

2013 Officers

Issue 11/12

NOV/DEC 2013

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ADOPT A HIGHWAY

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Hi Guys

We have been so busy it is crazy. We had a demo at So Cal Fair in Lake Perris in October and it went well. We spoke with folks about what we do and who we are. We put up the canopy with the awesome banner with pics of our unit that Anne made; that caught a lot of attention. We have been asked back for 2014 and that's great news. We know a bit more about what to do so we can improve on it for next year. Thanks to all that participated.

We have been doing a lot of packing this season for the local agencies. We had one more resupply before the pack out two weeks later. It is never a dull moment. And the story goes like this. It had snowed the week before but the day was nice. No clouds and we had our rain gear just in case. I rode the black mare and took hobo up the mountain along with two other packers. Danny and I got ready and left the trail head and the third packer would meet us at the top with his string of three. We quietly ventured up the trail. I was in the lead, Hum, never rode this mare in the lead. I usually am packing her so let's see how this goes. She did great, no drama, just going. As we were $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way to the spike camp we started seeing snow, oh and it was getting cooler too. When we had approx. half hour to go, this is the challenging part of the trail and it was nothing but white. You could see a trail because a few hikers had trudge thru the white stuff earlier. Later we were told they got 8 inches the week before and it was not melting, it is now ice. These horses and mules did awesome. There were some spots that were a bit slick but we managed to get through them. We got to the spike camp and unloaded and reloaded with any items they needed sent back down.

We didn't sit around and chat. We were ready to head back. Huh, no word from the third packer. We started back to the trail head. As we were in the tough part, we hear "horse down" so we stop. And we are looking and then see a work crew leading a string of three mules. We discuss where he can pass us. We have been standing in this spot waiting to understand what's up. The crew member leads the mules past us. Now what! Danny and I are trying to figure out where the lead horse and the packer is. Geez the work crew said the horse is a bit down the trail. Oh that's not so good, because we can't see off the trail because of all the snow and it is nothing but huge rocks and down trees throughout the area and slick ice in spots. Oh I was so glad I was with Danny. In his quiet calm voice, well let's just go see and hope for the best. I reply, Oh boy! As we maneuvered threw the icy snow trail we kept waiting to see the "down horse". Oh, the anticipation, and hope she wasn't in the middle of the trail. It seemed forever to get through that tough part of the trail, but we did not come across his horse! Hey Danny, geez how far did Dennis walk and where is the mare? We continued riding along and we came across his mare tied to a tree approx. 30-40 minutes from the spike camp. She was standing there quietly. Now there was no snow so we went off-road around her and we continued to the trail head. Wow, I chattered to Danny for a bit on this situation. Geez this could of gone real bad, blah blah blah. And I wonder what happen with that mare. We got to the trail head and unloaded. If the packer wasn't back in half an hour I would hustle back up the trail and look for him. We briefed the State parks crew at trail head of the problem.

I was about to go back up hill when he rode back into the parking lot with his string of animals and his lead mare. What a sight for sore eyes. I didn't have to ride back, great. I asked what

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happen and he said his riding mare just quit. He had even got off and walked with her and she still quit. It had never happened before. This is a tough mountain. You gain 3,000 ft elevation in I think it is 5 miles. The weather was cold; I think that makes it harder on the lungs. She is an older mare also. He rested her often as we all do. This is not the first time he rode her on this trail, but it is the first time there was a problem. Oh my gosh, he is no spring chicken and he trudged through the snow leading his pack string of three to the spike camp with their supplies. I am so impressed, and can't think of the words. Just wow!

Two weeks later we finished the pack-out for the Fuller ridge project in October and there still was snow on the ground. This trip was uneventful, and that's always good. Can't wait till next season. As I pulled out of the parking lot I said to myself; "I love doing this and my horses and mule are great. I am grateful for new friendships and strengthening the ones I have."

I attended the State meeting for BCHC in Visalia and in this issue will be a recap of the meeting in the public lands section.

We had a blast putting on a CSHA Trail Trial. We had over 50 riders on the trail and we made money and had fun. It can't get better than that. Anne and Mike were judges that were able to ride out to their obstacles. Good times! Thanks everyone that helped out. We had some non members help us out as well. I think I recruited 3 from Star milling and Sue from Tech Mix Co. We donated half the proceeds to the San Diego County Parks Society for the Santa Margarita Preserve. It is a fun place to ride, lots of water and fantastic staging area for equestrians.

Mike located another equipment trailer. We will be transferring all the items in the small one to this larger trailer. We will be selling the smaller trailer back to the original owner, how cool is that. Thanks so much Mike for researching it out and hauling it up the hill. I wonder how long it will take to out-grow this one.

We did a PowerPoint of the accomplishments of our unit. Wow, we had a full house and there was even popcorn. This unit of Backcountry Horseman of California is doing great due to everyone coming together for a fantastic cause.

Christmas party will be at Gail's House in Aguanga. The date will be Saturday Dec 14th. It is always a fun time! We will have a gift exchange, very quick meeting for Elections, potluck and ride. Please mark your calendar. We will be making a flyer and emailing to all with directions and times.

If you don't have email, give me or another board member a call for more details.

Gift Exchange: bring a horse-related item valued \$15 to \$20

Potluck: Side Dish: A thru H—Dessert: I thru Q
Main Dish: R thru Z

Drinks provided by Redshank
Bring an item for the Toy drive and Can Food drive.

Until we see each other, enjoy the days and ride often. Cya on the trails, Joe, the pack mare, Hobo and Stacy

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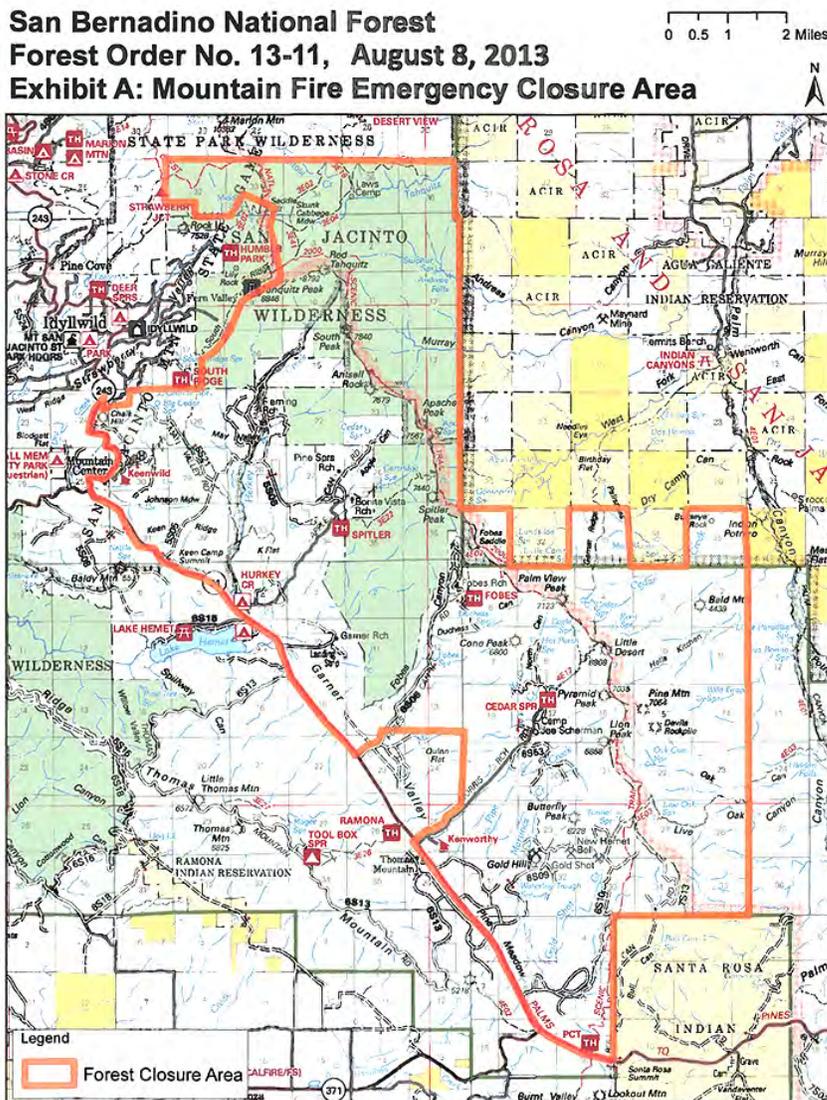
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Mountain Fire Emergency Closure San Bernardino National Forest

By: Michael Lewis

Forest and trail closures following the Mountain Fire are in effect for a reason. Anyone that has read the BAER's (Burned Area Emergency Response) report knows the dangers that exist within this area. Rock slides, hazard trees, and sections of trail that are no longer visible. Many of these trails were dangerous on a good day even without the damage from fire and flood. Even though some of the closures seem a bit overboard, because of the large area burned it is taking some time for the team to inventory and determine what's safe and what is not. Organizations such as the PCTA are working diligently to have some of these sections of trail opened as soon as possible. Our organization

has worked long and hard to develop a good working relationship with the Forest Service and we do not want to undo the progress we have made. Restoration of trails affected will be a daunting task in the coming years so we need to be ready to help where we can.



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.

Public Lands Report by Stacy Kuhns

Recap of the state meeting in Visalia 2013

FUNDRAISER TICKET AND CALENDARS SALES

At the meeting after much discussion, we took this to a vote by unit and it was 22 yes to 7 no. So we are selling tickets and giving a calendar for free. Each month on the calendar it will show one large photo and 5 small ones. Each BCHC unit will be selling to generate income for the state so we will have revenue to use things like lawsuits. It is a 58% return on the investment. The unit will front the cost and half of the profit will go to the unit and the other to the state BCHC organization. Our unit will need to sell just over 100. In the year there will be 215 ticket type drawings and they will range in cash value of \$50.00 to \$3,000.00. For \$25.00 you get a ticket for a chance to win cash and you also get a beautiful BCHC calendar for free. After you win, your ticket is put back in to win again and again! Once we let folks know that this is a fundraiser to help offset attorney fees for our public lands I am sure they will help. We just need to tell people what we do. I purchased a ticket and won twice. I doubled my money! Mid Valley Unit sold these last year and just their unit sold 1,000 of them. It is a simple and easy way to create funds. If we each sell or buy one, we have met our goal. Take them to work, give them as gifts, etc. We have all of 2014 to sell them. We will also sell them at our booth at Rendezvous. We will get a presentation together and will show at a meeting and also put in newsletter when we get closer. We need to submit photos for the 2015 calendar by Nov 27, 2013 they need to be in high resolution. They can be emailed, put on a cd or a thumb drive. Need to be submitted to Lynn Joiner.

CROSS CUT CERTIFICATIONS

BCHC will write a detailed policy for cross cut. This is great for us. We can certify ourselves instead of outside agency. They are working on it and should be complete in mid spring. The national policy was completed this year. It is a one day course. First aid, CPR are also required. Chainsaw certification will be with forestry and hotshot. If your card is expired it needs to be recertified.

CENTER OF EXCELLENCE PROGRAM

This will include packing safety that BCHC is helping with.

WILDERNESS ACT

2014 will be the 50th year for the Wilderness Act. It was discussed to contact our forest dept to go to Rendezvous and make a large impact of this year celebration and at a unit level as well.

BYLAW DISCUSSION

Discussion to put in unit by laws that the trail boss or lead packer can send someone home due to safety reasons.

MOUNTAIN BIKE

Discussion on the bike issues and there were many good stories on how the bikers and equestrians are working together. It comes down to these three basics that we need to discuss. They are safety, common sense and education. Statistics IMBA 4 million members compared to 11,000 horse owners. Bikes 4 billion dollars vs. horses 7 billion dollars. We may need to work on the multi use trails to help design and control speed. Bikes should not be available on all trails. We need to build a relationship with the bike groups. Discussion of the 392 page draft from State parks trail use conflict study. It had reclassification of design on trails. In the next few years we will have more front country issues. The mountain bike communities are still pushing to ride on the PCT. BCHC stand is to keep the mountain bikers off the PCT.

INSURANCE

Anyone under 18 must wear a helmet. No one under 6 on horseback at an event. There needs to be a signed permission to treat if the parent is not at the event. Vice Presidents should do the insurance requests and get

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to Richard. Richards Rule of thumb is “if a non member can get hurt by a horse, make it an insurance day”

MEMBERSHIP

Our state wide membership is bouncing around 2864 members. It was discussed to bring in young people/ college students there would be a discount for the first year. A college student or young adult over 18 must not live at home. Age 18-25 the charge would be 20.00. Again this was idea and not finalized. We must find a way to get youth involved with our organization. If the unit wants to sponsor the youth they can and pay their membership.

OFFICER TRAINING

Also after lengthy discussion the officer training will be at rendezvous instead of separate meetings throughout the state.

PUBLIC LANDS

Trail classification process to find out where we are regarding pack stock, design and if maintained. There are still a few areas that need to be addressed.

Large discussion of the Toad issue in the Sierra. It was decided to get other user groups involved as this has to do with their experience as well as ours. There was a meeting held at the Bishop office which included dept of fish and wildlife, forestry and other agencies. There seemed to be a lot of confusion and they will be scheduling another meeting to try to explain the process. At the high elevations they are killing the fish because they stated the fish are killing the toads. The areas to be closed in the 2.2 million acres also include rock areas, which toad do not habitat. The head of the Inyo Forest stated at the Bishop meeting the “commercial packing, recreation and cattle grazing does not impact.” This issue needs to involve other users groups too, Backpackers, hunters and anglers.

The lakes will eventually need to be re established. It was discussed to involve to fishing industry and county supervisors to help get the fish back into the lakes.

ACTION ALERTS

It was also discussed to identify ACTION ALERTS and make it easy for members to understand the issues. Just show bullet points and also have avail the complete document if anyone wants to read the entire lengthy document.

The List of Winners for the November 2 Ride & Obstacle Event

Audrey Turpin on Dollar placed 1st - Prize: a \$50 gift card to Black Angus Restaurant.

Audrey Turpin on Pete was 2nd place but asked that we consider Pete in “audit” status.

Denise Desens placed 2nd - Prize: a \$25 gift card to Apple Bee’s Restaurant.

Rosie Garcia placed 3rd - Prize: a \$10 gift card to Jack in the Box.

Adrian Desens placed 4th - Prize: a \$5 gift card to Jack in the Box.

Jackie Lewis placed 5th - Prize: a \$5 gift card to Dairy Queen.

Mike Lewis placed 6th - Prize: a \$5 gift card to Dairy Queen.

Val Young placed 7th - Prize: a sample pack of CPR for Leather.

Claudia Beutel placed 8th - Prize: a sample Star Milling Apple Treats

See full story & photos on page 6

On November 2nd we had a trail obstacle course at Laurie Stanton's property in Anza. It was held for schooling purposes. Many poles and "scary" plastics were encountered throughout the course. The weather could not have been more perfect. Mike Lewis pulled in at 8am with his fancy "living quarter" horse trailer, which he generously allowed members to use for the restroom. The remaining trailers pulled in directly behind him following parking instructions given by our new member, Marlene Plattel and her dog, Hershey. Each person was given a release of liability form as they went up to the arena and practiced the obstacles prior to judging.

Our 5 judges were Allison Renck, Ron Lawson, Cary Lewis along with new members Patty Kendal and Tracy Bassett. They all walked the course for judging directions. Allison was asked if she would stay in the remote "back" trail area due to her cool thinking and medical background. With walkie-talkie in hand, she agreed. A cool-headed Ron Lawson was also asked to stay in the "remote" area as a judge. Allison judged the caution tape, natural logs and back trail area. Ron judged the bridge, natural slope poles and scary plastic in the mail box.

Cary Lewis judged the gate, tarp & blocks while Tracy Bassett judged the poles, bell, back through "L" and log drag. Patty Kendall judged the packer's corner, poles, rope gate, trash bag carry and shower curtain raise. Cary Lewis may decide to never judge the tarp and block obstacle again, since I think he had to pick up those poles & blocks after every horse. All judges were supplied with chairs, tables and shade, but they all wanted to be in the "thick of things" and were standing on their feet in the sun. All judges did an excellent job and I am very thankful for their time!

All the riders and horses performed well in the arena and outside area. Knowing that each horse and rider was capable and safe, they headed out for their short trail ride. Ron Lawson and Marlene Plattel handled the road crossing at Chapman and the 200 yards down dirt Terwilliger to ensure the rider's safety against speeding drivers.

The only radio communication I heard on trail was for a bathroom break and a car coming, so it sounds like all went well on the trail. Scott Lamsky and Claudia Beutel were the trail lead and Mike Lewis was the drag. I was told that all the horses passed the pig without incident and the pig was on his best behavior.

Ron Lawson shuttled everyone up from the trailers to the lunch area (a.k.a tarp city) where cold sandwiches were served. Gail McCreight had driven to town and back to pick up the lunch items. After meeting the new members and catching up on the day's adventures, the awards were presented.

The host had a good time and appreciates the attendance by all parties and the hard work done by the volunteers. THANK YOU!



Redshank Rider Trail Obstacle & Ride Day



RSR Riders & Volunteers



Scott Lamky waiting to lead trail



Judges: Patty Kendall, Allison Renck, Cary Lewis, Ron Lawson (& Tracy Bassett not pictured)



Audrey Turpin, Ron Lawson & Allison Renck



The Lawson Shuttle



Jerry Young and towering steed

Story & Photos by Laurie Stanton

Packers Corner

By: Michael Lewis

Summer has come to an end and we are finishing up a very busy season of pack support. With the help of a number of our members for just four major projects, (Centennial Resurvey [SDNHM], PCTA / Apache Springs, State Parks / Fuller Ridge project, and USFS / Palm Canyon), with one project remaining we have packed in to date 81 loads, which works out to about 12,000 pounds of gear and food, ridden 460 miles of trail and hauled stock over 2600 miles. This does not include personal projects and re-con in the Beauty Mountain Wilderness, Cleveland National Forest, and San Bernardino National Forest.

San Diego Natural History Museum Centennial Resurvey:

Our trip into Palm Canyon concluded our three years of pack support for this group. We all had a great time and the folks on the crew were really appreciative of our efforts. We made some friends and will miss seeing them. This trip included packing help from Stacy Kuhns, Audrey Turpin, Greg Bruce with Susan and Allie, Danny Sullivan, Ron and Sandy Korman, and Michael Lewis

PCTA / Apache Springs

Our pack support for crews working on the PCT continues. This year we returned to Apache Springs with Heidi Brill (PCTA Technical Adviser) and her ACE (American Conservation Experience) crew for 10 days of tread repair and trail work. The sad part about this is the fact that the Mountain Fire swept through that area and destroyed all their work. They remain undaunted and are continuing their work. The middle of November we will be packing them into Mission Creek for another hitch on the PCT. Pack crew included Stacy Kuhns, Danny Sullivan and Michael Lewis

California State Parks - Fuller Ridge Project

We have just concluded our fourth year of pack support for this project. With an average of 10 loads that needed to go up every two weeks it was difficult to keep up. Sometimes going three weeks in a row and even two straight days. In the end we got it all up and back down. With the final pack-out in October in the snow, they crew was ready to leave the mountain for the winter. Next year work will continue with more pack support. After four years this crew is more like family and we look forward to helping out again next year.

USFS Tamarisk Abatement Palm Canyon

This year we were asked to provide pack support for a USFS led UCC (Urban Conservation Corps) crew for an ongoing project to eradicate the invasive Tamarisk plant. This non-native plant has taken hold in our local canyons and is crowding out many native species. The window for treatment is very narrow, being in the fall when sap is traveling to the roots but before they shed their leaves and become difficult to find. With no water available in this part of Palm Canyon the largest portion of the pack-in was water. Friday we hauled in 4 loads (80 gallons) of water to be stashed and the following Wednesday packing the crews food, gear, and remaining water (another 2 loads, 40 gallons) to the camp. A total of 11 loads were taken in which included 6 loads of water totaling 1,000 pounds, 3-chain saws, 2-jugs of chain saw fuel, 6 gallons of herbicide, loppers, tents, sprayers, and cooking utensils. Stacy brought her new mule HOB0 for this hitch and found out what it's like to drag an anchor for 7 miles. Along with that he would go out of his way to hit every tree or bush along the trail. Guess he was making it wider for the rest of us. Trip number two found him dressed in a mule halter equipped with a chain. He followed along like a puppy dog and Stacy did not have to dally the whole way. Every trip is a learning experience. The trip out was somewhat easier with no water, just empty water bottles and the rest of the gear. Thanks to Stacy Kuhns, Danny Sullivan, Tom and Cathy Firth for all their help.

PCTA / Mission Creek

Once again we will return to Mission Creek, which will probably our last pack support project for the year. This is a smaller project with only 4 loads going in but is as important as the others. We look forward to seeing Heidi and her crew once again along with Chris Haley from BLM.

If next year is anything at all like this year we can use all the help we can get. Till next time *"Keep your loads balanced and your lash ropes tight"*.

December 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14 Gen'l Meeting, Ride, Potluck
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

REMINDERS

The next general board meeting is a Ride, Potluck & Xmas Party Gail's House in Aguanga. The date will be Saturday Dec 14th. We will have a gift exchange, a very quick meeting for Elections, potluck and a ride. Flyer coming soon.



Gift Exchange: Bring a horse-related item valued \$15 to \$20

Potluck: Side Dish: A thru H Dessert: I thru Q Main Dish: R thru Z
Drinks provided by Redshank

*****Bring an item for the Toy drive and Can Food drive.*****

See Inside for Details

~ Sat., Dec 14th ~

Unit Meeting, Ride & Potluck

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.