

# REDSHANK RIDERS



An Affiliate of Backcountry Horsemen of California

[www.RedshankRiders.com](http://www.RedshankRiders.com)

A group of dedicated men and women working to preserve the historic use of trails with recreational pack and saddle stock.

2009 Officers

Issue 08

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## Message from the President

November is fast approaching. As you probably know we have our Annual Fundraiser, **The Turkey Treasure Hunt** on the first Saturday of November. That gives us just 3 months to organize and get everything ready. I need someone to step up and chair this event. In addition we will need cooks, servers, a set-up and teardown crew, someone or a few people to acquire raffle prizes, a publicity person, and some people to setup the course and a poet to write up the clues.

Also a couple of folks to do the registration, pre and on the day of. A parker and someone to sign up new members also. If you have any skills in these areas please step up and volunteer. Or even if you have no skills in this area step up, I guarantee you will have a fun time. We need your help. This is the event that keeps the Redshank Riders solvent. Without some participation the club will be insolvent for next year. Thanks for your help.

Well I'm on my soapbox again.

### **Wilderness.....Ah Wilderness,**

We all have a picture in our minds of what Wilderness is to us. Peaceful, serene, beautiful, silent, unsullied, primitive, roadless etc. Perhaps you think of it as a refuge from the craziness of the modern world, or as a place where animals and plants flourish and have protection from mans' continuous onslaught. These are all nice thoughts, however I would debate that position.

Unfortunately Wilderness as it is being legislated today may not fit that description. Witness the recent addition of Beauty Mtn. to the millions of acres of Wilderness already in CA. Recently foisted off on us by Congress; at the urging of Congresswoman Mary Bono-Mack and by Senators Boxer and Feinstein, this area was a Wilderness Study Area for the past 20 years. The original legislation said WSA's were to be studied for inclusion as Wilderness for 10 years with a sunset clause to either become a Wilderness, or be excluded from further consideration at the end of that time. This particular area was turned down for inclusion under the Wilderness Act, by Congress at the end of its Sunsetting. Congress realized this area had been substantially impacted by man and therefore did not qualify as "Substantially Untrammelled by man" under the Requirements outlined in the Wilderness Act of 1964.

In particular this area is Bisected N. to S. by the Cooper Cienaga Truck Trail, a.k.a. The CA Riding and Hiking Trail. It is also bisected E. To W. by the Old Chihuahua Valley Rd. which connects Oak Grove to Chihuahua Valley. Old CV rd. is a RS 2477 rd. Built by our forefathers tax dollars or the sweat of their brows to access their property in Chihuahua valley. It has been illegally closed by a Conservation group purchase and land Swap with the BLM at the East end, and State Use of your prop. 49 funds by the Dept of Fish and Game at the Oak Grove end. There is a fork off this Road which goes to a mine built in the 1930s which further bisects the so called Beauty Mtn. Wilderness, going on east to access the back end of Anza near Coyote Canyon. This road connects to other jeep roads which circle the Beauty Mtn. Massif and go to other mining claims. This Road was built with our



their property in Chihuahua valley. It has been illegally closed by a Conservation group purchase and land Swap with the BLM at the East end, and State Use of your prop. 49 funds by the Dept of Fish and Game at the Oak Grove end. There is a fork off this Road which goes to a mine built in the 1930s which further bisects the so called Beauty Mtn. Wilderness, going on east to access the back end of Anza near Coyote Canyon. This road connects to other jeep roads which circle the Beauty Mtn. Massif and go to other mining claims. This Road was built with our tax dollars with a grant from the Department of Defense to access Tungsten mine. The mine contained Strategic materials needed in WW2 and also built with our tax dollars. However due to pressure by the numerous Enviromeddler Groups, Congresswoman Bono-Mack continued to pursue designation for this area. Another lasting legacy of Bureaucratic malfeasance in my opinion. This area is under the administration of the BLM as public Land and is subject to their rules and regulations. As such it is not subject to development without conforming to their extensive regulation. Therefore it doesn't require Protection under the Wilderness Act. If you should take the time to go to the website of the Wildlands Project or Agenda 21 of the U.N. you would find that this corridor between Anza Borrego Desert State Park (A World Heritage Site, Property of the U.N. i.e., no longer the State of CA)/Coyote Canyon had long been slated as a Wildlife corridor connecting The Palomar Mtn. Massif and Points South down the spine of the Mtns.

My point is this. We are continually having Public Lands tied up in ways which are not to our benefit. For example.

Even though we Equestrians and pedestrians will be allowed to use the existing roads and trails, can we build more?

As we age we won't be able to access this area on foot or horseback. Are we going to just stay home and allow young able bodied elitists to exclude USF or lack of ability to travel rigorously?

What about the people physical limitations who have been going to this area for years in their jeeps and on motorized vehicles especially because it was accessible to them?

What about hunters who may have hunted this area for years, who must now carry their downed game for miles or pack it out on horseback on roads which have been in place, paid for with their tax dollars, yet now inaccessible to them? Sounds like discrimination to me.

Then there is the issue of Maintenance.

The Wilderness Act has provisions for mechanized maintenance under Categorical Exclusions. This allows for the use of Mechanical equipment for the upkeep of roads, Trails and Structures in place and protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. This Act does not allow for the willy nilly removal and destruction of existing infrastructure. I.E. Roads some Agency manager decides to Rehabilitate. This is a nice euphemism for **disappear by reconfiguring** the terrain with a bulldozer and or blocking with rocks and other debris to remove said road or trail. All these acts require public comment on the EIS and EIR before commencement of Rehab. In addition the Act allows for maintenance of trails with Chainsaws, not as some agency managers require the use of non motorized maintenance equipment. In actuality the trails, roads , and pathways as described in the Act are altogether excluded from the Wilderness as they were in place before the are was designated and are protected under RS 2477. Both San Diego and Riverside counties have filed Assertions with the U.S. Government in this regard. How long before the Radical Enviromeddlers decide that because guns and modern Bows and arrows are mechanical devices they must be prohibited in Wilderness Areas. They've already done it with bicycles, what is the difference.

Last but not Least by any means is the Need for a home for So CA's last vestige of a wild horse herd. When the Beauty Mtn. Wilderness was passed what provision was made for the wild horses that we know were native to this area since the Spaniards came through in the 1700s, and probably here before that if the archaeological record is any indication. It is the time for action on this. If we are to be saddled with more Wilderness it must include range for the CCCDA Wild horses under NHPA (National Historic Preservation Act ) and the Wild and Free Roaming Horse and Burro Act. This area was once open range for Native American livestock descended from Texas Longhorn cattle and Colonial Spanish Heritage Horses. It should include them again.

I would just say this.

It is time that we hold our politicians accountable. They must stop pandering to the Radical Environmentalists at the expense of the rest of us. I say the time is now to stop the insanity of the drug of Wilderness. Our politicians are drunk on the thought of leaving their name on some legacy we will be stuck with.

If you agree, write your Congressman Darrell Issa and tell him to forget about adding to the Mary Bonodoggle. Enough is Enough. If you think more wilderness is a good idea tell him so. He is your elected Representative. Let him know how you feel. Let me know too.

Please Write Congressman Issa. He can be reached at [beautymountain@mail.house.gov](mailto:beautymountain@mail.house.gov)

Redshank Riders President

Pete Spencer

760-782-3747

Letter to Congressman Issa from Thomas Firth

To: [beautymountain@mail.house.gov](mailto:beautymountain@mail.house.gov)

Dear Congressman Issa,

I am writing you in regard to my opposition to expanding the Beauty Mountain Wilderness area in San Diego county. I'll try to be brief:

1. More wilderness denies access to the vast majority. The rebuttal, "hunting will still be allowed" is a joke, and since the majority of hunters are not only older (baby-boomers) they are also responsible off-roaders and use their jeeps to access the areas multitude of mining roads and trails (paid for with taxpayer dollars). These folks are also registered voters. Wilderness designation simply means access will be limited to the young, fit, granola-eating few, and since water is limited and at a premium in this area, ample supplies are difficult to carry, so basically there will be no access.
2. This area has traditionally been a multi-use area.
3. A disturbing amount of private land in this area has been bought up by nature conservancies and turned over to BLM for management. This practice is currently being investigated as a possible violation of the RICO Act, not to mention it's elimination for multiple-use stipulated by contract with the BLM.
4. Most of this area simple doesn't fit "wilderness" criteria. The area is laced with old mining roads, trails and mines. If it wasn't deemed "wilderness" in 1972 when boundaries were drawn up, what has changed and how is it now "wilderness"?
5. Both Riverside and San Diego counties have asserted their RS 2477 rights and have failed miserably in enforcing them. Access to more and more "public land" is lost each year by road closures from private land holders, not to mention state and federal agencies. The "Old Chihuahua Road" is located in this area and has been in use for well over one hundred-twenty years. It will be affected.
6. The California Riding and Hiking Trail (Cienaga Truck Trail) runs directly through the center of this land. Now, due to regulations and oversight, trailheads and access areas are non-existent, making access even more difficult to the existing Beauty Wilderness Area, not to mention multi-use access, horse camps and campgrounds as provided in the original 1945 California legislations.
7. The prospect for a catastrophic fire in this area is all but a foregone conclusion. Fire fighting equipment such as dozers, engines and other motorized equipment is forbidden in "wilderness". Agencies have addressed this concern by saying they will make concessions and allow this equipment to fight such a fire because of the local communities concerns for their safety. Now, it is either "wilderness", or it isn't; what's it going to be? They can't have their cake and eat it too. If equipment isn't allowed, who wishes to step up and answer to all those who lose their homes and livelihood because of a catastrophic fire that can't legally be fought with modern fire fighting equipment. I smell a lawsuit one way or the other.
8. Pre existing and historical access to this area will be denied with a "wilderness" designation.

Congressman Issa, in conclusion this is bad business altogether. I invite you to take a day off and come along on a trip to this area. Spend a Saturday with those who know the region intimately. We don't bite and haven't been convicted of anything serious yet. Please come and spend the day with me and my fellow hunters and off-roaders, and baby-boomers in this area and allow us to show you what we mean when we tell you this is NOT "wilderness" and should not be granted this designation with the stroke of a pen. This same invitation was given to Mary Bono-Mack when she first proposed the Riverside County section of Beauty to become wilderness. The closest she ever got to this area was a fly over at 30,000 feet on her way back from Washington.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

*Thomas Firth*

58395 Ramsey Rd

Anza, CA 92539

e-mail [lecil\\_hadley@hotmail.com](mailto:lecil_hadley@hotmail.com)

Date: July 23, 2009

## Action Alert: [AHC Seeks to Document Equestrian Access Issues on Public Land](#)

The American Horse Council has launched a new effort to collect information on access issues equestrians are experiencing on federal lands. The center piece of this effort is an AHC online form riders can use to report their personal experiences regarding trails and federal lands that have been closed to them or other access issues. This online form is located here

<https://www.horsecouncil.org/survey.php>

Efforts to gain support for legislation to protect equestrian access to public land have been hampered by a lack of information regarding the reduction of trails, trail heads and the closure of public lands to horses and pack animals. This new initiative will allow the recreational riding community to report when they are forced off a trail or are fighting to stay on a trail. This information will be used to clearly demonstrate the extent of the problem and the need for action on the part of Congress or the federal land agencies.

The online form can also be used to document any successes riders have had keeping a trail or area open to horses. Such information is needed as well.

The AHC is requesting that its member organizations help spread the word about this new program by placing information about it on their websites and or in their organization newsletters. More information about this initiative and the form to report access issues can be found here

<https://www.horsecouncil.org/survey.php>

If you have had any access problems accessing public lands, please complete this form. If you have friends who ride on public lands (at your barn, your neighborhood or farm), please share this survey with them. If you belong to any horse owner/rider organizations, please share this survey with them. We need to have our voices heard.

Thank you,

M. Sue Middendorf  
11812 Ivanhoe Street  
Wheaton MD 20902-2052  
301-942-7776  
Sue [Middie@yahoo.com](mailto:Middie@yahoo.com)

Submitted by Redshank Riders President Pete Spencer

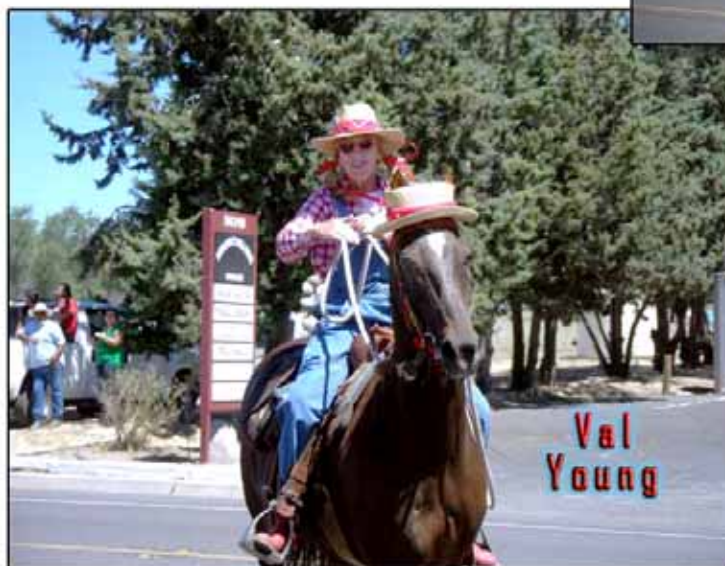
## REDSHANK RIDERS UNIT GENERAL MONTHLY MEETING

Next meeting: August 13th at The Little Red Schoolhouse in Anza - 6:30 PM

## 4th of July Parade, ANZA



Cathy Haun Firth  
& Sherrie Rondeau



Cathy Haun Firth, Sherrie Rondeau, and Val Young rode in the parade as a group. The parades theme was "Living the Country Life". So, Sherrie and I dressed as Holstein cows and Val was the country farm girl. Our theme was "We moooved to the country and we udderly love it!" We won the Best Equestrian category.

Tom's theme was "Anza Organic Country Farmer, Buds on Board". He dressed as a hippie farmer in a dreadlock wig, peace signs and bundles of marijuana plants on the pack mule. Tom's mule had peace signs spray painted on him and a marijuana lei.

Tom won Best Mule Theme. He was amazed at how many people did not recognize him (good because of the subject matter) and how many people cheered him on!



Tom Firth



Per Allison Renck; Terri from the San Geronio Unit emailed her with a heads up that they will be doing an **Education Day** on Sept 26 at Live Oak Ranch in Yucaipa. If anyone has any ideas or wants to help contact Allison at:

(951) 763-0374 - ali9591@aol.com

### No fool, this mule: She paints and dunks hoops

Young Grace can dunk a basketball, play the piano, paint on canvas, get the mail and do basic multiplication. Pretty good for a 4-year-old. But even better when the 4-year-old happens to be a mule.

The donkey-horse hybrid Amazing Grace had her national coming-out party Thursday on the TODAY show, garnering oohs and ahs from the crowd gathered at Rockefeller Plaza. And while playfully kissing TODAY's Erin Burnett and gently nipping at an alarmed Matt Lauer's hand, she showed why she's a mule of a different color.

Robert Duvall lives down the road apiece from Foster, and after hearing tales of Grace's talents, the Oscar-winning actor checked her out himself — and then cast her in his upcoming film "Get Low."

While Grace is now destined to follow in the footsteps of such quadruped glitterati as Mr. Ed and Francis the Talking Mule, Foster told TODAY that Grace is more than a one-trick mule — she's a family treasure. No doubt Amazing Grace is one of a kind. And that is pretty much assured — mules are sterile and can't reproduce.

To see a video of her talents go to: [http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/31941608/ns/today\\_pets/](http://today.msnbc.msn.com/id/31941608/ns/today_pets/)

Written by Michael Inbar - from TODAYShow.com



Amazing Grace & Robert Duvall

### *Simple Recycling Ideas*

- Paper feed bags, rather than being thrown away, can be used as garbage bags, as poultice wraps, for desensitizing your horse, to soak up spills, or they can be shredded and added to compost.
- Cracked buckets, those with missing handles, and supplement containers transform into great storage, trash bins, or grooming buckets.
- Save an old broom handle or pick up a few at the store to create a sturdy blanket rack.
- For your horse's coat, try using vegetable oil rather than Showsheen, Palmolive dish detergent as shampoo, dollar store human hairbrushes, and Listerine at the dock of the tail to prevent rubbing.
- Save a zippered comforter bag for horse blanket storage at the end of the winter.

Have you got pictures from a ride, an event,  
a great animal story or joke that you  
would like to share?

Let's put it in the newsletter

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Your input is needed &

Always Appreciated!!

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Email me at

[editor@redshankriders.com](mailto:editor@redshankriders.com)

Rhonda

Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

# August 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13 Mtg at little Red School House 6:30	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

# September 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26 San Geronio Education Days - Yucaipa
27	28	29	30			

[www.BCHCalifornia.org](http://www.BCHCalifornia.org)

## PUBLIC LANDS FOR THE PEOPLE--INTRODUCTION

Public Lands for the People, Inc. (PLP), a non-profit, 501 C-3 organization, was founded in 1990. We originally set up to protect one mile of river on the San Gabriel river in the Angeles National Forest. The Forest Service (FS) attempted to ban approximately 30 people from panning for gold. PLP challenged the FS on the issue and to this day the river is still open to the public for that purpose.

PLP had no intention at that time to challenge other issues in other areas, but in the process of the original battle we learned of several things that the FS was doing that were not only illegal but immoral. As time went by PLP continued to learn more about the laws and continued to challenge the agency abuse. We had no intention of becoming a large organization, but our success drew the attention of others.

PLP then became a non-profit organization with a membership of prospecting and metal detecting clubs and their members and other citizens across the country. Today we have a membership and constituent membership of approximately 40,000.

We have assisted people with information when possible, from all forms of forest user groups: burro advocates, off-road advocates, hikers, river users, horse advocates, prospectors and miners.

Anyone who has problems with the BLM or FS that is not breaking the law can call us for assistance. We do not provide attorneys, but do assist with research and information to assist them. We have been in court with District 37 AMA and CORVA against the BLM, and have gone to court with Jennifer Foster to help save the desert burros from being eradicated. PLP won or helped win several cases on mining issues: US vs. McClure; US vs. Lex,; US, Siskiyou Regional Project vs. USFS; and US vs. Hicks.

PLP has been involved in numerous FS and BLM planning projects. PLP has appealed many of their decisions, going to court on some, and resolving others in our favor. We have a NO COMPROMISE philosophy, because PLP doesn't feel we have a right to compromise the rights of the people we try to represent--we win or we lose, but do not give anything away once we get involved.

PLP has an attorney, David Young of Los Angeles, and several researchers on legal issues: Clark Pearson of Grass Valley, Walt Wegner who is Vice President of PLP, Tim Regan who is a Board Member, and me, Jerry Hobbs, President. All of us are dedicated and do not like the various agencies methods of bullying the general public.

Public Lands for the People has supporters in almost every state in the east, the west, Alaska and some overseas people in the military. We encourage all land users to be members and stand together; at this point in history, the users are divided and need to join forces and support organizations that will stand up for them. We all know that even if our user group isn't under attack at this time and another user group is, we must support that user group because we are sure to be next.

The Eldorado National Forest was the first forest to complete their Travel Management Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). Most if not all other forests are using the Eldorado DEIS as their own template to complete their Travel Management DEIS. There were 28 appellee's who appealed the Eldorado Record of Decision (ROD), but PLP is the only one at this time to have filed a lawsuit. It is our hope that we can affect all of the forest plans by making sure that Eldorado does not get away with arbitrary implementation of road closures that AFFECT ALL USERS.

PLP supports itself with memberships, fund raising raffles and donations. We are in hopes of pulling all forest users together so we can stand together in this effort to protect our rights to keep PUBLIC LANDS OPEN FOR THE PEOPLE. If we don't stand together, the extremists, who are very organized and well funded, will continue to pressure the FS and BLM with lawsuits to incrementally close forests to all users, until eventually there will be NO USE AT ALL, which is obviously their goal.

The PLP website has a great deal of legal information on it and can be viewed at [plp2.org](http://plp2.org). To send donations or join can be done by going to the website and clicking on pay pal or downloading the membership application. You can also contact:

Barry Wetherby, Secretary Treasurer, 3700 Santa Carlotta St., La Crescenta, CA 91214, 818-957-1455, [bhwetherby@aol.com](mailto:bhwetherby@aol.com),  
or Jerry Hobbs, President, 7194 Conejo Dr., San Bernardino, CA 92404, 909-889-3039, [jerhobbs2@verizon.net](mailto:jerhobbs2@verizon.net).



# NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

membership@bchcalifornia.org – (866) 748-2033

**MAIL TO:** Backcountry Horsemen of California  
PO Box 1610  
Oakdale, CA 95361-1610

**PARENT Unit Affiliation:** (Select and CIRCLE ONE Unit as your Primary Unit Affiliation)

- |                    |                   |                 |                    |                    |
|--------------------|-------------------|-----------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Antelope Valley    | Kern River Valley | Mojave River    | Redwood            | Sequoia            |
| Caballeros del Sol | Kern Sierra       | Mother Lode     | San Diego          | Shasta Trinity     |
| Eastern Sierra     | Lake-Mendo        | North Bay       | San Gorgonio Pass  | Sierra Freepackers |
| High Country       | Los Padres        | Ohlone Riders   | San Joaquin Sierra | Sutter Buttes      |
| High Sierra        | Mid Valley        | Redshank Riders | Santa Ana River    | Top of the State   |

**DCTR (your Membership Number):** \_\_\_\_\_ (For new memberships, will be determined by Membership Coordinator)

**MEMBER'S NAME**—No Business Names; Print Clearly \_\_\_\_\_ **SPOUSE / Co-MEMBER'S NAME**—MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

**Address** \_\_\_\_\_

**City** \_\_\_\_\_ **State** \_\_\_\_\_ **Zip Code (full 9 digits, if known)** \_\_\_\_\_ **Area Code** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone** \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Enclosed:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **Check No.:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Parent Unit Membership Types: (CIRCLE ONE)**

**Individual \$40.00\***   **Family \$50.00\***   **Benefactor \$100.00**   **Patron \$250.00**   **Mt Whitney \$500.00**

\* = BCHC shares portion of dues with Backcountry Horsemen of America.

**Associate Memberships: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.**  
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNIT AFFILIATIONS **MAY NOT** BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT.

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00/unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

Associate Membership for: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15.00/unit  
Unit Name (from above list)

Please write additional choices on back.

Please clip form along dashed line.

Application is available online at:

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/membershipapp.pdf>

# Tentative Event & Ride Schedule 09

**August 2009**

Aug 13h -Bi-monthly meeting at Little Red School House

**September 2009**

Sept 26 - Education Day (San Gorgonio)

**October 2009**

Oct 8th -Bi-monthly meeting at Little Red School House

**November 2009**

Nov. 7th 09 Turkey Treasure Hunt

Work Party information: Call 760 782-3747

Redshank Riders  
BCHC  
P.O. BOX 383  
Agunga, Ca 92536



**HELP WANTED:**  
**Volunteer to Help**  
**for the**  
**09 Turkey Treasure Hunt**

