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Hi Guys

It's been so hot. We really need to take care of our horses and keep them hydrated and not push them in the heat of the day.

Mark your calendars for the last Saturday in July." National Day of the Cowboy". We will be having an obstacle course and some education events at Minor Field... This will be a unit fundraiser. A bit of background is the National Day of the Cowboy was started as a way to contribute to the preservation of America's rich cowboy heritage. We have multiple divisions so we have something for everyone. Our novice class is going to be a true novice class. It is for folks that want to try and see what their horses can do. The lions club will be there to make sure we don't starve. We will have some classes to step up your horsemanship. We have received items for awards and we will also have a gamblers choice division that has cash back! Whoo Hoo. This is our unit fundraiser for the year so gather up your stuff and head on out to hang out, ride, and have a great day. We have been working along on this and would like your participation. If you want to help us out, I will help you find a way to accomplish that.

We had our first pack in for State parks this month. It went great. Lots of loads of tools went up the mountain. The crew will not be there for a few weeks yet. I did get to meet a few new faces (at least to me they are new). There were folks from San Gorgonio Unit clear up towards the top of the High Desert that came down to help on the project. The work crews and state parks are so grateful for our assistance. It gives ya a good feeling inside to be able to help. We will be doing multiple resupplies throughout the summer. I am looking forward to helping a lot more this year.

We have stepped into the 21 century. You are now able to renew your membership on line. How cool is that. We are the BCHC state guinea pigs to work out the kinks. We are staying strong being the largest unit in southern California. We hope we will get new members at the event end of July. Remember, many hands make for light work. So let's get some more hands.

It is a very dry year already and we all need to be safe. Here is an article with information from National Forest.

Fire Restrictions Increase on San Bernardino National Forest

San Bernardino, Calif., June 20, 2013 — As the seasonal fire danger rises, forest officials are increasing fire use restrictions on the San Bernardino National Forest on Friday, June 28, 2013.

This past winter the forest experienced less than average winter snow and rainfall as a result of the second year of a drought, and the seasonal outlook again expects a warmer and drier summer this year with below average summer "monsoonal" rains, which could create the potential for large fires.

Forest officials are taking these steps to prevent human-caused fires and raise public awareness. Most wildfires on the San Bernardino National Forest are human-caused and increased restrictions are designed to reduce wild land fires. Forest visitors are reminded to exercise caution when visiting the National Forest and maintain a higher level of awareness with the increased fire risk.

Travelers and visitors can do the following to prevent wild land fires:

- Be informed and abide by all fire restrictions.
- Vehicles should always remain on designated roads and never park on dry brush or grass.

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- Use extreme caution around open flames or heat-producing sources.
- Motorists, use your car ashtray instead of tossing cigarettes out the window. Also be aware that hot brake shoes, hot exhaust systems, overheating of vehicles and dragging tow chains can cause fires - Keep tow chains high and off the ground.
- Report all suspicious activities to law enforcement

Fire restrictions and guidelines effective Friday June 28, 2013 on the San Bernardino National Forest are as follows:

Wood and charcoal fires are permitted only in developed campgrounds and picnic grounds and within agency provided fire rings or camp stoves.

- Wood and charcoal fires are not permitted at Yellow Post campsites, Fisherman’s Camp, Cedar Springs, or the following Pacific Crest Trail Camps:

- Bench Camp
- Deer Springs
- Doble
- Holcomb Crossing
- Little Bear Springs
- Mission Springs
 - Campfire permits are required for propane and gas stoves and lanterns used outside of all developed recreation sites.
 - Recreational shooting is limited to Public Shooting Ranges operated under special use permit only, except those engaged in legal hunting.
 - An approved spark arrester is required for any internal combustion engine operated on designated forest routes. These include chainsaws, generators, motorcycles, and off-highway vehicles.
 - Smoking is limited to an enclosed vehicle or building, or within a Developed Recreation Site.
 - Fireworks are always prohibited on the San Bernardino National Forest.

• The US Forest Service will be aggressively citing those who do not comply with the posted restrictions. Violation of these prohibitions is subject to punishment by a fine of not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment for not more than six months or both, as Class B misdemeanors under federal law. Persons may also be responsible for resource damage, suppression costs and any injuries that occur if they are found liable for causing a wildfire. Forest visitors are encouraged to “Know Before You Go” and call ahead to the local Ranger Station to check on location conditions and restrictions at the following offices

Idyllwild Ranger Station 54270 Pine Crest, Idyllwild (909) 382-2922

San Bernardino National Forest Supervisor’s Office 602 S. Tippecanoe Ave., San Bernardino (909) 382-2600
 Big Bear Discovery Center Highway 38, Fawnskin (909) 382-2790
 Lytle Creek Ranger Station 1209 Lytle Creek Road, Lytle Creek (909) 382-2851
 Mill Creek Visitor Center 34701 Mill Creek Road, Mentone (909) 382-2881
 Santa Rosa & San Jacinto Mountains National Monument Visitor Center 51-500 Highway 74 Palm Desert (760) 862-9984
 The AUGUST 8th MEETING will be at the Lewis Home. Meeting will be a potluck. Please contact Pebbles at 951-760-9244 for more details.
 Until we see each other, enjoy the days and ride often.
 Cya on the trails, Joe, the pack mare and Stacy



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Redshank Riders June 13, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Location: Little Red Schoolhouse

Meeting began at 7:04 pm

12 Attendees

Guests: none

Treasurers Report: Gail reported that there were no expenses or income. Ending balance was \$6145.26

Membership: Gail reported that there were no expenses or income. Ending balance was \$6145.26

Historian: No report

Packing opportunities: Mike & Stacy are involved with the Apache Springs project. Next project is to take trees off of the Spitler Trail

Trail Development & Maintenance: National Trail Day was June 1st. The trail/work party had 3 participants: Mike, Allison & Mary Litch. They worked on trails and made plans for a future work party date to resurrect a tank at Million Dollar Springs.

Adopt a Highway: No report

Public Lands/Director: Grant funds are available. Allison agreed to work on the application and plans to form a committee.

Stacy alerted us to call, fax or email Gov. Brown to not opt out of the Recreational Trails Program.

Education: Audrey reported that Banning Stage Coach Days would like us to participate in their parade and have a booth. Also, National Day of the Cowboy Obstacle Course will be

held on July 27th. Audrey needs participants and judges to sign up.

Rendezvous: 2014 dates are March 21-23. The theme is "Traveling Your Trail Through Life" and our unit will be in charge of vendors, trail trials, advertising and sponsors.

Newsletter: No Report

Unfinished Business: We have decided that we need a larger trailer for all of our gear. Audrey motioned that we make \$3800 available for the purchase and Pebbles 2nd. A vote was taken and passed unanimously.

New Business: Susan announced that Garner Valley will be having a home tour on October 5th and was hoping that our unit would have a booth at the commons during the event.

We can now renew our memberships on-line. Credit cards are accepted.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. Mike motioned and Chuck 2nd



RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP ONLINE & PAY WITH A CREDIT / DEBIT CARD!

Go to RedshankRiders.com & click on the JOIN button. You will find a link to an interactive membership form and instructions on how to pay with your credit or debit card. This can be used for new memberships as well.

Packers Corner

By Michael Lewis

Until about 4 years ago, most of my packing had been recreational. In my younger years, packing into the Utah Mountains for hunting, later in Wyoming to help with a few hunting camps and weekend outings, and once in California there were week trips into the Sierra's to get away for a while. Camping gear, food, etc. was the norm. Learning to judge weight, balance loads, and tie hitches, after a time, I believed I had it all figured out. I even spent a few years competing in speed hitch tying; packing contests, and pack scrambles.

Then, as I said, about four years ago I met a local by the name of Bob Jones, then president of the local BCHC organization. His enthusiasm was infectious and before long I found myself a member of the Redshank Riders unit of the Backcountry Horsemen of California and was introduced to packing trail tools. Now here was a whole new ball of wax. What I thought I knew about building a load was going to have to be re-written. Six foot long, seventeen pound rock bars, shovels, picks, chain saws and gas, ever dangerous crosscut saws, which can cripple or even kill a pack animal if not packed correctly. Then there were the things I had never even heard of: Pulaskis, McLeods, grip hoist's, punjars, boulder buster's, along with the associated rigging gear of cable, blocks, shackles... Well, not to be deterred, I jumped in with both boots and accepted any and all opportunities to pack whatever they could throw at me. It wasn't long before these new items became routine and the trips went without incident. I was even able to train two new young mules to pack along the way and add them to the string. Things were going quite well until a few weeks ago. To the best of my knowledge, the following is a list of events as they occurred on the 11th day of May, 2013.

The Potrero Canyon Decoupling:

We had taken the San Diego Natural History Museum researchers out past Agua Bonita for a 10 day stint in the desert. The pack in went smoothly and when it came time to pack them out, I took a look at the list of packers and decided we had enough help that it would be a good time to start my 2 yr. old mule in the string and stick him with a light load or no load if things got sketchy. Things didn't look good right off the bat when only two of the four packers showed up at trail head. That meant only 4 of the planned 8 head of stock were there with 7 loads to be brought out. Only one thing to do; saddle up and give it our best. My plan was to stick the youngster, Dually, between the two older mules. Tow truck in front and an anchor in the rear. Dually was a bit jumpy when saddled but I got the boxes on, hitch tied, and strung to the other two mules. I jumped into the saddle and hit the road at a pretty good pace.

They all got lined out and the ride went well for about the first mile, then something happened, my back mule set back a bit and her frayed (unbeknownst to me) halter broke. In itself, not a big deal, except for the fact that the lead, with attached very large bull snap and halter ring, still tied to Dually, proceeded to swing down, wrap around, and bang him on the back leg. Now, for a mule that is already on the edge, this was just too much. Having been doubled tied to the lead mule he couldn't go past but he sure could push and push he did. My only option was to pull them both on a circle so around and around we went. With the lead rope and snap banging him in the legs every time he jumped it seemed as though he would never stop. In fact, we went around so many times my vision began to blur and I feared I would pass out (did I mention I hate going in circles). My solution? Put myself out in front of them and hope they would stop. I gave it a shot and with a slam they stopped. To tell the truth, I carried brushes on my leg from that maneuver for a month.

Having gotten ahead of the others I stood there alone with two sweating, quivering pack mules, a wild eyed riding mule, and a third loose pack mule standing at the side of the road wondering what all the ruckus was about who then decided to head off into the desert in search of a bite to eat. There I sat in the saddle, afraid to get down for fear it would all start again and I would lose the whole bunch. Eventually Ron and Sandy Korman caught up and Sandy helped get the two pack mules over and tied to a small tree. We then went out to find mule number 3, Dustie, who was still looking for something to eat that didn't have spines. Having have caught said mule and jury rigging the broken halter, Ron volunteered to lead Dustie the remainder of the way. As luck would have it, Ron's horse was okay with Dustie anywhere but behind him so that idea was a scratch. Enter Greg Bruce, Susan and Allie. Greg asked if Dustie would follow his pack horse and, knowing she loved horses, I said yes as long as his pack horse was OK with it. Only one way to find out so tie her on the back we did. Turned out his horse was happy to have the company and Dustie was happy as a clam to just follow.

Another mile or so down the old road with Ron and Sandy in the lead, me in the middle, Greg and his crew riding drag, we turn off the road into Potrero Canyon. This is a sandy wash that runs over two miles to a crossing trail and is a

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great at taking the fire out of the stock. About halfway down we came to a 50 yard section grown over with tamarisk with a narrow trail through. Usually this is not a problem for the tamarisk is very flexible and we just push through. Did I say usually? Not today. For some unknown reason I put the boxes with the afterburners on Dually this morning and to make matters worse, the on switch is on the outside of the box. First branch to scrape the side of his boxes and it was on. Dually lit up and slammed into Dandy, who then slammed into my mule who at that point had had enough. I was in a three mule runaway with no brakes!!

As I neared the end of this hellish tunnel of tamarisk, through the tears in my eyes I saw Ron and Sandy across the trail ahead. At this speed and my lack of brakes this could not end well. So, as I broke into the open I grabbed the right rein and pulled with all my might. My mule turned, hit the bank and went to his knees. Sailing out of the saddle I, believe it or not, landed on my feet (as I found out later, into a bunch of cactus) with the reins in one hand and lead rope in the other. We all just stood there for a few minutes while my heart rate slowed, then mounted up and moved out once more. A few more tense passages through more tamarisk, all navigated at a nervous walk this time and we arrived at the main trail. One more mile up and down a narrow trail bordered by rock and cactus, past Agua Bonita and on to the camp.

All seemed settled as we rode down the hill and dismounted. I unhooked and held on to Dually and let the other mules graze. With nothing to tie to I held Dually's lead in one hand and began to pull off the lash rope with the other. The excitement wasn't over by a long shot as I was about to find out. Dually still carried the afterburner in his boxes and as luck would have it I hit the switch. He went white eyed over the rope, spun around and lit out like he was shot out of a gun. He soon disappeared into the tamarisk and mesquite and was out of site in no time. We could hear the breaking brush and banging boxes getting further and further away.

Then all of a sudden the crashing began to get closer. Great, but where would he come out? As we soon found out he broke into the clearing right where Ron and Sandy had ground tied their horses. A collision ensued, scattering the horses and dislodging one of the evil boxes. Dually then spied two mules from his own herd and made a break for them. During the final run, the pack saddle slipped to the side, relieving him of the second box. He finally used the other two mules and Scott, one of the researchers holding them, as a brake. With a slam and a whoosh, it was over. Scott caught his breath while I straightened the saddle and then let Dually trail the lead while we started building loads. I was beginning to believe I would have to leave Dually's gear here to pick up another day. Time would tell.

The plan was to get everyone loaded and ready to go and

SDNHM Researchers Pack-out past Agua Bonita

Dually's First Trip 5-11-2013



Photos by Michael Lewis

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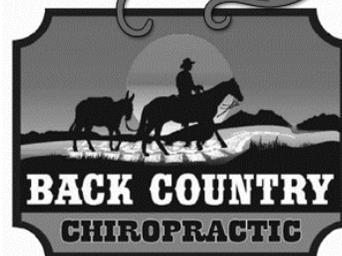


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leave Dually for last. With all the stock packed, saddle mule bridled and ready to go, we began our attempt to load Dually. With Ron at the head, Greg on one side, me on the other, we slowly lifted the lightly loaded boxes onto the mule. Off side then near side we were still in the same spot; so far so good, now the lash rope. As Dually rolled his eyes, we slowly went over, then under, hook and pulled tight. With fingers crossed we continued with the box hitch, off side built and tightened, near side built and pulled tight and tied off. With the load secured we hooked him to the lead mule, I mounted up and, with a few startled jumps from Dually, off we went up the hill out of camp. I hollered back over my shoulder that I would see everyone back at the trailers or they would find me lying in the dirt somewhere short of there. I was really hoping for the trailer.

The first mile down the narrow main trail went smoothly with no mishaps. Turning up the canyon with two miles of uphill sandy wash ahead, I thought, "if this doesn't settle him down nothing will." I was also thinking of the three tamarisk tunnels ahead. Plan was if he took off again, going uphill through the sand with no one in front to worry about running over, I would just run till they tired. Fact was, it never happened. The afterburners had been replaced with sleeping bags and kitty litter buckets full of research gear. No runaways, only a few nervous starts. We even came across the research crew, who had started for trail-head earlier, about halfway back resting in the shade. I was able to stop and chat a few minutes while the mules stood quietly. We finally exited the wash and began the final two miles up the dirt road to trail-head. A few hundred yards up the road it flattened out for a bit and I decided to stop to give the animals a breather. After standing calmly for a few minutes Dually decided he needed to shake. I had visions of our first indecent as Dually jumped at the rattle on his back and began pushing us in a circle. Lucky for me he stopped after two rounds and we continued on our way, finally arriving at the trailers in one piece. If nothing else, we got there and back with no major injuries and ended the trip on a good note. Everyone else arrived, we stripped the gear from the animals, watered them, stowed the gear and hoisted a few cold ones to a successful, although very exciting trip. I want to thank everyone for their help that day. Ron and Sandy, Susan and Allie, and especially Greg, who took on a second pack animal for the first time. Not sure how it would have turned out without you.

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CELEBRATE

NATIONAL DAY OF THE COWBOY

JULY 27, 2013 ★ 3:00 PM afternoon till?

OBSTACLE-CHALLENGE

Not a timed event but you will have a maximum time to complete the course

HOSTED BY

REDSHANK RIDERS



BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

FUN FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY !!!!

WHERE: Lions Club Arena ★ 39551 Kirby Rd., Anza, CA.

Open to all riders - need not be a member to ride ★ All riders under 18 must wear approved ASTM-SEI Helmet

DIVISIONS	PRE-ENTRY <small>Must be received by July 20</small>	DAY OF SHOW
Pee-wees 11 & under★	\$20.00	\$25.00
Youth 11-17★	\$20.00	\$25.00
Novice	\$35.00	\$40.00
Amateur	\$35.00	\$40.00
Open	\$40.00	\$45.00

Awards to above divisions

Gamblers Choice \$40.00 **If Time permits**
 **(\$20.00 goes in the pot)

For info., entries & rules email: obstacle-challenge@netzero.com
 or call Audrey 951-852-1708 or Stacy: 909-633-1705 stacykuhns@aol.com
 Food prepared by Anza Lions Club.

Free dry camping available on the night of July 27

Free Packing Clinic sponsored by Redshank Riders BCHC

Entry Form One entry form per contestant

Rider _____

Address _____

City _____, Ca. Zip Code _____

Email Address _____

Phone _____ Age if under 18 _____ ENTRY #

Emergency Contact _____ Phone _____ OFFICE USE

Relationship to Contestant _____ ONLY

Horses Name _____

Breed _____ Color _____

Pee Wee 11& under* P/E \$20.00 _____ Day of Show \$25.00 _____

Youth 12-17 years* P/E \$20.00 _____ Day of Show \$25.00 _____

Novice++ P/E \$35.00 _____ Day of Show \$40.00 _____

Amateur P/E \$35.00 _____ Day of Show \$40.00 _____

Open P/E \$40.00 _____ Day of Show \$45.00 _____

Total \$ _____ Total \$ _____

Entries For Gamblers Choice will be day of Show CASH ONLY

*Must wear ASTM/SEI Helmet to compete. Must have parent or signed guardian on show grounds to compete. No Exceptions!

++Novice may not have placed higher than third place in any CSHA/Actha/Cowboy Challenge/ Trail Trial, ETI, EXCA, AHCA or Horse Show trail class. Subject to Management approval

Mail Pre-Entry and Check by July 20, 2013 to

National Day Of the Cowboy

C/O Audrey Turpin

43820 Scrub Oak

Aguanga, Ca. 92536

Please make check out Redshank Riders BCHC

RULES FOR THIS EVENT CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.REDSHANKRIDERS.COM

JULY 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11 Unit Meeting 7pm	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27 Day of the Cowboy Celebration
28	29	30	31			

REMINDERS

The next general board meeting will be on Thursday, Jul 11th at 7 pm @ the Little Red Schoolhouse in Anza. All are welcome to attend.



Unit meetings are always on the 2nd Thursday of each month unless otherwise stated.

All Members are invited & encouraged to attend the Unit Meetings.



Welcome New Members

- Ron & Colleen Chase

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Unit Meeting
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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.