



2021 Board Members

Newsletter

April 2021

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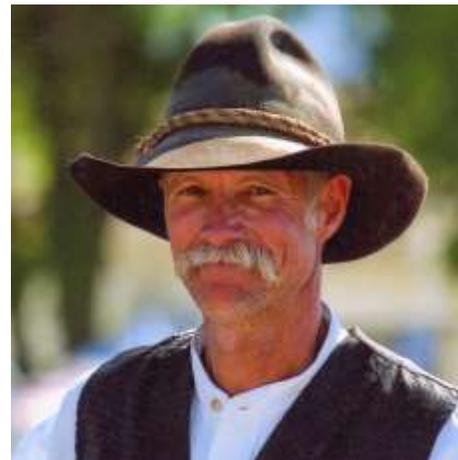
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BCHC Redshank Riders
PO Box 383
Anza, CA 92536



Presidents Message

As the days get longer and weather warmer, it appears our crisis is also beginning to ease. Riverside County is now in a less restrictive tier and headed the right direction.



Last Saturday (March 20) was a milestone of sorts. For the first time in over a year as a part of the Cal-Trans adopt-a-highway program we had a highway cleanup. With eight (8) persons attending, we took care of about 2/3 of our adopted 2 miles of Hwy 371. Good work and thanks to all that helped. Oh, FYI, Gretchen Peckham has agreed to take the lead on this. Thank you Gretchen.

Another milestone was that we had our first in person meeting in a year. Thanks to the generosity of Doug and Cindy Hay for the use of their airplane hangar. It was well attended and we accomplished a lot. We discussed quite a few things including trail rides, trail work, pack clinics, and a membership drive. Look for upcoming dates soon.

I hope that this year’s Rendezvous, scheduled for October, will finally happen. We hope to have some members compete in the packing competition so we will be holding some practices throughout the year.

Last but not least, Mary Litch has come up with an idea for a series of articles for our newsletter. These articles will be titled “TRAILHEAD SPOTLIGHT”. Look for the first installment in this issue. Hope to see everyone soon.

Michael Lewis

REDSHANK RIDERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

March 20, 2021 **(Draft)**

Hay Hanger, Aguanga CA

1:09 pm – 3:06 pm

ATTENDANCE: Mike Lewis, Pebbles Lewis, Stacy Kuhns, Mary Litch, Diana Wilstermann, Art Wilstermann, Greg Bruce, Dixie, Nyna Cheek, Dave Capron, Gail McCreight, Audrey Turpin, Tim Turpin, Doug Hay and Cindy Hay (Secretary)

Next Meeting: April 8, 2021

President opened the meeting at 1:09pm. President Mike welcomed everyone to the first, socially distanced, in person meeting. No one logged in to zoom.

REPORTS:

Secretary's report: Cindy Hay

- February minutes were sent to all members in advance. No corrections were made, Approved unanimously. (Motion to accept as written by Stacy Kuhns, seconded by Nyna Cheek.

Treasures Report: Stacy Kuhns

- Beginning balance: \$7315.57
- Ending balance: \$7368.57

Membership Report:

- Diana Wilstermann: Diana confirmed that the RSR will pay for Rhonda (webmaster's) membership. Stacy will cut a check.
- Membership total: 41
- Persons: 63
- Family: 18
- Individual: 17
- Associates: 2
- Patron: 0
- Benefactor: 3

Adopt a Highway Report: Stacy Kuhns

- Highway clean-up was done this morning, it was really needed. The safety video was viewed previously by participants. Some interesting items that were found were: MJ, masks, a dollar, checks, a thermometer, a memorial for a dog. Stacy reminded everyone who attended to log their volunteer hours.

Public Lands Report: Mike Lewis

- Mike questioned if everyone received the notice regarding public lands and non-equestrians using equestrian campgrounds. Discussion regarding personal experiences finding non-

equestrians in the various campgrounds.

Education Report: Stacy Kuhns

- Talking with Andy regarding the Kiosk at Fobes.

Ride Coordinator: Gretchen Peckham (absent) no report

OLD BUSINESS:

A. Volunteer hours reporting – please ask Stacy or Mike if you need help filling these out. You can print the saddle bag version and carry it with you (and fill it out as you go).

B. Officers training: On hold. The executive board meeting is next week. Stacy will get information then.

C. Link for Google Cloud for RSR: Mike is loading the Bylaws, calendar....

D. Unit report: Charlie Cheek sent it in. Also, the annual accounting (Stacy) and the Top Hand award was sent.

E. Committee Positions:

- a. Public Lands – Mike asked for a volunteer to take over this committee
- b. Adopt a Highway – Diana W. said that Gretchen is interested in this
- c. Greg Bruce: Greg asked if there has been any progress on physical maps being made for the Beauty Mtn Wilderness. Discussion ensued regarding creating maps and the possibility of posting them on FB, the website and in the cloud. Also, giving members a hard copy. Nyna shared a photo of the kiosk at Beauty Mtn. It has some cracks on the actual paper, on the Wilderness side (without the map).

F. Bylaws: It's time for the bylaws to be reviewed. Greg Bruce volunteered to chair that committee. Cindy volunteered (after the meeting) to help. Mike suggested making the past president a board position.

New Business

A. Trail Report

- a. Fobes (Mike) – Fobes south needs brushing. A work party will be scheduled. Fobes is easy hiking, but a challenge for horses. Need a small chain saw, brush hog, saws. May need to pack in. Currently cannot do trail work, but can plan. Mike says that there are levels of engagement. Andy will allow work if push comes to shove. We are "A" level,

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can do nothing but scouting. Cleveland National Forest is "B" level.

- b. Pacific Crest Trail --- Coyote Canyon (Mary) - Mary is the trail steward, maintaining this section of the trail.
 - c. Red Tahquitz (Mike) - This is part of Mike's adopted section of the PCT that goes from Fobes Saddle to Red tahquitz.
 - d. Cahuilla Mtn. (Greg) - Heavy snowfall pushed branches over, and it needs clearing. It is Forest Service, and Andy will allow it.
- Baily Loop (Mary) - It was cleared at the end of 2020. It is a nice ride.

A. Rides - Mike

- a. Boulder Oaks Mary asked if anyone would be interested participating in a weekend ride/camp at Boulder Oaks. It is south of the "8", in the Cleveland National Forest, near Campo. Mary is looking at April 9-11. The campground is clean, there are hikers, and the trail is good. Mary will check to see if there are any events scheduled there in April, and will check with the San Diego Unit. More information to come. Nyna and Greg are interested.
- b. Beauty Mountain Dedication ride needs to be done ASAP per Mike. There is a map on the website. Jack and Gretchen have scouted it, and say it is ready. They may host the ride. More information to come.
- c. Eagle Rock - Stacy to host. Prefers the end of the year. Ride out of Warner Springs. On the Pacific Crest Trail.
- d. Diana wants to do a ride from her house. Maybe in June or July.
- e. Doug Hay requested a map of all of these ride areas. Discussion regarding maps and how to get them.
- f. Mary suggested that members write articles for the newsletter every month with information on the trails and trailheads. Mary will send the first article to Mike. Mary will have a new position to encourage individuals to write these articles.

A. Rendezvous - rescheduled until October 29-31. Halloween

- a. Packing competition practice - Mike reminded us to look forward to a few practices combined with Dutch oven cooking.

- b. Fingerprinting for youth programs (Stacy). If your membership lapses, you must start over with fingerprinting.
- c. Poker Ride - Committee formed with Gretchen and Jack Peckham, Diana and Art W., and Pebbles and Mike. Date may be September 11, 2021, with a patriotic theme. Discussion regarding ideas on stations, cards, donations, raffle, 50/50, membership drive, dinner (or not).
- d. Next meeting: April 8. RSVP required. At the Lewis residence backyard. Discussion regarding changing the time of meetings to 6pm. Nyna motioned to change the start time of future meetings to 6pm, and Pebbles seconded. Approved unanimously.

Motion To Close The Meeting At 3:06pm By Pebbles Lewis and seconded By Greg Bruce



This month's Redshank Riders meeting will be on April 8th at 6:00 PM.

It will be held at the residence of Mike & Pebbles Lewis

58331 Bailey Rd.
Anza, Ca. 92539

Because of certain state restrictions numbers, we ask that you RSVP to pebbleslew64@gmail.com.

Please bring your own chairs and warm cloths just in case.

Any other questions email president@redshankriders.com.

We hope to see you there,

Michael Lewis

President

Boulder Oaks Equestrian Campground

BCHC RSR members, you are invited to join us at Boulder Oaks Equestrian Campground along the Pacific Crest Trail in San Diego County April 9-11.

The section of the PCT nearby is stock-friendly, with a variety of terrain and beautiful vistas. We have planned a day ride on Saturday and Sunday north and south on the PCT, with a possible after-dinner ride on Friday for folks who arrive early.

Boulder Oaks is about a three-hour drive south of Anza/Aguanga just off the I-8. The campground offers ten equestrian pull-through sites, each with two sturdy 12 x 12 corrals. Several of the sites are large enough for a LQ rig. Each site has a large picnic table and fire ring. Giant oaks provide ample shade for most sites.

Potable water is available at several outlets around the campground with standard hose fittings. There are several new pit toilets in the campground area. Boulder Oaks is a first-come, first-served campground. Equestrian sites cost \$16/night (\$8/night if you have an Interagency Annual Pass). There is good cell coverage at the campground, if you need to stay connected.

Got questions? Contact the ride coordinator Mary Litch at her email: mary_litch@hotmail.com.

- ⇒ RSVP is strongly suggested, in case we have to cancel the event.
- ⇒ Membership in Backcountry Horsemen of California must be current to participate on the rides, but anyone can camp.
- ⇒ There will **not** be membership applications at the rides.

Beauty Mountain Wilderness Dedication Ride

April 18th, 2021

(Members only, non-members may join BCHC at the ride)



April 18th, 2021 - Tule Peak Trailhead

Please RSVP to: Jack Peckham
jack@greytthreads.com

Be at the trailhead 9 to 9:30 for a 10:00 ride out

909-226-0065

Sycamore Spring Rd cross of Blackbush Rd Aguanga, CA 92536

33°27'04.5"N 116°46'15.2"W 33.451246, -116.770889

The ride will be about 5.5 miles & about 3 hours. We will be riding through some beautiful country with deep canyons & long vistas. We are hoping for some spring flowers, we had some starting on the pre-ride already. We may have an option to add a couple of miles if everyone wants to. Bring a lunch & water, we will stop at Tom's Camp about ½ through the ride.

Come join us for the dedication ride

The ride level is a 2, it is good safe single track

“**Level II:** This level will also be recommended for inexperienced rider and green horses. The terrain will be more demanding than level I with few obstacles which can be easily crossed. Pace should be easy.”



Directions from Bradford Rd at Hwy 371 Aguanga, CA 92536

Head southeast on Bradford Rd toward Gelding Way	_____	1.1 mi
Turn right onto Bradford Rd/Tule Valley Rd	_____	1.8 mi
Turn left onto Evening Star Trail	_____	0.7 mi
Turn right onto Carrot Ln	_____	0.8 mi
Turn right onto Deerspring Trail	_____	0.3 mi
Turn left onto Sycamore Spring Rd Destination will be on the left	_____	0.6 mi

Tule Peak Trailhead Aguanga, CA 92536

Link to Google map <https://goo.gl/maps/UzTKebkrL5oanZS98>

Here is a short video of the pre-ride <https://www.relive.cc/view/v36AjXGLxZq>

CAMPING AND RIDING FROM GOFF FLAT

Submitted by Mary Litch, April 6, 2020

One of the best SoCal primitive horse camping sites and access points for miles of stock-friendly trails and diverse points of interest is just a short drive away at Goff Flat in San Bernardino National Forest. Whether you are coming for a day ride, horse “car” camping at Goff Flat, or a backcountry-packing trip further into San Bernardino National Forest, Goff Flat should be on your short list for destinations. This section of the SBNF has an active cattle grazing lease, so be prepared to encounter cattle at Goff Flat and on trail.

GETTING THERE: In Mountain Center, turn off Highway 74 onto Morris Ranch Road. After 2.5 miles, turn right onto Pathfinder Road. (There is a gate at this intersection. Be sure to close it again after you pass through.) Drive 1/3 mile down a well-maintained dirt road. Turn right just before a stock pen onto the access road for Goff Flat. (This access road though not well maintained should still be drivable for even large LQ trailers.) There are no established sites, so park/camp wherever makes sense.



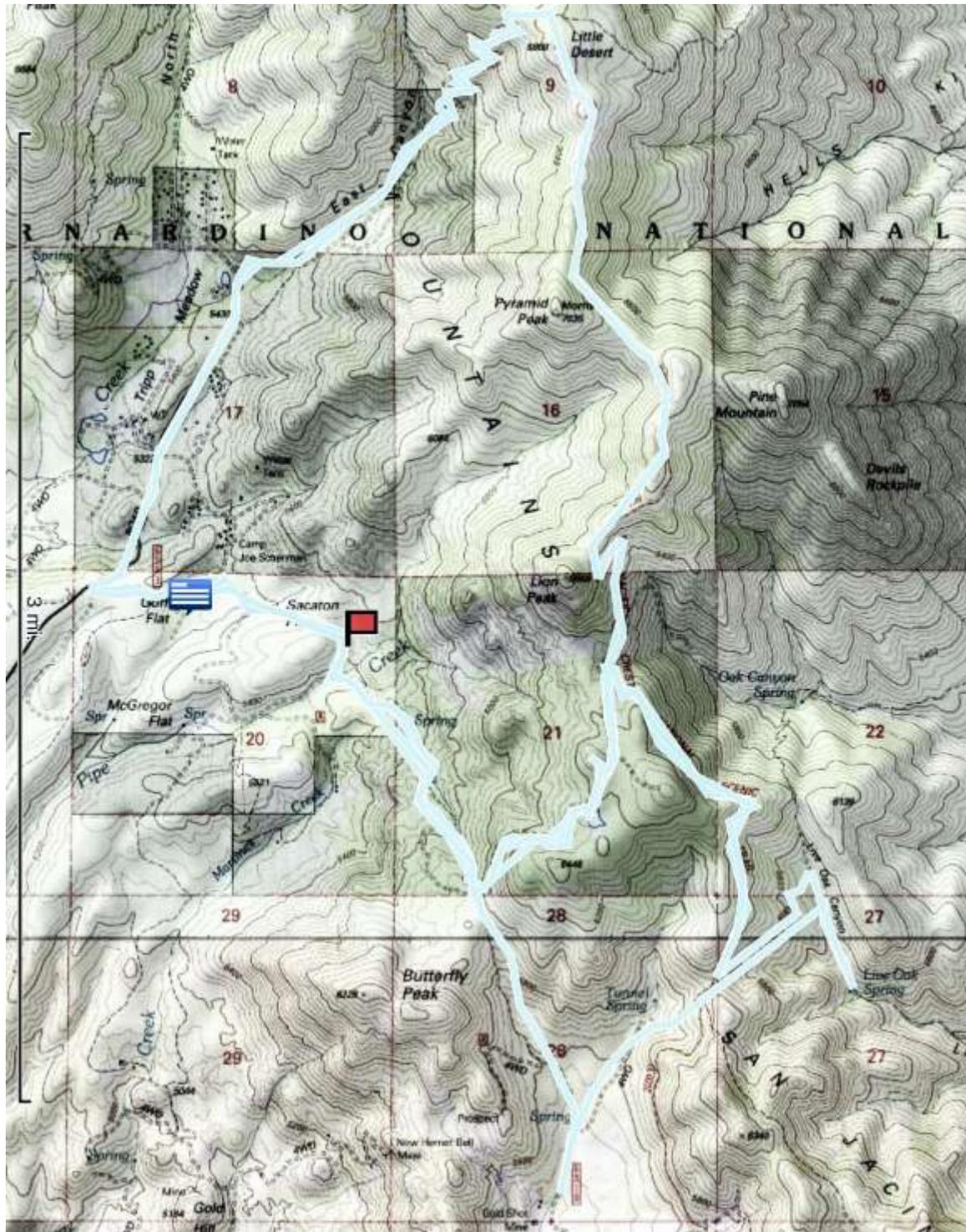
HORSE “CAR” CAMPING AT GOFF FLAT: Camping is free, and reservations are not accepted. Usage is very light. I have camped here on beautiful spring weekends and had the place to myself. Stay is limited to 14 days. Camping here is primitive, which means you must supply stock containment, water and feed. (The nearby stock pen is the property of the grazing leaseholder, and is not available for general public use.) Elevation is about 5300 feet. There is no cell service at Goff Flat, but there is enough signal for phone calls and checking email (with Verizon) back

Morris Ranch Road. There are several acres of flat area with many large Jeffrey Pines, so you can contain your stock with high lines, portable corrals, or electric fence. Be sure to set up your containment on a durable surface. I prefer a portable corral when “car” camping, but everyone has his or her preferred method.

BACKCOUNTRY HORSE CAMPING STAGED FROM GOFF FLAT: If you enjoy horse packing, there are several choice backcountry horse camping destinations within a few miles of Goff Flat that offer reliable stock water, solitude, and excellent views.

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RIDING FROM GOFF FLAT: Goff Flat is adjacent to a network of lightly used ranch/jeep roads, and within easy striking distance of a stock-friendly section of the Pacific Crest Trail. (Here, as elsewhere, my description is based upon conditions that I found during a camping trip to Goff Flat in early April 2020.

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Conditions can change. Be prepared for downed trees and tread erosion blocking further progress on a trail. Always have a Plan B.) Below, I describe three rides in detail, and offer hints at other rides that are farther afield. Most of these rides involve significant elevation gain as you climb out of Goff Flat onto one of the surrounding ridgelines. Fit stock, with experience riding on trails, are assumed.

RIDE 1 (10.0 miles) - north loop via Sloan Lake, PCT, Cedar Spring Trail (South), best done counter-clockwise. Requires riding one mile on paved Morris Ranch Road between Cedar Spring Trail (South) and Pathfinder Roads. This loop ride will take you up to 7000 ft. to the ridgeline separating Garner Valley and Coachella Valley. There are spectacular views in all directions from the PCT.



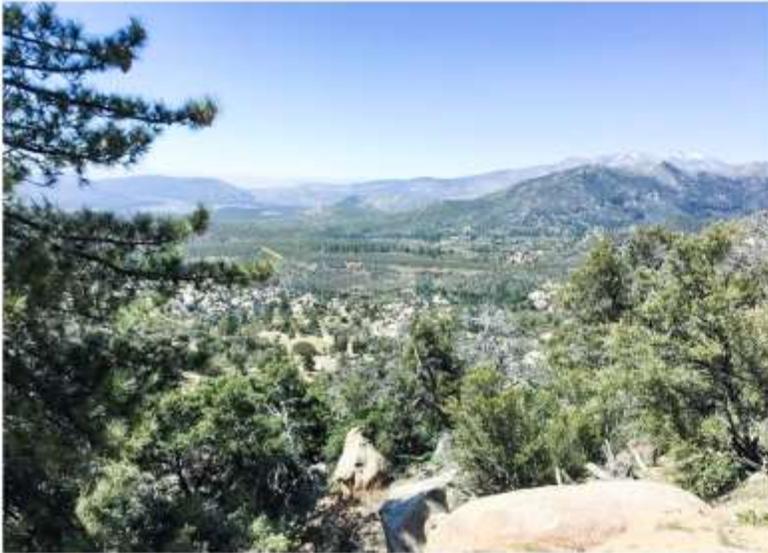
From Goff Flat, turn right up the road. After 1/3 mile, take a left through Sacaton Flat. (Access to the meadow is just past the barbed wire fence.) Head for the other end of the meadow, aiming for the two fence posts. The trail will start to become obvious at this point. Follow the trail as it meanders among chaparral and boulders and then follows a stream. (It is not flagged, but you should be able to stay on it easily. If you prefer, you can stay on the road, as it is the same road you turn back on to.) Turn left at the jeep road.



The road starts to climb, and you pass by a stock tank on your left. The jeep road continues to climb increasingly steeply until you reach a large, flat area with several long-downed trees to your right. At this point, be sure to look back the way you came for an expansive view of Mt San Jacinto.

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*** This is the place where Ride 2 branches off. *** Make a 90 degree left turn and follow the jeep road up a very steep hill. Views to your left become increasingly expansive. If you look at just the right spot, you should be able to see your rig parked down below at Goff Flat.

Every time you (and your horse) think you have reached the top of the hill, you turn slightly, and the climbing resumes. Eventually, you reach a t-intersection and a choice.

Turn right to visit a second stock tank (known by locals as Sloan Lake). There are numerous camping spots near the lake, including a sheltered spot with a plaque in honor of John Emory Sloan.



If you visit Sloan Lake, retrace your steps back to the t-intersection and continue straight (with even more climbing). After a few hundred yards, bear slightly right, heading downhill. (If you continue straight, you will hit a dead end where the road ends at a local unnamed peak.) Follow the jeep road downhill until it intersects with the Pacific Crest Trail. (There is a break in the barbed wire on the right.) Turn left onto the PCT.



www.bchcalifornia.org

Attn: Members

If you are interested in hosting a trail ride please contact our Ride Coordinator, Gretchen Peckham to discuss it.

Email:

ridecoordinator@redshankriders.com

Ph.: 951-763-4249



RIDING WAREHOUSE
BCHC has partnered with Riding Warehouse to give our members a 15% discount!
Ask your Unit Secretary for the discount code!

www.ridingwarehouse.com

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The PCT climbs gradually, going around Lion and Pyramid Peaks, but otherwise following the ridgeline separating Garner Valley and Coachella Valley. Eventually, you will reach the sign depicted in the image on the left. The sign can be misleading. Cedar Spring (the actual water source) is down the side trail to your right. Do not go that way; instead turn left at this junction. You will see Morris Ranch Road far below you. This unnamed trail, which I refer to as Cedar Spring Trail (south), is a series of well-graded switch backs dropping you 1500 feet in elevation over 2 miles.



The PCT climbs gradually, going around Lion and Pyramid Peaks, but otherwise following the ridgeline separating Garner Valley and Coachella Valley. Eventually, you will reach the sign depicted in the image on the left. The sign can be misleading. Cedar Spring (the actual water source) is down the side trail to your right. Do not go that way; instead turn left at this junction. You will see Morris Ranch Road far below you. This unnamed trail, which I refer to as Cedar Spring Trail (south), is a series of well-graded switch backs dropping you 1500 feet in elevation over 2 miles.

RIDE 2 (10.5 miles) - South lollipop loop via Gold Shot Mine, Tunnel Spring, Live Oak Spring, PCT, Sloan Lake. Best done counter-clockwise. Includes about 3/4 mile riding through dense vegetation on an unmaintained trail.

If you like visiting local historic mining sites, this is the ride for you! Gold Shot Mine includes some original structures and the old stamp.

The ride begins the same as Ride 1 until Ride 1 takes the sharp left turn up the steep hill. Instead, from the meadow with the long-downed trees on your right, go straight and find an unmaintained path heading south. You may need to dismount in several spots to squeeze through the vegetation. You will see a stock pen ahead of you in the valley below. That is what you are heading for. Continue around the stock pen on the left and follow the road to Gold Shot Mine, which will be on your right. As of early April 2020, several large live oaks block the road between the stock pen and Gold Shot Mine. A path has been cleared on the left that is large enough to lead a horse through.

Ride 3 follows the same route as Ride 2 up until this point

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Gold Shot Mine is a gem. You can see the miner's house/office in the picture above. In addition, the old stamp and other machinery is still there. The mineshaft is still open, so use extreme caution around the shaft. Also, the house is starting to deteriorate and there are nails littering the ground in the immediate vicinity. Best to keep stock well away from the house.

When you are done exploring Gold Shot, retrace your steps to the stock pen. About 100 yards past the stock pen, a path veers off to the right. Take it. This leads to Tunnel Spring. As of early April, a large live oak is blocking the path between the stock pen and Tunnel Spring. A small path has been cleared on the left. About 200 yards after the downed tree, turn left at the intersection to Tunnel Spring.



Tunnel spring offers a pipe-fed water trough, used both by PCT thru hikers and cattle. (Presumably, the sign about not sitting on the edge of the trough is directed at the hikers, not the cattle.) Once your stock has had their fill of water, retrace your steps to the intersection. Bear left and immediately start climbing up a steep hill. The trail, while obvious, is unmaintained and the vegetation encroaches badly.

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The tread includes sections of loose rocks, so this trail is best done in the uphill direction. After 1/4 mile, the trail ends at the PCT.



Turn left onto the PCT, and you immediately come to another intersection. Unlike the intersection with Tunnel Spring Trail, this one is signed. If you want to do the full ride, take the right down into Live Oak Canyon. If you want to cut two miles off your ride, continue straight on the PCT. (The narrative assumes you turn right.)



The trail to Live Oak Spring is in excellent condition, and affords great views of Toro and Santa Rosa Peaks, Pinyon Flats, and Palm Canyon. Travel gently downhill for a mile to Live Oak Spring. Just before the spring is a meadow with good grazing. Ancient live oaks rim the spring offering much-needed shade on a warm day. The spring makes a great lunch spot for you and your stock, but watch out for a bit of downed barbed wire in the vicinity. I assume that you will turn around at the spring. Live Oak Trail in theory continues past the spring all the way to the upper end of Palm Canyon. Several years ago, Allison Renck and I hiked it. Past the spring, the trail deteriorates quickly. Poison oak is hard to avoid for the first few hundred yards, after that, chaparral encroaches, making it hard to find the way. The final descent into Palm Canyon will need a bit of work to be stock friendly.

Once you are finished visiting Live Oak Canyon, retrace your steps back to the PCT. Turn right at the junction and ride 1.5 miles on the PCT. A long-disused ranch road will appear on your left, partially blocked by a barbed-wire fence. Turn left at this road, which climbs to Sloan Lake. (While on the PCT, if you get to a place with a road going to your right, you have gone too far. Turn around and ride 100 yards to the barbed-wire fence.) Turn right at Sloan Lake to the meadow. From this point, you retrace the same route as the beginning of the ride back to Goff Flat.

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RIDE 3 (19 miles) - Out and back to Highway 74 via Gold Shot Mine and the PCT

This is a good ride for people who want to cover some distance. The first 3 miles cover the same route as Ride 2 from Goff Flat to Gold Shot Mine. From Gold Shot, continue on the well-used Forest Service road heading south. Local endurance riders frequently travel this route, so, unless it has just rained, you should see hoof prints guiding the way. About a mile south of Gold Shot, the road comes within 50 yards of the PCT. (There should be a ribbon and a small rock cairn on the left, marking the spot. Most of the hoof prints will also turn left here.) Turn left on this informal path, then right on the PCT.

This is a very pretty part of the PCT as it meanders through giant boulders and small copses of old scrub oak. After a rain, there are several small (natural) tanks with standing water in Penrod Canyon. Otherwise, this stretch of the PCT is dry. The trail is obvious all the way to the highway.

If you are getting hungry and you brought some cash, cross Highway 74. After 50 yards, turn right on the jeep road that runs under the power lines and ride an extra mile for lunch at Paradise Valley Cafe. (This extension adds 2 miles, making a total of 21 miles round trip.)

Retrace the same route back to Goff Flat. Note: if you are an endurance rider, you may be tempted to add some miles onto the return route and avoid the ride through the dense vegetation north of the stock pen. BE AWARE: There is a rock between where you first get onto the PCT on Ride 3 and where you get onto the PCT at Tunnel Spring Trail that is problematic for stock. I have ridden it several times without incident, but it can be hazardous for a horse that slips.

OTHER RIDES FROM GOFF FLAT

Goff Flat is set in a network of lightly used jeep roads. Those seeking shorter or less challenging rides can find options exploring these roads. Do be aware that there is a private inholding with a dwelling in the area, so obey posted signs.

Rides 1, 2, and 3 focused exclusively on the trail system east of Morris Ranch Road. There are trails west of the road, too, offering options to get down to Highway 74 via Fobes Trail. (The entrance to this trail system is directly across Morris Ranch Rd. from Pathfinder Rd.)



TRAILHEAD SPOTLIGHT

This was the first installment of a new series in "Tails from the Trail." In this series, each monthly installment will feature an equestrian-friendly trailhead in the area, with driving directions and descriptions of trail(s) accessible from this trailhead. Some of the trailheads may offer horse camping, others may be for day use only. Either way, we hope this motivates you to GET OUT THERE AND RIDE!

If you have a favorite area trail you would like to share on Trailhead Spotlight, please contact Mary Litch at mary_litch@hotmail.com to coordinate.

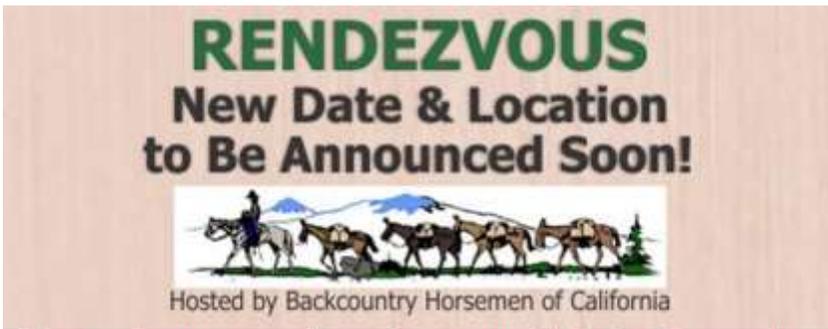
Mike



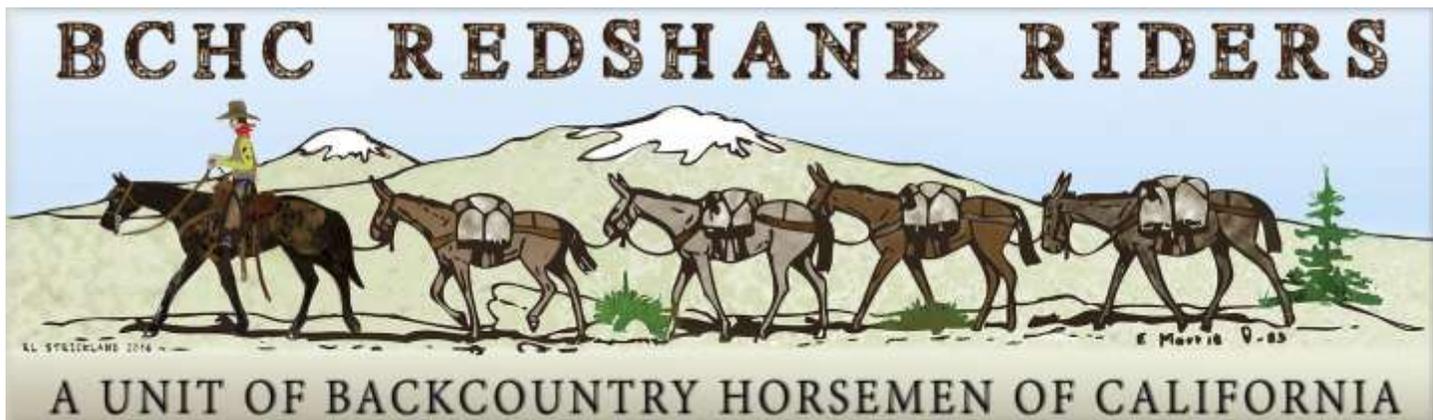


BCHC – Redshank Riders
P.O. BOX 383
Aguanga, CA 92536

www.RedshankRiders.com
Next Meeting April 8, 2021



Due to circumstances beyond our control, the Rendezvous has been moved to October. When we have an exact date we will let everyone know. Thanks for your understanding!



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.