



2017 Officers

Issue 10

OCTOBER 2017

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Howdy Folks

This next month we have a very special Guest speaker. I have known Vincent for about 15 years and known of him for a few years longer. Many of us know him as "Horse Dancer". He has earned this handle and to witness him ride is almost spiritual. Vincent has a special connection with horses and has an almost magical way of sharing his ability to partner with the horse. He helps you find the best of yourself with your horse. Don't miss this opportunity.

The Red Shank Riders Accomplishments

So many things are quickly forgotten. Looking back, I am amazed just how much we do as a BCHC unit and how much we have accomplished over the past couple of years. I feel proud of all of us; we really do make a difference. The one thing I don't even know how to put on this is the action alerts. Allison Renck has been amazing in our public lands division keeping us abreast of all the legal issues that have come up. I hope we all take it seriously, make our calls, and write our letters because this is the future of our riding in the back country, if we don't have trails we are stuck in the arenas. Your President, Greg Bruce

From Oct 2016 to Oct 2017

2016

October

Palm canyon tamarisk pack in and out
Public Poker ride fund raiser

November

Pack into fire tower Taquitz
kiosk frame install

December

Unit board elections and Christmas party

2017

January

officers training
highway cleanup

February

Beauty mountain wilderness (BMW) cleanup
Horse expo Pomona

March

BMW trail work ride X 2
Rendezvous
BMW Kiosk work party

April

chain saw class
highway cleanup
BMW unit ride
Crosscut class
San Diego Natural history museum pack support to Joshua tree in and out



May

Haystrings unit ride
Pack support into Taquitz creek

June

Cahuilla Haystrings unit ride
Vegas Crosscut saw class
Leave no trace Train the trainer
Pack out of Taquitz creek

July

Fuller ridge pack in
Fuller ridge re supply

August

Load of tools to Taquitz creek
Fuller ridge resupply twice
BMW kiosk finished
PCT tree removal
Highway cleanup
LNT Masters training

September

Fuller ridge resupply twice
Palm canyon tamarisk eradication pack in and out
national public lands day support at ribbon wood horse camp area
pack support tools to Taquitz creek
log out of saddle junction

**REDSHANK RIDERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES
(Draft) September 14, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Ed Puett, Mary Ann Puett, Allen Ray, Tom Firth, Mike Lewis, Greg Bruce, Stacey Kuhns, Charlie and Nyna Cheek, Cathy Firth, Cindy Hay, Carol Schmuhl, Rosie Grindle, Wendy DeCoste, Audrey DeCoste, Jack Peckham, Gretchen Peckham, Robert Drewery, Susan Gonzales, Gail McCreight, Pebbles, Lewis

NEW FOLKS: Wendy and Audrey DeCoste

Next Meeting: OCTOBER 12, 2017

President Greg Bruce called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and asked all members and guests to sign in.

REPORTS:

SECRETARY'S REPORT: given by Mary Ann Puett. Moved, seconded and passed that Secretary's report be adopted as read with the correction of "Tim" as Mike

TREASURER'S REPORT: given by Nyna Cheek. Moved, seconded and passed that Treasurer's Report be accepted as read.

Beginning Balance - \$5,087.88

Revenue - \$86.50

Expenses - \$648.85

Net Loss - \$(562.35)

Closing Balance - \$4525.53

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Carol Schmuhl

TOTAL MEMBERSHIPS: 78

TOTAL PERSONS = 115

TOTAL FAMILY = 37

TOTAL INDIVIDUALS = 32

TOTAL ASSOCIATES = 7

TOTAL PATRON = 1

TOTAL BENEFACTOR = 1

NO NEW MEMBERSHIPS DURING AUGUST

Three memberships expired during the month - renewed

HISTORIAN'S REPORT: No Activity

BOOTH COORDINATOR: Rosie Grindle —NO REPORT

RIDE REPORT: given by Cindy Hay: nothing scheduled, given by Cindy Hay

1. Nothing is scheduled for the rest of the year
2. SD Unit cancelled their ride at the Santa Margarita as they wanted us to lead it
3. Greg Bruce may lead a ride later in the year

PUBLIC LANDS REPORT given by Allison Renck

1. Keep writing to Senators and Congressmen on Bill 1349 to keep wheeled vehicles off the trails
2. Some easements have already been lost but push to keep the Temecula trails open through the wine country
3. Riverside County needs to fund trails and not just put

these expenses into "parks" as the trails will never be funded

4. Santa Margarita Trail has a petition that needs our attention
5. November 30 – National Public Lands Day – can stay at Ribbonwood
6. Trail money from the Federal Government can be used for other state expenses if we allow the state government to do it.

EDUCATION REPORT: Stacy Kuhns/Tom Firth

1. Masters program was a success – Big Meadow Horse Camp in Sequoia National Forest. First time combined for a Masters LNT and Wilderness Rider course. Next interview process will be at Norco Rendezvous in 2019. Ken from National Forest Service indicated that this course was the best ever.
2. State level elections in November – Stacy and Tom will co-chair the Education for BCHC
3. Next Train the Trainer for LNT in June, 2018

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

Due in November so she will let us know in October

OLD BUSINESS:

1. KIOSK – Mike Lewis and crew have mostly finished the kiosk. Stacy is working with Ann on map and layout for an informational two-sided pamphlet. Later perhaps they could be printed on paper and sold.
2. Susan Anderson's ride is coming up September 23 and 24. Still needs lots of volunteers for traffic control and cookie making. Donate cookies for Vet Checks. Gretchen and Jack signed up volunteers from RSR. Pre-meeting on Thursday 9/21 night at Susan's house at 530pm. Cindy Hay and Rosie Grindle will have a booth at the event to sell RSR gear as a fundraiser. Need volunteers after the ride to remove manure from Forest Service land
3. Rosie Grindle will paint an original oil for a fundraiser auction prize at the Christmas Party. The group put a limit of \$30 on supplies to be paid to Rosie for painting. Jack Peckham made the motion and Ed Puett seconded. Motion carried.
4. Packing Clinic – Mike Lewis said Diane at Winchester Saddlery is willing to do free advertising. Use real and metal mules for demonstrations and even have someone in mind to supply a meal. Need to make sure the insurance is acquired prior to the educational event; November 4, 2017. Jack Peckham to check on the insurance. Talked about donation jar at event as well as selling RSR gear and possible auction items. Need a poster or two and a flier for the event. Cindy will attempt the flier.
5. Anza Co-Op installed poles for Beauty Mountain Trail Head for us!! Thanks Co-Op!! RSR to send a card thanking the crew. Tom asked for 2 extra large Pizzas for the crew as a thank you. Tom made a motion, Stacy seconded, motion carried. Tom to

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)

make sure the crew actually gets the pizzas.

6. Professionalism of the unit in our by-laws – recommendations from state level BCHC. Corrections include the addition of past president to the board. This change can be read out at the December meeting – Chip at state level on by-laws. Needs to be done for packet for change request by end of November.

NEW BUSINESS:

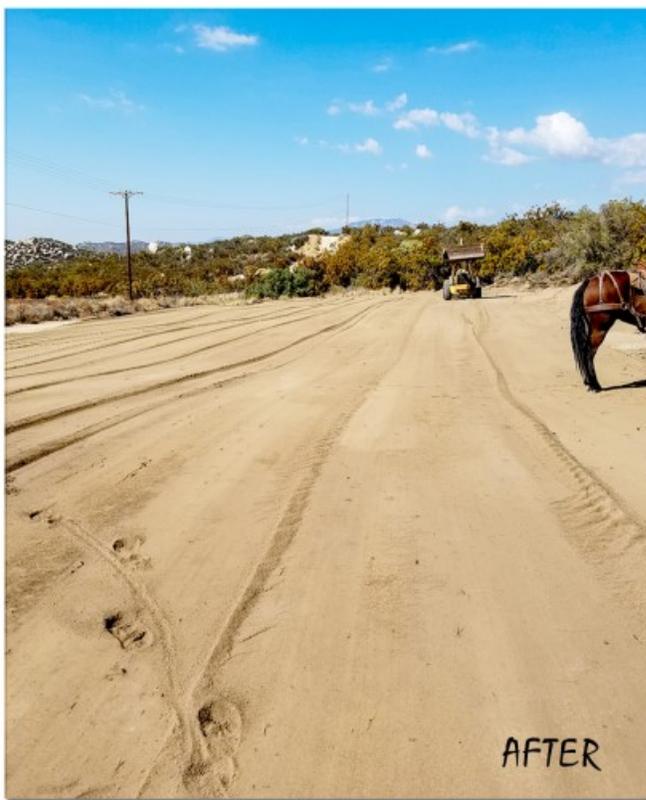
1. Greg Bruce will be stepping down next year as President, so we need to be suggesting new candidates.
2. November meeting may be at Pizza place as it is free and our rent for schoolhouse is up in October.
3. Movie night – Tucker's War???
4. Ride in Beauty Mountain Wilderness to celebrate the opening of the trail head.
5. Greater Lake Matthews Riding group – Group will be speaking at their next meeting mid-October) and they would like us to host a ride. Perhaps invite them to the dedication ride to the Beauty Mountain Wilderness trail.
6. Tom Firth says that we have a tool called the Mountain Communities' calendar; which we should start using to avoid scheduling conflicts (such as the upcoming Ride on the Rez and the Iron Horse Endurance Ride). Stacy stated that Mike Williams is working on a southern CA electronic calendar for scheduling equine events for all Southern CA.
7. Mike Williams is helping with the Pomona event. Williams is heading up the Horse Expo, in March 2018.
8. Mike Williams is helping with Norco Horse Affaire October 6, 7 and 8, 2017.
9. Robert Drewery makes an annual calendar and 2018 will feature the horse and he is asking for photos from us of our horses that will be interesting to even non-horse folks. Need photos to go to susang34@verizon.net. Send photos separately in emails to him.
10. Auction for mug on Beauty Mountain– went to Nyna Cheek – earned \$30
11. Anyone needing chain and crosscut saw class videos see Ed.

Motion to close meeting by Gail McCreight and seconded by Ed Puett. Motion carried. The meeting was adjourned at 8: 05PM by Greg Bruce.

Speaker was Johnny Roberts of the Manzanita Ranch.

We a happy to announce our guest speaker for October's general meeting: Vincent Spiaggia is a horse whisperer who has worked with horses and people for 40 years. Come to improve your relationships with your horse, family and coworkers. You won't want to miss this.

Before and after photos of the work done on the Beauty Trailhead.



Photos submitted by Cathy Haun-Firth

Deer Camp Pack In

September 2017

Photos by
Jack
Peckham



What Goes Up *(continued)* Day 2 shared by permission of Thomas Firth – Chapter Two

Day Two: Our hike began much the same as day one; up, up and away. I would do fine on level and downhill stretches, but those stretches were fewer than fish feathers. It was the up-hill climbs that were kicking my fanny. My upper legs were as wobbly as a newborn foal's, and I couldn't seem to recover after stopping to rest.



Our goal this day was the Thousand Island Lakes area where we would join up with the JMT, and I must confess that at this point I had some serious doubts about my legs giving out as we continued to climb. We entered into a short downhill area where we began to encounter an abundance of black flies. Pulling out the paint roller, we began applying enough Deet repellent to keep bears away. Still, the flies were relentless as we approached yet another uphill climb.

By now, we were at 10,000' and still climbing. My upper legs were as unsteady as well-done spaghetti. I've spent most of my day trying to avoid

stepping on my tongue, but by mid-morning I was already as ragged as a sheepherder's socks, while little Miss Skippy Higgins up there was flitting about the trail like a bee working a honey-suckle bush.

There is an old country song from the 70's called, "She Got the Gold Mine; I got the Shaft," by Jerry Reed. In that song there is a line where Jerry says, "Why didn't ya just learn how to cook?" I swear to you that for the remainder of the trip, every time I hit an uphill stretch I could hear Jerry Reed's voice say to me, "Why didn't ya just bring yer mule?" From this point on, every uphill climb began with me stopping, glancing up at Skippy's annoyingly smiling face looking down on me some three switchbacks above, shaking my head and saying, "You've got to be sh^###*& me?" This became the routine.

At long last we topped out at a pass and decided to sit down and eat some lunch. Actually, I needed the break to start jotting down in my journal my last will and testicle, but I figured I might just as well eat something before I expired. It was at this juncture the plot thickened, as a couple of packers with a group of customers they were bringing out, come riding by and asked us where we were headed.

"Thousand Island Lakes," Pickle chirped.

"Oughta push a little farther to Garnett Lake," he replies. "No people there and it's prettier."

Before I can ask the critical question, "How far is a little farther," Nichole answers, "Sounds great; thanks for the info," and the packers disappeared over the pass and headed down in the direction we had just come up.

Now I should have known right then and there, I know packers, and packers are like fly fishermen;

(Continued on page 6)

(Continued from page 5)

untrustworthy. They have the soul of a shark, the morals and conscience of a rutting bull elk, and the credibility of CNN. As Pippy Speedstockings tossed her pack on her shoulders and shot off down the trail like a Brussel sprout out of a five-year-old's mouth, I wondered what my old Drill Instructor, SSgt Bridston would have done in this situation to help motivate me to keep hiking. I shuttered with cold chills and my mind turned to happier thoughts like fighting lions in the Coliseum, a colonoscopy with a Go-Pro on the end of a plumber's snake, or having my ear removed with a cheese grater. Even though I was as tired as a rented pony at kid's birthday party, I resigned myself to my fate, and off I went. By the time we finally reached Thousand Island Lakes, I was as pooped as the bottom of a parakeet cage.

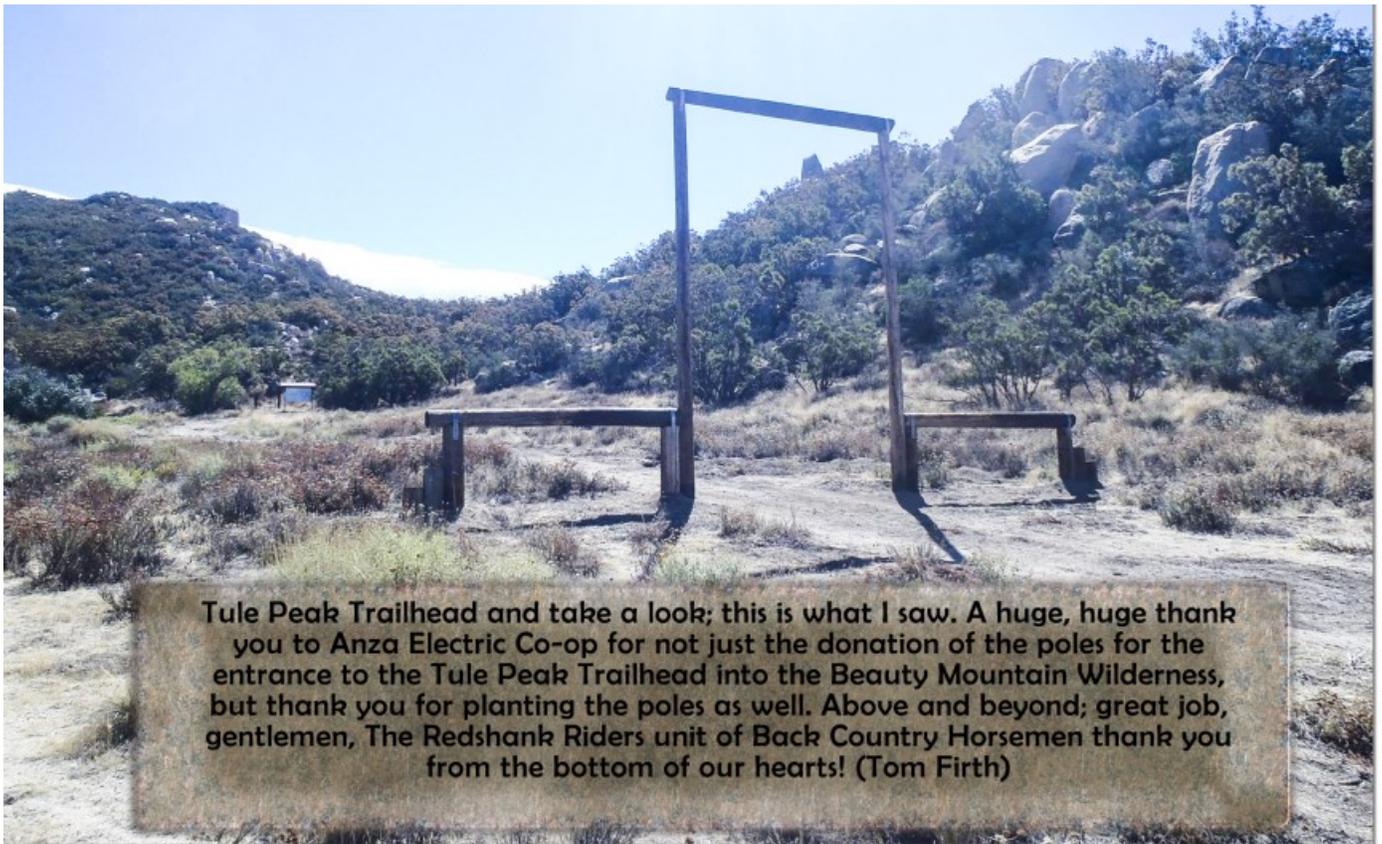
Now, a couple of vital nuggets of knowledge you should be aware of should you ever go on a forced march hike in the Sierras with an over-zealous, range fed, gluten free, fitness-nut, yogurt instructor are these: You should know the term, "Just over this pass a little ways," or "Just a little bit farther". These quaint little phrases actually mean you should prepare yourself for an uphill climb where there is the real possibility of a daylight sighting of the International Space Station followed by an equally long drop and steep downhill hike to a beautiful lake.

This brings up the other interesting little tidbit you should know and that is the Rule of Sierra Lakes. Lakes in the Sierra Nevada are always, (it's a rule, you can look it up) always positioned in the bottom of a deep canyon that is steeper than a cows face and more often than not, requires decompression equipment to descend. And the most important thing to know is that once one reaches the lake, on the other side of it will be a trail leading up that if you are lucky, will have less switchbacks than a porcupine has quills, and will be longer than a supper of boiled liver because the person who designed it was no doubt heavily medicated. And last, you're ascent up this trail from hell will always begin with the phrase, (say it with me now) "You've got to be sh^##*% me!"

By the time we arrived at Garnett Lake, (that lake the packer said no one was at) it was nearly dusk. One might have guessed it was the opening day of Comic Con in Las Vegas by the number of colorful tents that were scattered around the lake like lawn chairs in a trailer park after a hurricane. Physically exhausted, I had more aches and pains than a five-story retirement home, and fortunately the first camp area we arrived at, a group of kindly hikers offered us a couple of spots we could pitch our tents for the night. Pitch is exactly what I did, as my pack fell off my shoulders and hit the ground like a fat kid on a teeter-totter. If it hadn't have been for the mosquitos, I wouldn't have even pitched my tent. I managed, however, and tired as a woman's watch, I crawled into my tent, and collapsed atop my sleeping bag, dead to the world.

Up to this point on our trip, I hadn't pee'd for two days except during the middle of the night. I knew I had become severely dehydrated on day one, but thought I had made up for it by making a real effort to drink more water on the second day. I also knew this wasn't a good sign, and apparently I needed to drink even more water.

To be continued – check our next issue for Chapter Three



Joshua Tree National Park
October 5th, 2017
Pack support for researchers
from Dan Diego Natural
History Museum. Ryan
campground to Stubbe Spring.
Thank you Greg Bruce, Ray
Spence, and Terry Jorgensen
for helping out.



Photos by Michael Lewis



National Forest Service Trail Stewardship Summit November 2, 3, 4 and 5, 2017 San Diego, CA

The San Diego Mountain Biking Association and the National Forest Service are proud to announce the 2017 Trail Stewardship Summit to be held on November 2-5, 2017 in San Diego, CA. The summit will bring together the interested public with federal, state, county, and city agencies with the goal of facilitating stronger partnerships and developing a shared vision for our trails across agencies, stewardship organizations, volunteers, and trail users. The Forest Service has partnered with the International Mountain Bicycling Association to bring their professional trail building, maintenance, and education skills to this community event.

The purpose of this event is to engage community partners in trail operations and planning on the Cleveland National Forest, specifically the Palomar and Descanso Ranger Districts which surround the greater San Diego area. Through community partnership, the U.S. Forest Service will expand its ability to deliver high quality outdoor trail recreation opportunities, preserve natural and cultural resources, and grow public land stewardship.

This event consists of two sessions. Attendees are welcome to attend both sessions (all four days) or just one session (Th-Fri or Sat-Sun). The first two days will involve presentations by the U.S. Forest Service and partners. The second half will involve field training and certification of trail crew leaders for qualified individuals and general trail volunteers who want to increase their skills.

Workshop: Building Better Trails Through Collaboration and Community

Thursday - Friday, November 2 and 3

8 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Lunch provided) FREE

Lakeside Community Center (9841 Vine St., Lakeside, CA)

Workshops will be taught by USFS staff and other experts in the field. Topics include trail and partnership fundamentals, updated methodologies and best management practices applicable to volunteer and partner agreements, development of new trail opportunities and technologies and more. Local partners will discuss current projects, community needs, and new opportunities. These sessions are appropriate for agency and jurisdictional staff members, outdoor non-profit partner staff and volunteers, and other interested trail advocates.

Trail Maintenance and Building School

Saturday - Sunday, November 4 and 5

8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

\$50 fee to help cover instructional costs*

Lunch provided

Locations TBD

Track #1: Advanced Trail Crew Leader Training

Intended for qualified individuals with considerable experience in trail building and maintenance, volunteer management, and the ability to commit to engaging with the Cleveland NF staff to plan and lead workdays.

Track #2: Basic Trail Maintenance

Intended for individuals who are new to trail work or want to hone their basic skills. Learn the basics of sustainability, maintenance techniques including updated water control and tread repair methodologies (rolling grade dips, armoring, and crib walls).

Both tracks will include classroom and field workshop taught by regional experts with support from the USFS and IMBA. These are rain or shine events.

*Cost is waived for USFS staff

**A limited number of scholarships will be available. Details on scholarships will be outlined in registration process.

Social event may be planned for Saturday night.

More details including specific agendas and registration information coming soon.

Please email Susie Murphy at executivedirector@sdmba.com

FYI.

Martin Jorgensen, President

Backcountry Horsemen of California—San Diego

www.bchcsd.com



General Meeting
 Thursday October 12th ~ 7 PM
 SPEAKER: Vincent Spaggiari ~ Horse Dancer
 At the Little Red Schoolhouse

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



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 Greg Bruce

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.

