



2019 Officers

ISSUE 9

September 2019

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Michael Lewis — 951-760-9255
agencyrep@redshankriders.com

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howdy everybody, I hope you're all staying cool in this heat wave we're experiencing. We had a great August meeting with delicious food and lots of fun.

Make plans to come to a meeting and find out what's happening with our unit. Get informed and catch up with your friends.

At the BCHC Rendezvous in March, I applied to the Wilderness Rider program. I was interviewed and later informed that I had been selected to attend the instruction at Granite Creek. This was both a "Leave No Trace" and Wilderness Rider training course.

Students were required to teach a lesson in one of the disciplines relating to the seven principles of Leave No Trace. Several students received assignments relating to Wilderness Rider skills and the concept of "Gentle Use". The presentations were outstanding and the group bonded almost immediately. We had the best instructors. The team of Stacy Kuhns, Tom Firth, and Nyna Cheek were awesome. Of course, they were, they are from our unit! In addition to learning a great deal, and expanding my knowledge, I met some wonderful people and made some lifelong friends.

I would encourage everyone to take a refresher course or a "Train the Trainer" class to further your awareness of the seven principles of Leave No Trace. You will be glad you did.



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The Seven Principles of Leave No Trace

1. Planning ahead and prepare
2. Travel and camp on durable surfaces
3. Dispose of waste properly
4. Leave what you find
5. Minimize campfire impacts
6. Respect wildlife
7. Be considerate of others



Winners of the first ever "Leave No Trace" Jeopardy Championship



Stacy Kuhns shares a laugh with Sharon and Katie



Nyna Cheek presents her infamous "Impact Monster" & teaches the students what NOT to do while out on the trail



Tom Firth gives instruction to the class

Photos shared
by
Charlie Cheek
and
Stacy Kuhns



Granite Creek

REDSHANK RIDERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES (DRAFT)

August 11, 2019

Rockin' C Ranch, Aguanga CA

2:30pm – 3:15pm

Next Meeting: September 12th

Members present: Charlie Cheek, Nyna Cheek, Doug Hay, Cindy Hay, Allison Renck, Gail McCreight, Mike Lewis, Greg Bruce, Ali & Susan Blankfeld, Audrey Turpin, Stacy Kuhns

President Charlie Cheek opened the meeting at 2:30pm with flag salute

Reports:

Secretary's report: Cindy Hay

- o June minutes were emailed to members prior to August meeting. Motion to accept minutes as written by Jack Peckham, seconded by Greg Bruce. Unanimously accepted.
- o Charlie noted that apologies were given to Rhonda, webmaster. June minutes were not clear regarding RSR vs BCHC ideas for improvement. It may have been easy to misunderstand if unable to be at the meeting.

Treasures Report: Nyna Cheek
June 2019

- Beginning Balance - \$8,114.92
- Revenue - \$529.50
- Expenses - \$50.00
- Net Gain/loss - \$529.50
- Closing Balance - \$8,644.42

July 2019

- Beginning Balance - \$8,644.42
- Revenue - \$298.00
- Expenses - \$00.00
- Net Gain/loss - \$298.00
- Closing Balance - \$8,942.42

Membership Report: Gail McCreight

- o Total memberships = 74
- o Family = 28
- o Individual = 23
- o Associate = 4
- o Beneficiaries = 1
- o Affiliates=14
- o 0 memberships have expired during July

Other:

Call for new membership chair person, since Carol S. moved. It is a big job, two people can work together on it. BCHC sends out a proof of membership email, with membership expiration date, for your records.

Adopt a Highway Report: Cathy Haun-Firth
Absent—No Report

Public Lands Report: Allison Renck

- No Report on local activity
- Recent email regarding E-Bikes (motorized) on trails. Mountain bikers, hikers...do not want E-bikes on trails. The 1964 Wilderness Act prohibits motorized vehicles on trails. Stay tuned for progress on this debate.

Education Report: by Stacy Kuhns (Tom Firth absent.

- Met with Andy Smith regarding the cleanup/repair of Fobes Kiosk – Shooters are making a mess of the area.

Executive meeting :

- The state policy for finger printing for people who work with kids is nearly complete.
- The policy for director role is under construction.
- There was a Big Foot sighting during this meeting at Shaver Lake. Stacy described the sighting in some detail.
- o Wilderness Rider Training Course @ Granite Creek Campground is Tuesday – Sunday, August 20 - 25. 11 Students.

Ride Coordinator Report: Gretchen Peckham

- o Potential ride in Apple Creek, near Hurkey Creek, in November. Hosted by Art and Diana.
- o No time to organize the Poker Ride. Will not do it this year.
- o Charlie reminded us that the Beauty Mountain ride is not scheduled yet!
- o Gretchen is gathering information on riding at Vail Lake. There are some restrictions. \$20.00 per horse for access. Trails are in development.

Agency Representative/Packing: Mike Lewis

- o Gretchen and Jack went on the Devils Slide ride. The forest service needed batteries and water. The ACE crew had made a nice dirt path for trail access.
- o More supplies may need to be delivered for the ACE crew, so another ride may occur.
- o Friends of Desert Mountains, J Prodo, contacted Mike regarding 5 different projects, which would include approximately 10 days of packing this fall.

Old Business

- o Wilderness Rider Program – Stacy (previously discussed)

New Business

Bylaw change; vote needed

- A. Ernie Coe has resigned as 1st VP of Insurance. His term is not up until 2021. BCHC must have a person in that position ASAP. BCHC is requesting a vote to allow the president to appoint an interim until the end

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of the term, rather than have a special election. The current bylaws state that the President shall appoint an interim person to fill a vacancy when such vacancy occurs on the Executive Board. It states that an election will be held at the next Fall meeting to fill the office. However, the Executive board officers have staggered 2 year terms and may not be up for election this fall.

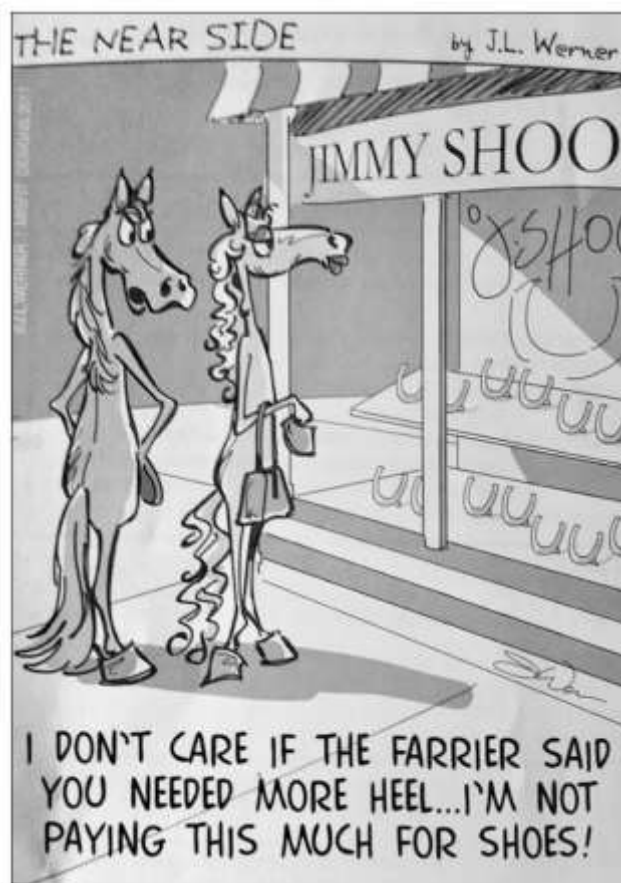
- B. Email vote as follows:
- C. A YES vote means the President can appoint an interim person to fulfill the remaining term of the 1st VP (insurance) when it normally would end in 2021.
- D. A NO vote means you do not want the appointment to fulfill the term and we would have a "special election" for a one year term for 1st VP in October.
- E. Email vote no later than August 16, 2019
- F. Discussion ensued by RSR membership
- G. Motion made to vote YES, by Mike L, and 2nd by Jack P
- H. Unanimous YES vote, to allow the appointment to go to the end of the term.
- I. Stacy to send RSR Unit vote forward.

Events and Activities

Pack Clinic – Mike Lewis

- * Winchester Saddles will be closing, so venue is lost
- * If someone wants to organize a pack clinic for non-members, must be able to take over coordination for the entire event.
- * If it a members only event, it can be at Pebbles and Mike's house in the Fall, with a BBQ. Informal. Potential dates will be presented at the next meeting.

Motion To Close The Meeting At 3:15pm By Jack P and seconded By Allison Renck



VOLUNTEER NEEDED

We have an opening for the Membership Chairperson position. Carol Schmuhl has moved to Illinois. If you are interested in volunteering for this spot please contact a board member or better yet - come to the next General Meeting to show your support.



www.bchcalifornia.org

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



RIDING WAREHOUSE

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

Ask your Unit Secretary for the discount code!

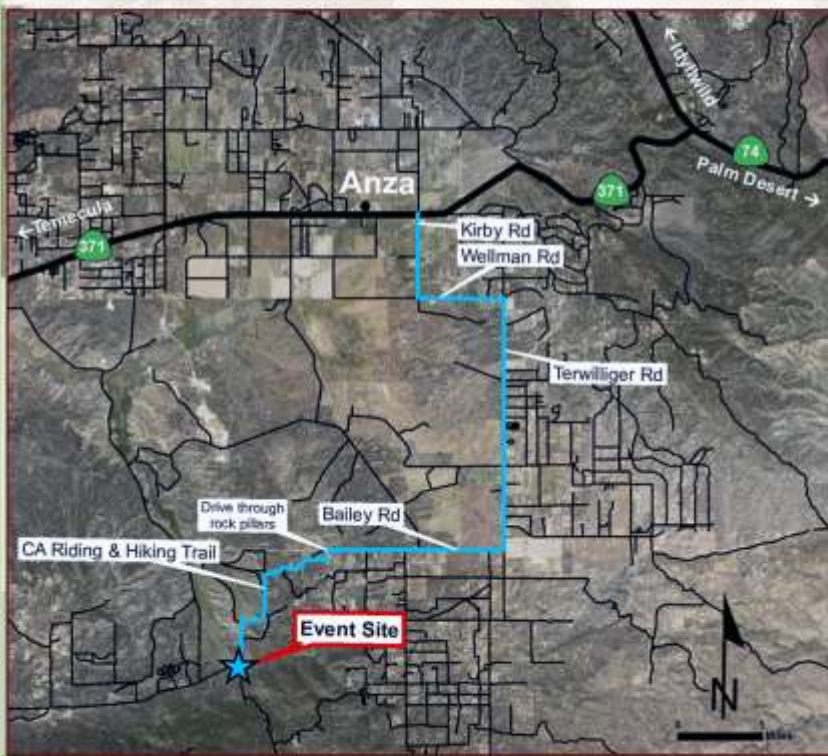
www.ridingwarehouse.com

BCHC REDSHANK RIDERS



**All Redshank Riders
please join us for
Public Lands Day Clean Up 2019
Saturday, September 28th
Cary Road and Tule Peak Road
Starts at 8:00am until 11:00am**

Bring gloves, water, sunscreen, wear long pants, and sturdy shoes.



DIRECTIONS:

Red, white and blue ribbons will mark the route. From Anza take Kirby Rd south from Hwy 371. Continue south to Wellman Rd, turn left and continue to Terwilliger Rd. Turn left and continued 3 miles to Bailey Rd. Follow Bailey for approx. 2 miles, veer left, go through two sets of rock pillars. Follow the dirt road and turn left on to the California Riding and Hiking Trail/Cary Rd. Park roadside where Cary Rd intersects with Tule Peak Rd.

**NATIONAL PUBLIC LANDS DAY
SEPTEMBER 28, 2019**

How will you volunteer?

E-BIKE UPDATED INFORMATION AND ACTION ALERT

To: All Backcountry Horsemen Members:

The electric bike issue has now taken on a whole new perspective. First, Tahoe National Forest allowed e-bikes on 157 miles of non-motorized trails. Now Secretary of the Interior Bernhardt has issued a new order, which instructs all agency heads to “develop a proposed rule to revise regulations to Expressly exempt all (3 classes) e-bikes from the definition of motor vehicles.” This could open all non-motorized trails to all classes of motorized e-bikes. This would be for BLM lands and National Parks. It would not be for Forest Service Lands (YET!) as they are under the Department of Agriculture.

This order undermines agency regulations and management rules, and fails to consider impacts to hikers, mountain bikers, horse riders and other recreationists. Is this the beginning of the end for non-motorized backcountry trails all the while not including the public in the decision-making process??

Supposedly this decision was based on the fact that all these bikes are “pedal assisted” and therefore not motorized. However, when you review the classifications, (see below) that is not totally true. Keep in mind that the maximum speed is where the motor assist stops; you can pedal past that and if you are going downhill and you are pedaling you could go faster than the max speed.

Pedal Assist Max Speed Age Req. License Req.

Bike Yes N/A No No

Class1 E-Bike Yes 20 mph No No

Class 2 E-Bike No (has throttle) 20 mph No No

Class 3 E-Bike Yes 28 mph 16 yrs. No

I have spent the better part of the last week researching this issue calling and visiting bike shops from Mammoth to El Segundo. The main thing I found in talking to these people is that a Class 2 e-bike has a throttle and can be at a complete stop and be propelled forward just by using the throttle – no pedals. To me this is an electric powered motorcycle and not pedal assisted. In California, it is against the law to add a throttle to a Class 1 or Class 3 bike or modify its speed capability unless the classification label is also changed. However, unless there is a huge increase in enforcement officers, chances are you won't be caught. One thing I also noticed is that it is almost impossible to identify an e-bike from a regular bike, let alone tell the class. The other comment made by most of these dealers was that they did not feel that e-bikes belonged in the backcountry. They were built for street use in cities. However, they sold and rented both types. One dealer in Mammoth said they rented more cruisers (street bikes) but sold more mountain bikes.

Every member and every BCHC Unit should be writing their letter right now to the addresses on the bottom of this alert. We cannot emphasize enough the importance of every member and every Unit writing a letter. That would be over 2000 letters. This will take more than 22 Units writing a letter. The supporters of bikes on the PCT, in Wilderness and e-bikes will be sending 1000's of letters. Please use any or all of this information as talking points in your letters.

- ◇ We oppose any class of vehicle with a motor be allowed on any non-motorized trail.
- ◇ E-bikes should only be allowed on trails where other motorized vehicles are permitted
- ◇ There are plentiful opportunities for e-bike use on the tens of thousands of miles of trail already open to their use
- ◇ This is contrary to the long standing “Travel Management” plans and policies that date back to the 1960's.
- ◇ Motorized trails have been designated to avoid user conflicts and the safety of all users
- ◇ Opening non-motorized trails to e-bikes would eliminate the primitive recreational opportunities
- ◇ Federal land managers do not have the resources to police e-bikes on the trails

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Here are two links if you want more information: <https://currentebikes.com> or www.bosch-ebike.com

Here are where to send your letters:

Tahoe National Forest - 631 Coyote St., Nevada City CA 95959

National Park Service – <https://www.nps.gov> Bureau Land Management – <https://www.blm.gov>

Please send me a copy of your letter also - bludog46@gmail.com

Thank you all,

Troy Patton & Thor Bodtker

Co-VP's – Public Lands

REMINDER – We are preparing the BCHC comment letter on the Sierra and Sequoia National Forest. If you have comments, please let me know. Please send your own comment letter also, especially if you work or ride in one of these Forests. Thank you to the people who have already commented. If we don't comment on an issue now, we will not be able to comment or talk about it later. Deadline is September 26, 2019. (If you want me to include your comments in the BCHC letter, I need them by September 20.)

Pack Support for ACE Crew Fobes - June 5, 2019



Fobes Trailhead ready to head to Apache Spring. Pack support for ACE crew working the trail down to the spring. Came up a mile short with a bunch of downed trees blocking the trail. First time to not make it to a destination.

Mike Lewis, Greg Bruce & Michael Thomas

**Taking a
little break**



Four pooped mules

@ The Little Red Schoolhouse! Anza
Thur, October 10 @ 7pm
NEXT GENERAL MEETING

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



Star Milling Co.
Stacy Kuhns
TERRITORY SALES MANAGER
909-633-1705
stacy@starmilling.com www.starmilling.com

Ap Hi Kelley's Food Integrity ULTRA BALANCE

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.