



<b>2012 Officers</b>	<b>Issue 7</b>	<b>JULY 2012</b>
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Hi Gang,

Well it's been crazy weather for sure. Summertime is here. We have been very super busy. Pack ins and Pack outs, National Day of the Cowboy Event and the BCHC Rendezvous committee, monthly rides, meetings.

Here is a little history of the National Day of the Cowboy. On June 7, 2012, the California Senate voted to award permanent status to the fourth Saturday in July as the National Day of the Cowboy. The CA Senate first passed the 2012 resolution on March 27, but since they were asking for permanent status, the resolution had to also go to the California Assembly. As the resolution was in process, some objections came in, so the CA Rules Committee had to review both the reasons for objection and the countering reasons for support. In response to the objections, many people and organizations from California and around the country, as well as from Canada, wrote letters and sent emails of support for the NDOC resolution. Also, CA Senator Gaines represented the NDOC's point of view at the committee hearing, as did Bob Fox from the California Rodeo Association and Vi Tara of the Highway 50 Wagon Train Association. As a result, the resolution came out of the Rules Committee with only one 'no' vote. A few days later, it went to the Assembly floor sponsored by Representative Fiona Ma, for a vote and passed with 68 co-authors. However, since the rules committee had modified the original resolution, the newer version had to again go back to the Senate for a final vote. It passed there late on the afternoon of Thursday, June 7.

This marks another major milestone in the effort to achieve permanent status for the National Day of the Cowboy resolution in Congress. California became only the second state in history to establish the Cowboy Day in perpetuity. Wyoming leads the way as the first state to do so on March 13, 2012. It is hoped that as more states officially establish the fourth Saturday in July as their day to celebrate cowboy culture and pioneer heritage, the United States Congress will support that by giving it permanent status at the national level.

We will be celebrating on the following day because there are so many cities doing events we can make sure all our members get a full weekend. Mark your calendar to celebrate on Sunday July 29th at Kenny and Alison's Place. If you don't want to bring your horse, that's ok too. There will be lots to do. Cowboy Trivia, Obstacle Course, Dutch Oven Cooking demonstrations, Metal mules for those that would like to "throw some pack box hitches", and much more.. Oh and a watermelon seed spitting contest. Don't miss out. We will make this an annual event for Redshank Riders. Come celebrate with us!!!

Don't forget to be keep track of your work hours. If you have any questions let me know. They are making it easier to track, the hard part is remembering to write them down You may want to put a small pad of paper in your vehicle and put the mileage, hours, etc.

Anyone that has been clicking off pics at any of the rides or events, we'd love to get them in our history books. Put them on a flash drive and get them to Carol and she will return your flash drive or we can provide one to use.

The next monthly meeting will be at the Little Red Schoolhouse in Anza at 7pm on August 9th. Hope you can make it.

Cya on the Trail, Stacy and Joe with the pack mare.

## Redshank Riders June 14, 2012

### Meeting Minutes

**Location:** Little Red Schoolhouse

**Meeting began** at 7:15 pm

12 Attendees

Anne read the minutes from April, Mike moved to accept, Chuck 2nd

**Treasurers Report:** No Report

**Membership Report:** 2 new members (re-joined) at Eagle Rock Ride and 1 new at Santa Margarita River Ride. All expired members are being contacted by email. We are now at 108.

**Trail Development & Maintenance:** Mike reported on some of the classes that will be available in the upcoming Trail College.

**Adopt a Highway:** 5 people showed for Saturday, June 2nd and much was accomplished. "Caution" signs are needed for the next time as many drivers were discourteous and dangerous.

**Public Lands:** A new closure in May Valley was reported by Ron K. Forest Service has been notified and hopefully will deal with this. Ron will follow up.

**Rendezvous:** Vendor packets will be finished and emailed by Stacy & Audrey. RSR is in charge of wine, cheese, beer & vendors. Ad space is available in the programs. Sponsorships are also available. Raffle items are needed. They are thinking of holding the next Rendezvous planning meeting in Temecula as it is more central to all involved.

**Newsletter:** No report

**Historian:** Carol is looking for photos from the Eagle Rock & Santa Margarita Rides.

**Unfinished Business:** No report

**New Business:** Allison is going to the South East (Equestrian) Trail Builders Conference. Audrey made a motion that we sponsor her for the registration costs and Carol 2nd. The vote passed unanimously. Pete brought a motion to start a legal fund that would exist within our general account. Stacy will follow up at the state level to possibly add this as a donation item on the membership forms. We are planning to develop a system of raising funds through recycling of aluminum and plastic donations to.

**Rides:** The July ride hosted by Ron & Sandy Korman will be held on July 15 in Apple Canyon. There are a couple of water crossings (see info on page 6).

Allison agreed to host a "Day of the Cowboy" ride and obstacle course on July 29th. Flyers will be emailed.

**Meeting Adjourned:** at 8:40 pm. Mike moved and Gretchen 2nd.



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Greg Bruce

## Are you Interested in Learning How to Sharpen a Crosscut Saw?

Submitted by Stacy Kuhns

With more and more volunteers using crosscut saws to help clear wilderness trails the question comes up, how to sharpen a crosscut saw? Unlike a chainsaw that you can sharpen in the field or change a dull chain in a few minutes, crosscut saws do require some skill, special tools and a considerable amount of time to properly sharpen. With the idea of offering some support to BCHW volunteers I have put together a web page that should help with the issue. The new [BCHW crosscut saw sharpening page](#) can be found on the BCHW website under the Tech Tips link. It offers information on where or how to learn to sharpen as well as sources for some professional sharpeners. For those without web access many of the resources listed are available in other forms.

It does take some commitment of time and tools to pick up the skill but most anyone can learn to sharpen crosscut saws. There are formal week long training classes put on every year at the Nine Mile USFS Training Center, Lolo National Forest, Montana. The classes are open to anyone and the cost is reasonable. In addition the formal hands on training there is some very good information available. The USFS Crosscut Saw Manual has step by step instructions and there is a new video/DVD by the Forest Service that is scheduled to be released soon. This video is very highly rated and should prove to be a valuable learning tool. In addition to the USFS resources there is other information and training aids linked on the BCHW Crosscut saw sharpening web page.

Another resource is an online crosscut saw forum at [crosscutsawyer.com](http://crosscutsawyer.com). This is a privately ran forum that has a wealth information on sharpening as well and other things related to crosscut saws. It is a little contradiction to have a modern internet forum for primitive tools but the knowledge of literally hundreds of years of experience from the forum members is amazing. If you do not find needed information in past posts, you can always ask.

In addition to the formal training or do it yourself learning there is the possibility of interested folks learning from BCHW members that are experienced saw filers. Both Gary Zink and I have offered to help new filers pick up the skill. This would likely involve having members watch and ask question during a sharpening job. The timing and location of any of these sessions will depend on the interest and need. For BCHW to hold a week long, hands on training session is beyond the scope of any proposed training but we do have the resources to help and provide direction to anyone that is interested. No matter how a new filer picks up the skill, it will require quite an individual commitment of time and practice to become proficient.

So the main purpose of this message is to let folks know of the resources available for those that want to learn how to sharpen a saw and offer any help in the process. Please have anyone that has any questions contact me or Gary. Also I do know that other BCHW members do sharpen saws and if they want to help out, let us know. Contact information for help can be found on the [BCHW saw certifiers list](#) or by replying to this message.

Jim Thode

BCHW Webmaster and Crosscut Saw User and Filer

# www.BCHCalifornia.org

## READ, DISCUSS, ACT

### Rule changed by NPS to open more trails to bikes

The information and links below come to us from BCH Washington's Public Lands Chair, Jeff Chapman. This new rule with the National Parks will have an effect on a great many of you that recreate on the Park's trails. It will be very important that you and our members be in on the very ground floor with any public meetings relating to bike use on the Park trails. Now would be a good time to be sure your relationship with the park management in your area is in good stead. Providing public input both at meetings and in writing will be important. As we learn more we will get the information out to you.

Regards,

Mike

8 July 2012

Michael K. McGlenn  
Chairman BCHA

<http://green.blogs.nytimes.com/2012/07/06/making-way-for-more-bikes-in-national-parks/>

*This year Congress intervened to permit stock packing on national parklands in the Sierra after a court ruled in a lawsuit filed by the High Sierra Hikers that the current system for permitting stock violated the Wilderness Act.*

*Now bicycles are becoming part of the whose-trail-is-it debate. On Friday, the National Park Service published a final regulation in the Federal Register giving individual park superintendents the power to allow bicycles on existing or new roads and pathways.*

<https://www.federalregister.gov/articles/2012/07/06/2012-16466/vehicles-and-traffic-safety-bicycles#p-130>

36. *Comment:* The proposed rule will increase bicycle use in the parks. This will have a negative economic impact as parks will lose revenue from hikers and equestrians who will visit other areas where they can enjoy the outdoors safely and in solitude, without interference from mechanical devices.

*Response:* According to a U.S. Forest Service study, "Updated Outdoor Recreation Use Values on National Forests and Other Public Lands." General Technical Report PNW-GTR-658. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service (Loomis, J. 2005.), the net economic benefits of mountain biking generally exceed those of either hiking or horseback riding. Nevertheless, the rule provides that new bicycle use on existing trails can be designated only if there will be no significant impacts, including impacts to visitor safety and user conflict. Therefore, any increased bicycle use resulting from this rule can only happen if the park determines that the designation of bicycle use will not impose significant impacts on other users, including hikers and equestrians.

# PCTA Trail Tool School - Submitted By Michael Lewis - Photos by George Soliman

March took me to Ladd and Jill Stokes place for a PCTA trail tool school put on by volunteers of the PCTA. Among the teachers was Pete Fish, trail guerilla leader, Don Line, trail gorilla PCTA sec. B section chief, George Boone, trail gorilla Sec. A section chief, and Bill Carter, BCHC Eastern Sierra Unit, all the way down from Bishop. Also there were two guys I met at the crosscut saw class last year, George and Richard along with Chip and Linda from San Gorgonio unit and Lyle, one of the PCTA's top volunteer's last year. The 2 day school covered use, care, and maintenance of power and hand tools used on the trails. Day one, which I missed because of a prior commitment, covered mostly power tools. Chain saws and brush saws. Day two was mostly hand tools like handling and sharpening Pulaski's, axes, loppers, and McLeod's. This is some good information that we can use on our own tools. Next we got to rig a grip hoist. This is a small but very powerful cable pulling device that can be used to move large boulders, downed trees, and in our case, Richards 4x4. Bill and Pete instructed us in its use and how to double or triple its pulling power using a combination of snatch blocks. We then moved on to crosscut saws which I had looked forward to. Ladd had a pine log chained to some metal horses and we practiced our one and two man sawing with saws brought by Pete and Bill. I also got a chance to try out my own saw (I was a bit nervous for I had sharpened it myself) and was very happy with its performance. I even got the thumbs up from George Boone. Next came the attack on what was known as Ladd's pet rock. Rumor has it that Ladd tipped over his tractor trying to move this 8000 pound piece of granite. Today Ladd would have his revenge; we would use the boulder buster on this beast. A boulder buster is a rig that uses the hydraulic properties of water to split large rocks. Simple explanation is you drill a hole to the center of the boulder in question, ( in our case we used a Punjar which is a gas powered hammer drill), fill the hole with water, drop in a shotgun shell sized powder charge, load another charge in the boulder buster, set the buster into the hole, cover the rock with chain link, insert a primer into the firing mechanism, pile as many rocks on top as possible, get as far away as possible, pull string and kaboom. Through the rain, noise, and smoke, one big rock becomes five much smaller rocks. Last but not least we used feathers and wedges to split on of the larger stone in half. This involves drilling a series of holes along the line to be split then inserting two flat metal strips with ears, "feathers", into each hole with a metal "wedge" between each pair. You then you tap each one in succession back and forth and eventually, the rock splits along the line of wedges. If done right you can make a very accurate cut in a rock. With that the rain picked up and we all said our goodbyes and headed for our trucks. This was a very informative course and I am looking forward to attending next year. Thank you Ladd and Jill for opening up your place for this school.

## PCTA TRAIL TOOL SCHOOL MARCH 2012

### USING A CROSSCUT SAW



### LADD'S PET ROCK



### KABOOM!



Photos  
by  
George Soliman



Sunday School

## Apple Canyon/May Valley Ride, Sunday July 15

This will be a 4-hour mountain ride in some of the most scenic areas of the San Jacinto Mountains. This loop ride starts in Apple Canyon, goes over Keen Camp Summit (elevation 4917 ft), traverses Johnston Meadow, and passes through May Valley. We'll stop for a snack and water the horses in the headwaters of Hurkey Creek, and then proceed down the "Missing Link" trail to complete the loop in Apple Canyon.

There will be a few water crossings, some rocky areas (it's a mountain ride, dontcha know?!), and the potential of mountain bikers on the trail.

Ride Level: 3 to 3.5 We will ride out at 10AM

RSVP: Ron/Sandy Korman 951-659-0332 or email [kormanhaus@verizon.net](mailto:kormanhaus@verizon.net)

Directions: from Hwy 74 in Garner Valley, turn north onto Apple Canyon Road (about 1/4 mile west of the Lake Hemet store). Go 1 mile.

Bring: a mid-ride snack and water

This ride is open to all BCHC members

### Wildfire prep info from [www.readyforwildfire.org](http://www.readyforwildfire.org)

#### **Pre-Evacuation Preparation Steps**

When an evacuation is anticipated, follow these checklists (if time allows) to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire:

##### **Inside the House**

- Shut all windows and doors, leaving them unlocked.
- Remove flammable window shades, curtains and close metal shutters.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter. Turn off pilot lights.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning.

##### **Outside**

- Gather up flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, door mats, trash cans, etc.) or place them in your pool.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running, they can affect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- Put your Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle.
- Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

- Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened.
- Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave.

#### **Animals**

- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.

### **Evacuation Steps**

#### **Take Action Immediately When Wildfire Strikes**

When immediate evacuation is necessary, follow these steps as soon as possible to get ready to **GO**:

Review your [Evacuation Plan Checklist](#).

Ensure your [Emergency Supply Kit](#) is in your vehicle.

1. Cover-up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.
2. Locate your pets and take them with you.

#### **When to Evacuate**

Leave as soon as evacuation is recommended by fire officials to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be ordered by authorities to leave. Evacuating early also helps firefighters keep roads clear of congestion, and lets them move more freely to do their job. In an intense wildfire, they will not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

- Officials will determine the areas to be evacuated and escape routes to use depending upon the fire's location, behavior, winds, terrain, etc.
- Law enforcement agencies are typically responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly.
- You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.
- You may be directed to temporary assembly areas to await transfer to a safe location. The terms "Voluntary" and "Mandatory" are used to describe evacuation orders. However, local jurisdictions may use other terminology such as "Precautionary" and "Immediate Threat". These terms are used to alert you to the significance of the danger. All evacuation instructions provided by officials should be followed immediately for your safety.

Do not return to your home until Fire officials determine it is safe. Notification that it is safe to return home will be given as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility.

#### **When you return home:**

- Be alert for downed power lines and other hazards.
- Check propane tanks, regulators, and lines before turning gas on.
- Check your residence carefully for hidden embers or smoldering fires.

### **What to do if You Become Trapped**

#### **While in your vehicle:**

- Stay calm.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- Cover yourself with wool blanket or jacket.
- Lie on vehicle floor.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials—Call 911.

**While on foot:**

- Stay calm.
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression on level ground if possible
- Lie face down, cover up your body
- Use your cell phone to advise officials—Call 911.

**While in your home:**

- Stay calm, keep your family together.
- Call 911 and inform authorities of your location.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked.
- Stay inside your house.
- Stay away from outside walls and windows.

Submitted by Laurie Stanton

## Public Lands Info

Submitted by Stacy Kuhns

PCT and area trails are recovering from an EPIC wind event. Our FS Partners (INF Mammoth Lakes Ranger District) are doing a super job to open trails for hikers and horsemen. BCHC and PCTA are providing some support-the blown down tree issue is amazing to experience. Thanks to the sawyers, swampers, equines and canines for their contribution to clearing the PCT between Crater Meadow and Deer Creek. 160+ trees in a 2 mile section that blocked the PCT were removed with hard work over 3 days-and more to do! Certified sawyers George Boone, Chip Herzig, Phil McDowell and Bill Carter with swampers Annie Looby and Linda Herzig worked together to make that section of PCT passable for hikers and horsemen.

So you all are in the loop, Congressman Mike Thompson (D) 1st District Calif., has introduced a bill in the House of Representatives (HR5545) which designates approximately 500,000 acres of public land in the Lake County area as a Conservation Area. This land which is currently under management by five separate agencies; Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, National Forest Service, Department of Fish and Game, and the University of California would be combined in to one entity including local advisory council members from five county governments and local residents which will work with the agencies in the management of the Area. The purpose of the legislation is to protect the natural resources and provide recreational opportunities for the public. We feel this legislation will help improve the economy of the local areas by additional visitor use and protect these public lands for use into the future. Backcountry Horsemen of California supports this bill by Congressman Thompson and will support the agencies with volunteer services as needed in the future.



# July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12 - Unit Meeting	13	14
15 - Apple Cyn Ride	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24 Fuller Ridge re-supply	25	26	27 PCTA Trail Fest	28 PCTA Trail Fest
29 - Day of the Cowboy / PCTA Trail Fest	30	31				

**Next General Meeting Thursday, Aug 9th @ the Little Red Schoolhouse Anza ~ 7:00 pm**

## PCTA Trail Fest

Come enjoy the camaraderie of old and new trail friends. Sit in on some interesting classes and learn about using a GPS on trail, Horse packing or the Geology of the PCT. Learn what the PCTA has done and is continuing to do to promote and protect our favorite trail!

**July 27, 28, 29 in Big Bear Lake, California  
Northwoods Resort & Conference Center  
40650 Village Drive  
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315**

For more info go to: [pcta.org](http://pcta.org)

## Fuller Ridge Re-supply

Packing food and supplies to Deer Springs camp for Fuller Ridge project. Average 10 loads taken out of Nature Center in Idyllwild. 13 mile round trip.

Ideally looking for 6-7 animals per food re-supply

Contact Michael Lewis for more info:

(951) 760-9255

[mike@stumblinlranch.com](mailto:mike@stumblinlranch.com)

## *Tentative PCT Pack-In-Out Future Dates*

### Pack In for Season:

Aug 7, Aug 28

Sept 4, Sept 18, Oct 2, Oct 16

### Pack Out:

October 23-28th (whatever works)

Ideally looking for 6-7 animals per food re-supply

Come out and join in if you can. If you like you can ride along and just enjoy the view.

Submitted by Michael Lewis

**Unit Meeting**  
 ~ Thurs., Aug 9th ~  
 at the Little Red School House

Agunga, Ca 92536

P.O. BOX 383

BCHC

Redshank Riders



***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.