life and moved to Illinois. We will all miss her and we wish her the very best. There is now an opening for the Membership Chairperson position. If you are interested in volunteering for this spot please contact a board member or better yet - come to the next General Meeting on August 11.

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

Attn: Members

If you are interested in hosting a trail ride please contact our Ride Coordinator, Gretchen Peckham to discuss it.

Email:
ridecoordinator@redshankriders.com

Ph.: 951-763-4249

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

www.bchcalifornia.org

REDSHANK RIDERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

June 13, 2019 (No July Meeting)

Little Red School House, Anza CA
7:15pm – 7:45pm
Next Meeting: August 11, 2019 (No July meeting)

Members present: Charlie Cheek, Nyna Cheek, Cathy Haun-Firth, Tom Firth, Ron Lawson, Cindy Hay, Allison Renck, and Gail McCreight

President Charlie Cheek opened the meeting at 7:15pm.

Reports:

Secretary's report: Cindy Hay
May minutes were emailed to members prior to meeting. Motion to accept minutes as written by Tom F. seconded by Tom L. Unanimously accepted.

Treasures Report: Nyna Cheek
May 2019
Beginning Balance - $8,164.92
Revenue - $0.00
Expenses - $50.00
Net Gain/loss - $50.00
Closing Balance - $8,114.92

Membership Report: Carol Schmuhl
Total memberships = 63
Total persons = 91
Family = 28
Individual = 29
Associate = 2
Mt. Whitney = 1

Other:
1 memberships have expired during May
Number New during May: two Welcome!
Hope Adams
James De John

Adopt a Highway Report: Cathy Haun-Firth
Various dates discussed
July 6th @0700 chosen

Public Lands Report: Allison Renck
No Report

Education Report: by Stacy Kuhns.
Train the Trainer Course: Five students, it went well. Cindy H attended…reported it was a great class and fun in a beautiful location, learned new material, renewed prior knowledge, made new friends.

Ride Coordinator Report: Gretchen Peckham
Absent—No Report

Agency Representative/Packing: Mike Lewis
Absent—No report

Old Business

National Trails Day – Allison

1) 23 participants, longer trail than last time. Raffle was successful. Good publicity. Nice cool weather. Great yoga warm up to stretch. Sandy pathway made for some tired walkers!
2) Train the Trainer – Nyna (previous report)
3) Wilderness Rider Program – Tom
   - End of August, at Granite Creek, Yosemite.
   - Only 12 participants allowed per LNT.

4) BCHC Recommendations for improvement – Charlie discussed the RSR Recommendations from the RSR to BCHC. All recommendations were sent forward to BCHC:

a) Hire a professional (paid) grant writer
b) Hire a professional web master to create a user friendly website
c) Money back guarantee for new members. Suggested by Jack P. Would allow an individual to join the RSR for a ride, for a month. If not happy or satisfied, can get money back.
d) More/better youth development activities – statewide
e) Movie night with the Anza Cowboys – Community Center. With autograph signing.
f) Tab on RSR website to highlight member businesses and activities. Creating an easier method for members to connect.
g) Trifold brochure BCHC/Red Shank Rider Info and Membership Application. This may be on the state website. But would be helpful to hand out to people, and put on websites.

New Business

No meeting next month (July): Charlie C.

Events and Activities

- Mardi Gras theme. Zane (the Mayor) and Cathy, Scooter and Bobbi will be there. Hope that others will ride or participate. Plan to ask Rhonda to send out an announcement via email. Advertise.
- August meeting and Potluck/Dutch oven
- August 11 @ 1:30pm
- Rockin' C Ranch (Nyna and Charlie's)
- Poker Ride
- Gretchen will be organizing, starting mid-August
- Pack Clinic
- Will be in a cooler month….October?

Motion To Close The Meeting At 7:45pm By Tom Firth and seconded By Allison Renck

R5 Crosscut Saw and Axemanship Workshop

Mike Lewis spent a week in Sonora for the first R5 Crosscut Saw and Axemanship Workshop with Saw Commarto, Dolly Chapman, and Dave Harrison as instructors. He shared these photos on Facebook on May 18, 2019

IMPORTANT MESSAGE FROM BCHA

Dear BCHC Member:

We have reason to believe that several federal land management agencies are working quietly, out of public view, to loosen restrictions on the use of electric bikes (e-Bikes) on existing trails. These agencies include the National Park Service, the Bureau of Land Management, and the U.S. Forest Service. Current agency policy defines an e-Bike as a "motorized vehicle," the use of which is restricted largely to trails designated for use by motorized vehicles. In other words, the agencies at present do not allow the use of e-Bikes on existing multiple-use trails, even on trails where use by mountain bikes is currently authorized.

The Agencies Have Avoided Public Discussion

A June 25, 2019, Associated Press article in the Washington Post noted that the National Park Service (NPS) would soon act to allow e-Bikes wherever regular bikes are permitted. It cites a NPS spokesperson as stating the new rules are expected in coming weeks. Consequently, it appears the rule change would occur without advance public notice and the normal "rulemaking" process where public comment is sought and the government's response to those comments is documented before the rule is finalized.

This is deeply troubling news. Moreover, we do not think it's confined to the NPS. If other federal agencies follow suit, we could soon see drastic changes in the potential safety and character of existing multi-use, non-motorized trails throughout our public lands. Even trails within federally designated wilderness areas could be at risk if the agencies persist in clouding the debate about "when a bicycle stops being a bicycle." Such debate serves only as a distraction from the main point: A motor is a motor, and should not be authorized for use on non-motorized trails, particularly in the absence of informed public debate and a local decision-making process.

We Must Throw a Wrench in the Spokes

In an attempt to prevent this policy change, BCHA has joined forces with national partners, including the American Hiking Society, the Partnership for the National Trail System, and The Wilderness Society. We will demonstrate widespread public opposition to any unilateral and sweeping policy changes, particularly in the absence of the normal public rulemaking process. Furthermore, decisions to change allowable uses on non-motorized trails can only be made after the agency completes site-specific planning efforts with public input.

We Plan to List Your State/Chapter/Unit as Opposing the Policy Change

We are building a roster of organizations opposed to these policy changes in order to demonstrate widespread public opposition. To significantly bolster our roster, we would like to list each and every BCH state and chapter/unit. That's 32 states and nearly 200 chapters/units that, once added to the roster, is sure to raise eyebrows among Administration officials and agency leadership.

Thank you for joining us in a highly visible representation of national, regional and local trail organizations who are opposed to behind-closed-doors policy changes that could, in turn, have significant consequences on your next trail experience.

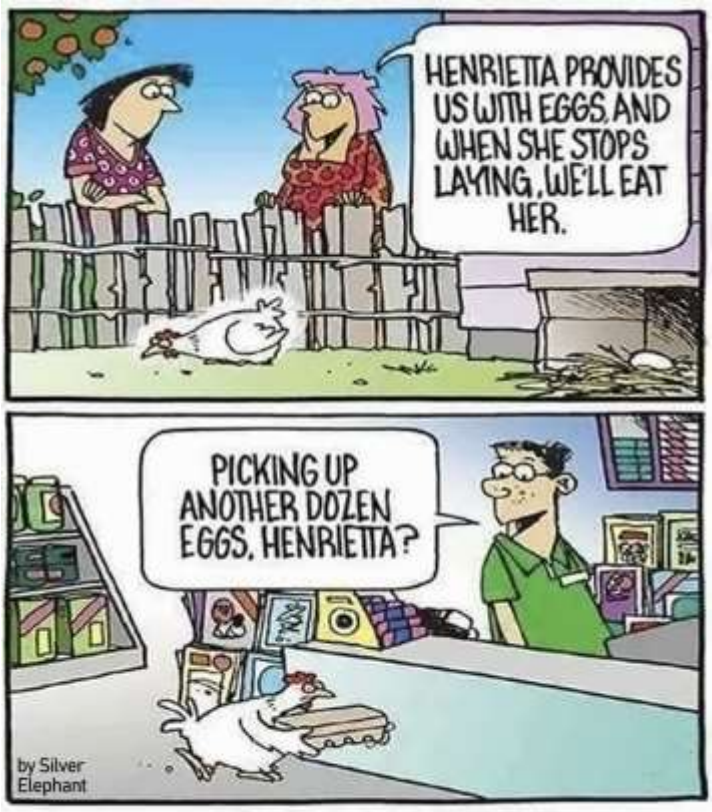
Yours truly,

Darrell Wallace

BCHA Chairman

Gretchen, Mike & Jack packed supplies up for the Tahquitz lookout tower. They needed a couple of new batteries & lumber to do repairs in the the solar system.
We then rode out to check on some trees that need to be cut for a possible future saw class. Here are some of the sights we saw. (photos shared by Jack Peckham)

ADOPT—A—HIGHWY



... and that is WHY the chicken crossed the road.

AUGUST MEETING

Don't forget the next meeting is Sunday, August 11 at the

Rockin C Ranch. Burgers, Brats, and Chicken will be provided. There will be Dutch oven cooking and assorted beverages (if you want something special you'll have to BYOB). Arrive at 1:30pm - we'll have a general meeting and then food and fun.

RSVP to (951) 491-1679 or email therockincranch@yahoo.com

You'll get the address when you R.S.V.P.

If you are in California this is a must read, it is the law and with Summer here with moonlight rides, kids, dogs etc

VEHICLE CODE 21759. The driver of any vehicle approaching any horse drawn vehicle, any ridden animal, or any livestock shall exercise proper control of his vehicle and shall reduce speed or stop as may appear necessary or as may be signalled or otherwise requested by any person driving, riding or in charge of the animal or livestock in order to avoid frightening and to safeguard the animal or livestock and to insure the safety of any person driving or riding the animal or in charge of the livestock. (8613)

The U.S. House Passes the PAST Act

in a landslide 333 to 96 vote to stop cruelty to horses.

WASHINGTON, DC, USA, July 25, 2019

Excerpts from the article:

The U.S. House of Representatives passed the U.S. Senator Joseph D. Tydings Memorial Prevent All Soring Tactics (PAST) Act by a vote of 333 to 96. The measure seeks to strengthen the Horse Protection Act and end the torturous, painful practice of soring Tennessee Walking, Racking, and Spotted Saddle Horses. The intentional infliction of pain to horses' front limbs by applying caustic chemicals such as mustard oil or kerosene or inserting sharp objects into the horses' hooves to create an exaggerated gait known as the "Big Lick," soring has plagued the equine world for six decades.

"We applaud the House for overwhelmingly passing the PAST Act to end this barbaric and indefensible practice that has marred the horse show world for decades," said Marty Irby, executive director at Animal Wellness Action and past president of the Tennessee Walking Horse Breeders' & Exhibitors' Association. *"Today's landslide vote is a powerful signal to the Senate that it should saddle up and end this cruelty to horses, that I've personally witnessed since childhood, once and or all."*

. . . *"Horse soring still runs rampant even though laws have been on the books for decades banning this cruel practice,"* said Rep. Kurt Schrader (D-OR). *"We gave folks a chance to self-police, but the abusive behaviors continued. The bill that was passed today will strengthen and improve current regulations by improving USDA enforcement, increasing civil and criminal penalties, and banning incentives to sore horses. This is a historic day and I am grateful for my colleagues who worked tirelessly to get this legislation across the finish line and for our equine athletes who provide us with inspiration and pleasure."*

"The natural gait of the Tennessee Walking Horse is a wonder to behold and has long been revered by horse lovers," said Rep. Steve Cohen (D-TN), an original sponsor of the PAST Act. *"The practice of soring—burning, cutting, lacerating—these beautiful creatures just to exaggerate their gate and win shows is beyond reprehensible. I am so pleased that more than 300 House members are sponsoring The PAST Act. How we treat animals is a reflection of our national character. Today, we can be proud that the House has spoken loudly on behalf of the horses and those who love horses."*

To read the full article go here:
https://www.einpresswire.com/article/491714822/u-s-house-passes-prevent-all-soring-tactics-past-act-in-a-landslide-with-333-votes-to-stop-cruelty?fbclid=IwAR0bXWPVwWIHLAOK75aI-_U2iblX-OhIGcYocH5x61E-LlFTbN3xlbt5pNA

NEXT GENERAL MEETING

Sun, August 11th @ 1:30pm

@ Nyna & Charlie's Rockin C Ranch

Redshank Riders
BCHC
P.O. BOX 383
Aguanga, CA 92536

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.