



2017 Officers

Issue 4

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PRESIDENT

Greg Bruce
(951) 7514-9999
ribbinwoodrider@outlook.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jack Peckham
jack@greythreads.com

SECRETARY

Maryann Puett
puett.maryann@gmail.com

TREASURER

Allison Cornell
allisoncornell@me.com

NEWSLETTER EDITOR &
WEB TECH

Rhonda Strickland
(951) 951-522-8757
redshank.webmaster@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER CO-EDITOR

Stacy Kuhns

PUBLIC LANDS CO-CHAIRS

Allison Renck
(951) 763-0374
Ali9591@aol.com
Ed Puett
(760) 445-0937
edpuett@gmail.com

EDUCATION CO-CHAIR/STATE REP

Stacy Kuhns
(909) 633-1705
stacykuhns@aol.com

EDUCATION CO-CHAIR/

Thomas Firth
(951) 551-9711
Leciil_hadley@hotmail.com

MEMBERSHIPCOORDINATOR/HISTORIAN

Carol Schmuhl
(951) 663 6763
lfeedemandleadem@aol.com

ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Cathy Firth
(951) 551-9711
outwest39@hotmail.com

RIDE COORDINATOR

Cindy Hay
(760) 831-9106
cndhay@hotmail.com
Redshank Riders
P.O. Box 383
Aguanga, CA 92536

Presidents Message**Howdy Folks**

We all take a sabbatical from riding occasionally sometimes it is planned; sometimes life just gets in the way. Often what gets us back in the saddle is an impromptu ride with friends and at these times, I seem to find out just how ready I'm not. I cannot figure out why when I unsaddled that time a month ago everything was fine. When I get to the trail head, open the tack room and go to saddle up something is missing or broken. Then I remember! Oh yeah, I took the reins off this bridle to use on that other one, and it's still there. Or, I lent my whatchamacallit to someone who I know had the best intentions of putting it back but didn't. Oh well, I'm sure I have an extra somewhere in the tack room.



I remember one time back home one of my best friends' parents showed up at a penning and since they were running late and in a desperate hurry both figured that the other had taken care of it and **forgot the horses in the corral**. Thirty years later, they still hear a chuckle and "remember that time you showed up without your horses?"

So what do we do to make sure everything is with us and in good shape? I bet some of us are better at it than others are. I know I have the best of intentions and every time I figure I might need something I toss it in my trailer. This works great for a while but somehow my trailer gets so full and I end up emptying the whole dang thing out just to get to a hoof pick that filtered itself to the bottom. While am digging for the hoof pick I have occasionally come across other useful or lost items like my favorite coffee cup that disappeared a few months ago and it now has a half inch of crusted coffee cemented to the bottom. I have found wrenches, bolt cutters, skill-saws, axes, dinner plates and full cans of beer; (really not sure how that could have happened). Oh well it was a little skunky and warm but it was still wet.

Sometimes I figure there is a black hole on my property that has a beginning on the top of workbenches or dressers, kitchen cabinets and storage sheds with an ending in my horse trailer tack room. Last time after a sabbatical when I opened my tack room door it burst open and stuff fell out like a scene from an old I love Lucy sitcom.

I did make a mental note to myself after taking all that stuff out to get to my hoof pick and then putting it all back that I had best take the time to organize my tack room soon. But right now were in a hurry to meet up with our friends so, back in it goes. Hmmm now, I thought I had a half-full cup of coffee somewhere.

Anyway, here come Susan and Ali with all their stuff. There is no room in the tack room so I guess I will have to shift some stuff around in the back of the truck to accommodate their saddles and bridles and pads and water and lunch. Susan always has a great-organized list in her head and she starts going down her list as were going out the gate. Did you remember this... how about that... do the trailer lights work, how about the air in the tires...it's a good thing I have spares of almost everything in the tack room.

Let's get to riding:

Yer Prez

Greg Bruce

REDSHANK RIDERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
(Draft)

March 9, 2017

ATTENDANCE: Ed Puett, Mary Ann Puett, Thomas Firth, Susan Blankenfeld, Alison Blankenfeld, Allison & Kate Cornell, Charlie & Nizna Cheek, Jackie Hare, Gail McCreight, Jack Peckham, Gretchen Peckham, Allen Dor, Greg Bruce, Michael Lewis, Stacy Kuhns, Robert Drewery, Susan Gonzalez, Helen Steenman, Carol Schmuhl, Rosie Grindle, Ron Lawson, Daryl Packer, Susan Kontoff, Pebbles Lewis

NEW FOLKS: DARRYL AND HELEN

President Greg Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:05PM and asked all members and guests to sign in.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: Mary Ann Puett read minutes. MIKE LEWIS ASKED THAT ADDITION OF RADIOS BEING USED FOR PACK SUPPORT AND TRAIL MAINTENANCE. Secretary's report approved with addition. Motion passed.

TREASURER'S REPORT: given by Allison Cornell

Beginning Balance - \$6,335.38
Revenue - \$204.00
Expenses - \$305.00
Net Gain/Loss - (\$101.00)
Closing Balance - \$6,234.38

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: given by Carol Schmuhl

Total of 82 memberships / 123 persons
Families: 41
Individuals: 33
Associates: 6
Patron: 1
Benefactor: 1
No memberships expired during the month of February.
One new member - Dr. David Haddad / Bonsall, CA
WELCOME DAVID!!

HISTORIAN'S REPORT: No Activity

RIDE REPORT: Cindy Hay absent - no report

Trail / Work Ride - Million Dollar Trail & 4 other trails - Saturday March 11 (11 mile loop) - southwest part of Beauty Mountain - Tom Firth to host - bring your lunch - meet at Tulle Peak Trail Head

PUBLIC LANDS REPORT given by Allison Renck

Troy at BCHC Public Lands - Two related issues - federal lands transfer to state or sale...more information coming. New Bill HR1349 has been introduced that would allow wheelchairs, bicycles, wheeled carts, etc. on wilderness areas. Allison Renck to draft a letter from the unit to say that we disagree... Also Bill HR622 - terminates law enforcement duties of Forestry and allows local law enforcement to take over these duties.

Allison was at the State Board meeting for BCHC last month - Forest Service act that requires Forest Service to use volunteer groups. No date yet on Anza Borrego area.

EDUCATION REPORT: given by Tom Firth

Set the date Train the Trainer course - June 3 and 4. Sign up ASAP as space is very limited

Wilderness Rider applications are at Rendezvous - course is at Big Meadow after Labor Day.

Recap of the newest BCHC State Board Meeting will be in the next Newsletter

NO Calendar sales for 2018: many groups refused and the project was not breaking even. BIG QUESTION: We need suggestions and ideas for fundraising in order to bring in monies for BCHC.

NEW BOOTH COORDINATOR: ???

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY REPORT: given by Cathy Haun-Firth

Cancelled for Saturday, March 11. No new date assigned yet

OLD BUSINESS:

Radios - gathering the parts needed to program them.
Need to coordinate all so they are available for the SAW CLASS
CPR - trying to get a date (April 15 or 29) - will get the instructor on board
Saw Class - rescheduled for March 31 and April 1
First Aid Kits - Greg Bruce is still working on this...

NEW BUSINESS:

PER CAROL SCHMUHL - NEED NEW TIRE COVERS FOR THE UNIT TRAILER PARKED IN HER TURN-OUT - Jack Peckham to pick them up
Raffle Tickets (\$5 each) for Kennedy Meadows Resort and Gun Store \$500 for RENDEZVOUS available
BCHC Insurance renewal finished
Rendezvous in Bishop - March 17-19
Request from Allison Renck's 4-H group to borrow our unit tables for their garden party fundraiser - Sunday, May 7 - 1-4 PM - OK'D
May meeting to be Potluck and Movie at Mike and Pebbles Lewis 'house - May 20 at 1300 - Potluck 58331 Baily Road, Anza, Ca
Carol Schmuhl - Kiosk? Ann York needs a warm day to finish her part - needs a deadline. Stacy Kuhns to speak to her.

Bruce Greg adjourned meeting at 8:05 PM.

SPEAKER: Stacy Kuhns and Allison Renck reported on their recent trip to the BCHC Board meeting. They were asked to implement similar processes and procedures for the state at the local level to help with professionalism, efficiency and consistency.



BCHC Rendezvous 2017

Honoring the Past-Moving into the Future

Submitted by Allison Renck—Education Co-Chair

Well, all of you that couldn't make it up to Bishop on March 17-19 missed a fun BCHC Rendezvous.

Although this Rendezvous was not as well attended as those in the past, it was still a great place to socialize, catch up with friends and learn

a few things. Some of the highlights of my BCHC Rendezvous experience included some interesting classes, helping with the Beer and Wine Tasting and being able to take in the mountain views, which surround the Tri-County Fairgrounds in Bishop.

One of the classes I most enjoyed was *"100 Mules Walking the Los Angeles Aqueduct"* which was a movie made by Lauren Bon and Metabolic Studio. The photography in this movie was awesome. It highlighted a trip from the Owens Valley to Los Angeles following the California Aqueduct. The movie ended showing the mules being let out into the LA Equestrian Arena and the visuals of this were wonderful.

Another class I attended was *"Tales from the Trail: One Woman, One Horse and One Dog set off on a 3 month 1,100 Mile Adventure"*. This class featured Samantha Szesciarha telling her story about all the things she encountered when riding 1,100 miles in northern Nevada. Other classes I attended while at Rendezvous included Backcountry Horse First Aid (Excellent), How to pony your stock (Excellent) and of course who could miss the Dutch oven cooking classes, with the free food samples?

Once again, our unit supplied some great volunteers to help. Stacy Kuhns and Mike Lewis

handled everything related to the vendors which included registration and set-up. Pebbles Lewis took the reins on the Wine and Beer Tasting event that included help from Cathy Firth, Gail McCreight, Nyna Cheek, Stacy Kuhns and Mike Lewis. Mary Ann Puett helped at the hospitality area and our great teachers Mike Lewis and Tom Firth educated people in various presentations from Packing to "Leave No Trace".



(Continued on page 4)

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This year two of our members, Ed Puett and Nyna Cheek decided to apply for "Wilderness Riders" and they will be facing tough competition. Fourteen people interviewed for ten volunteer openings and there will be interviews in the northern part of the state so please join us in "Rooting" for Ed and Nyna!

To make this year extra special our own Education Chairperson Thomas Firth received the Backcountry Horsemen of California Education Award. "Great Job Tom!"



So with the 30th BCHC Rendezvous packed up, lashed down and moving down the trail to its next destination, I wonder how BCHC will change next year's Rendezvous to make it meet the challenges of a new era of stock users?

An updated message from your Ride Coordinator - Cindy Hay

Cathy and Tom had to cancel the Beauty Mountain ride in April. If rescheduled we will let you know.

Gretchen and Jack have reserved May for a ride on their side of the valley, date to be announced. Rosie is looking at early June for a ride on the Lake Riverside Estates trails.

So far, nothing is scheduled after June!

Want to host a ride?

Please contact Cindy at cnhdhay@hotmail.com

Stay tuned for updates and flyers!

We will keep you posted as rides and dates are firmed up.

Sunday, April 2nd: Backcountry Horsemen of Calif. (BCHC) saw certification class. This is the first of its kind in the national program to establish a cadre of saw instructors with one-card recognized by all. With Michael Lewis, Stacy Kuhns, Greg Bruce, Jack Peckham Ed Puett, Tom Firth & a few other participants.

BCHC Sawyer Certification Class



Photos by Tom Firth, Stacy Kuhns and Greg Bruce

A weekend to remember...

Kofa Preserve

Plan on joining BCH's campout for the weekend. Kofa preserve is absolutely beautiful and will be a trip you will always remember. Kofa is about an hour north of Yuma. It is crucial that horses get the appropriate shots in leaving and reentering the state. There are no trails and the grounds are beautiful. The first time I was out there I just could not get enough. Every turn of the head provided picturesque scenery, so bring a camera. We will do a group ride on Saturday, and the rest of the time you will love going off on your own., (if you want to). We are in the process of setting up a date for the blood work where we can all meet with animals to reduce the cost.

Please feel free to contact me at eandrqualityfeed@yahoo.com

Elaine Bailey



Please let me know by March 24th... that you are coming!

eandrqualityfeed@yahoo.com

858.922.8019

WILDERNESS RIDER PROGRAM

SIGN UP AND INTERVIEW NOW

The Wilderness Rider program is a partnership between Backcountry Horsemen of California, the National Park Service, the USDA Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. Wilderness Riders are trained stock users who have made a commitment to educating others about the value of wild lands and the importance of Gentle Use / Leave No Trace Skills.



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For more information, see website or contact the Wilderness Rider Steering Committee Chair:
<http://bchcalifornia.org/wr.htm> - Dan Horn at bearstrap@msn.com

Horse Bit Guide

Horse bits are common pieces of horse tack that are placed in the horse's mouth and used to control the horse's speed and direction and also to get the horse to stop. The rider will cue the horse to perform a certain action by moving the bit and creating pressure in different parts of the horse's mouth and face. A horse, in an attempt to avoid the pressure, is compelled to change pace, direction, or posture. Bits with shanks and curb chains cause pressure under a horse's chin in his curb area, and often put pressure on the sensitive area behind his ears, or the poll area.

Horse Bit Types

Port Bits apply pressure and increase the pressure on the bars, creating a stronger signal. Ports measuring over 2" can also pressure the palate to encourage flexing at the poll.



Snaffle bits use a bit ring at the mouthpiece, not the mouthpiece itself, to apply pressure on the bars, tongue, and corner of the mouth. When used properly, a snaffle is considered a gentler bit. Shanks on a bit intensify the pressure the rider creates by pulling the reins.



Curb bits use a type of lever called a shank to multiply the pressure the rider puts on the reins. More pressure is applied with a longer shank. In addition to creating pressure on the horse's bars, tongue, and roof of the mouth, a horse will also feel pressure on the poll and chin groove.



A Pelham is a type of curb bit with two sets of reins attached to rings at the mouthpiece and end of the shank, and in part combines snaffle and curb pressure.



A Gag bit may resemble a snaffle or curb bit, but includes many more slots or rings to provide leverage by sliding the bit up into the horse's mouth. This is considered a severe design.



Chifney anti - rearing bits are semi-circular shaped with three rings and a port or straight mouthpiece used when leading horses. The circular part is placed under the jaw, and the port or straight piece is placed inside the mouth. The bit is attached either to a separate headpiece or the head collar, and the severity of the pressure is limited as the lead is clipped onto the bit and headcollar.



A bit is only as severe as it is used by the rider...

E. Bailey

Thank you to Martin Jorgenson, Elaine Bailey (San Diego Unit Education Chair) and Ray Spence (San Diego Unit Vice President) for sharing this information with us!!

Public Lands Alerts:

A bill introduced by Tom McClintock and Duncan Hunter - HR1349 states that it would amend the Wilderness Act of 1964 to allow bikes, wheelchairs, strollers and wheeled carts in the Wilderness. Backcountry Horsemen of California is opposed to this bill because it would eliminate the preservation of the wilderness character due to the need to make improved trails to accommodate these mechanical transports. The wilderness act specifically states *“there shall be not commercial enterprise and no permanent road within any wilderness area designated by this Act and except as necessary to meet minimum requirements for the administration of the area for the purpose of this Act, there shall be no temporary road, no use of motor vehicles, motorized equipment or motor boats, no landing of aircraft, no other form of mechanical transport and no structure or installation within any such area.”* (1964 Wilderness Act, Prohibition of certain uses (c))

Another item to be aware of is a Federal Lands Transfer proposal. This would allow the Federal Government to transfer public lands to the States and then they would be able to decide how to manage the lands or to sell them if they desire. **At the next BCHC board meeting the BCHC Public Land VP's will propose that BCHC take action to stop this process**

In a related item please be aware of HR622 - The bill would terminate law enforcement functions of the Forest Service and BLM and would allow the state to take over any law enforcement duties on public lands.

Local issue of Importance - Vail Lake/Sundance Properties: the Rancho California Water District is looking into a management plan for these properties. and please go to this link and read about what they might decide to do: <http://www.ranchowater.com/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Item/1119?fileID=1337>

Please contact your local representatives regarding these items and make your voice heard.

Thank you,

Allison Renck Co-Chairperson Public Lands

General Meeting

Thursday April 13th ~ 7 PM
At the Little Red Schoolhouse

Aguaanga, CA 92536

P.O. BOX 383

BCHC

Redshank Riders



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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.