



2021 Board Members	Newsletter	July / August 2021
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PRESIDENT / PUBLIC LANDS

Michael Lewis – 951-760-9255
 president@redshankriders.com

VICE-PRESIDENT

Jack Peckham – 909-226-0065
 vicepresident@redshankriders.com

SECRETARY

Cindy Hay – 760-831-9019
 secretary@redshankriders.com

TREASURER

Stacy Kuhns – 909-633-1705
 treasurer@redshankriders.com

NL EDITOR & WEB TECH

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

EDUCATION / STATE REP

Stacy Kuhns – 909-633-1705
 educationchair1@redshankriders.com

MEMBERSHIP / HISTORIAN

Diana Wilstermann
 (760) 715 - 9772
 membership@redshankriders.com

ADOPT A HIGHWAY

Gretchen Peckham 951-763-4249
 ridecoordinator@redshankriders.com

RIDE COORDINATOR

Gretchen Peckham 951-763-4249
 ridecoordinator@redshankriders.com

AGENCY REPRESENTATIVE

Michael Lewis – 951-760-9255
 agencyrep@redshankriders.com

MAILING ADDRESS:

BCHC Redshank Riders
 PO Box 383
 Anza, CA 92536



Presidents Message

Well, it looks like summer is here in full force. We continue working on events to re-engage our members. Last month was a packing practice, Dutch oven lunch, and general meeting. Despite 100-degree temps, it was well attended and enjoyed by all.



In August, we will have a ride hosted by Art & Diana in Apple Canyon. September 11th will be our poker ride, membership drive in Garner Valley, (details coming soon), October will be a ride hosted by Audrey Turpin, exact date and location TBD, along with the BCHC Rendezvous in Tulare at the end of the month. Good news has come out of both the PCTA and Forest Service. PCTA will receive 4.1 million dollars for work on trail maintenance backlog over the next few years. This is all for Region 5 which is California. In addition, our local forest is looking to partner with BCHC for some projects. Due to the extreme heat, our trail projects have been put on hold for the time being but should resume when it cools down. In addition, Anitra Cass, PCTA Southern Regional Rep, will be dropping by at the August meeting to talk about RSR's continuing help with the PCT.

Michael Lewis
 President – Backcountry Horsemen of California
 Redshankriders Unit

REDSHANK RIDERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

May 13, 2021 (**Draft**)

Peckham's residence, Anza CA

7:07 pm – 7:55 pm

Members Present: Mike Lewis, Pebbles Lewis, Stacy Kuhns, Allison Renck, Mary Litch, Charlie Cheek, Nyna Cheek, Tom Firth, Bobbi Harris, Hope Adams, Linda Hogg, Carl Virden, Karen Virden, Gretchen Peckham, Jack Peckham, Doug Hay and Cindy Hay (Secretary)

Next Meeting: June 27th – packing practice, Dutch oven lunch, and general meeting.

President opened the live meeting at 7:07 pm. President Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting, and welcomed Hope Adams (again), Susan Gonzalez and Jackie and Dan Hare.

REPORTS:

Secretary's report: Cindy Hay

Cindy reviewed the minutes from April.

March minutes were sent to all members in advance. No corrections were made, Approved unanimously. (Motion to accept as written by Pebbles Lewis, seconded by Jack Peckham.)

Treasurer's Report: Stacy Kuhns

- Beginning balance: \$7381.57
- Ending balance: \$7389.33

Membership Report: presented by Diana Wilstermann

- Membership total: 40
- Persons: 63
- Family: 18
- Individual: 18
- Associates: 2
- Patron: 0
- Benefactor: 3

Adopt a Highway Report: Gretchen Peckham requested one more highway cleanup before summer. Scheduled for May 22, 2021 at 0800. **Public Lands Report:** Mike Lewis

- Nothing from Troy

Education Report: Stacy Kuhns

- Mike Lewis is talking to Andy. Stacy is getting ready for the kiosk dedication.
- Planning to have LNT presentations after various meetings by wilderness riders

Ride Coordinator: Gretchen Peckham

- Waiting for volunteers to host rides.
- Potential rides, dates and hosts:
- Sloan, 6/25 or 26, Greg Bruce
- Eagle Rock, 9/11, Stacy Kuhns
- Art and Diana's area, July
- Gold Shot (out of commons), Hope Adams

- October, Audrey
- Poker Ride, September

Old Business:

Maps:

- A. Discussion ensued regarding waterproof maps via laser paper vs fabric vs lamination.
- B. Financing the maps: RSR are unable to sell things because we don't have a sellers' permit. But we can ask for a donation in exchange for a map.

Poker Ride Prep:

- A. September 11, patriotic theme.
- B. Planning needs to be done regarding donations, raffle items, and the route.

Work Parties

- A. Still on hold
- B. Packing Practice: Sunday, June 27th @ 0900 for breakfast.

New Business

Calendar – Mike is working on populating it.

Anza Days Parade – interest in riding or a float.

- a. The date, theme and location are unknown at this time.
- b. Will discuss and plan for our participation at the next meeting.

Packing Opportunities

Bylaws –

Chain Saw Class - Later in June

1st aide/CPR – Pebbles will go by the station to discuss organizing a class

Minor park- Stacy and a local group had a meeting at the park, and it was "a mess". A discussion ensued regarding the "Adopt a Month" program to clean up the park if it is used or rented (contact is Birdie). Greg Bruce made a motion, as a community service, to adopt the park and participate in its cleanup. Stacy Kuhns seconded it. Approved unanimously.

Announcement: Rhonda is moving to Tennessee, but will remain on as the Editor

Motion To Close The Meeting At 7:55pm By Jack Peckham and seconded By Hope Adams

No meeting in July. Next meeting will be on Thursday, August 12th at 6pm at Stacy's house. Details to follow.



Packers Corner or “A Rock by any other Name”

Submitted by Michael Lewis

It has been quite some time since I have written a packers corner, years perhaps. I felt I was writing the same thing repeatedly. That changed this month. After over a year of inactivity, thank you Covid, except for a couple short pack supply trips last fall, we took part in a very important project this month. First, let me set the stage. In 2013, on the PCT near Antsell Rock (PCT mile 172.5), a six ton boulder slid down and partially blocked the trail. Enter the Mountain Fire, closing the trail with that boulder, (we referred to it as Heidi's rock as she was the PCTA TA [technical adviser] who had first discovered it) still there. Slow forward the five years that the trail remained closed. With the trail finally open once again, it was time to get rid of Heidi's Rock. With a helicopter to drop tools and supplies for the trail crew, they went about breaking up the boulder and fixing the trail.

Unfortunately, within a few months, a much larger boulder slid onto the trail in the same area. This one referred to at the time as Landon's Rock, after the PCTA TA that had removed Heidi's rock. This one blocked the trail to equestrians, was too dangerous to navigate for hikers, and was beyond the scope of a regular trail crew.

Again, slow forward a few more years and another trail closing fire, the rock still remained. It was eventually renamed Andy's Rock (after our local FS rep).

After extensive searching, the PCTA and the Forest Service finally secured a FS blaster willing to take on the job. The thought was that this would either get rid of the rock or completely block the trail. Either way it was going to happen



Andy's Rock before

This is where we came in. We were asked to provide pack support for two corps crews and the FS blaster. The problem was we had lost quite a few packers. They either moved away or left for medical reasons. To begin with, we could only guarantee two packers, Greg Bruce and myself along with five pack animals. We both started making calls and finally came up with two more packers; a local BCHC member, Hope Adam. She had just acquired a mule (saying she had gone over to the dark side) and, had led pack strings in the past.



The Blast

Also BCHC San Diego member, Terry Jorgensen, who had helped in the past and had just recovered from shoulder surgery. It looked like we had what we needed. The project started on a Wednesday with four packers packing seven loads of food and tools to a wilderness camping site to support two American Conservation Experience (ACE) crews. Their job? Clear the trail to the blast site and do repair and clean up after the shot.

The following Monday was the biggie. Two of us met with the FS blaster who had come down from Lake Tahoe to pack approximately 400 lbs. of explosives up to the blasting site. Because the blaster had to keep the explosives in site at all times, he followed us to the drop off point. I have to say I was impressed; he stayed right behind us for the entire two-hour trip, half of it being up hill. We dropped the material and headed back down at 11:30am; by 3:30pm Andy's Rock was no more. We heard that the blast was heard in both Palm Springs and Idyllwild.

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Packers Corner or "A Rock by any other Name"

Either way it was both impressive and effective. The ACE crew then returned and did clean up and repair. Collateral damage was minimal and the trail is now safe for hikers. Not so much for equestrians for now, perhaps that will come in the future.

On Wednesday it was time for us to bring the ACE crew back down so the four of us once again headed back up the mountain. We met one of the crews as they were coming down while the other remained at the site to help with loading the pack animals. Once loaded we made the journey back to the trailhead, unloaded, and said our goodbyes to the crews. Overall, it ended being a safe and well-organized project.

Andy's Rock is no more



Until next time, "Keep your loads balanced and your lash ropes tight".



The ACE crew with a repaired trail



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@redshanknders.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

amazon smile



You shop. Amazon gives.

SHOP ON AMAZON >> DONATE TO BCHC An Easy, No-Cost Way to Make a Difference

You can support Backcountry Horsemen of California every time you make a purchase. Amazon shoppers can sign up at smile.amazon.com and the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5 percent of the purchase price from your eligible purchases to BCHC. There is no cost to you! Sign up and designate BCHC as your charity of choice. Then anytime you wish to make a purchase, shop at smile.amazon.com and know you're making a difference for BCHC. It's that easy!

PACKING PRACTICE, DUTCH OVEN COOKING & REDSHANK GENERAL MEETING - June 27th



Thank you, Mike & Pebbles for being such gracious hosts. As usual, the food was fabulous!



Dutch oven breakfast, packing practice, dutch oven lunch, and membership meeting. Thanks to all that braved the heat. It was a good day.



Photos shared by Mike Lewis

Save the Dates

Here is what's coming up with RSR:

August 1	Social ride Art and Diana's home Mountain Center
August 12	General Meeting Pot Luck Stacy's home
September 9	General Meeting
September 11	Poker Ride / Membership drive The Meadow / Lake Hemet
September	Packing practice
October	Social Ride TBD
October 14	General Meeting TBD
October 29 - 31	BCHC Rendezvous Tulare

Updated 7/18/2021



May Valley Wildfire Recovery Ride

Come ride the USFS May Valley Trail System, recently re-opened after a 7-year closure. Meander through areas that may have been affected by the devastating Mountain Fire (July 2013) and the Cranston Fire (July 2018) and see the different stages the forest goes through during recovery and reforestation efforts.



- ❖ **DATE:** Saturday, August 1, 2021
- ❖ **WHERE:** 28350 Bonita Vista Road, Mountain Center, CA 92561 – Directions provided upon RSVP
- ❖ **TIME OF RIDE OUT:** Meet up by 9:30am, saddled and ready to ride out at 10:30am
- ❖ **LENGTH OF RIDE:** 3 hours / approx. 7 miles
- ❖ **LEVEL OF RIDE:** Level 2: This level recommended for an inexperienced rider and green horses. The terrain will be more demanding than level 1 with a few obstacles that can easily be crossed. Pace will be easy.
- ❖ **DESCRIPTIONS:** Ride is a level 2 with road/single track, water crossings, and small walkovers. Shoes not required. Water available for horses. Bring your own lunch or snacks. Drinks will be provided. Dry camping available Friday and Saturday. No campfires.
- ❖ **DIRECTIONS:** Detailed driving directions will be provided upon RSVP. Due to limited trailer parking, trailer sharing is recommended if possible. For planning purposes, allow 1-hour drive time from Anza. Last 1.8 miles is a dirt road.
- ❖ **RSVP REQUIRED**
- ❖ **Ride Host Contact:** Diana at (760)715-9772 or Art (619)481-4491, call or text

This ride is for Members Only

You can become a member of the Backcountry Horsemen of California Redshank Riders Unit by sending in your membership application prior to the ride. Applications be found at

www.redshankriders.com/joinrsr.html

Membership applications will be available at the ride.

Saturday 9-11-2021

Never Forget Remembrance



Presented by

REDSLANK RIDERS



UNIT OF BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

Poker ride BCHC Members only

★ Location – Lake Hemet ★ Super easy trail ★ 1st rider out at 10am ★

\$40.00 early registration by 9-1

(include one poker hand, hot dog, Burger lunch)

day of event \$50.00

(includes one poker hand, lunch while supplies last)

Extra hands available \$5.00 each

Limit 75 riders

NEW members signing up get a free poker hand!

Prizes, raffles, vendors

Bring chair

For ride info contact Michael Lewis stumblin155@gmail.com 951-760-9255

If you want to be a vendor – contact Stacy Kuhns stacykuhns@aol.com 909-633-1705

Backcountry Horsemen of California RENDEZVOUS

The theme for the Rendezvous is "Preserving Our Trails for Future Generations." We plan to have several clinicians including JoDe Collins and Sarah Muzquiz. Wilderness Riders will present Leave No Trace classes. There will be packing contests, pack saddle fitting classes, Dutch oven contests, Kids' Corral, an art show, Trail Trials, Pack 'n Trail and lots of vendors. San Joaquin Sierra Unit will prepare the meals and a bluegrass band will provide entertainment. We will hold raffles; a gun raffle and a Lee Roeser pack saddle raffle. Rendezvous is a good time to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones.

RENDEZVOUS
October 29-31, 2021
in Tulare, CA



Hosted by Backcountry Horsemen of California



Beautiful artwork for the Rendezvous at Tulare October 29-31 2021
This artwork will be in auction sat night!!!

Go Here for Event Documents & Information
www.bchcalifornia.org/rendezvous.htm



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

www.RedshankRiders.com
Next Meeting Aug 12, 2021



For Event Information,
Registration, Event
Schedule & Contests
Go to:
[www.bchcalifornia.org/
rendezvous.htm](http://www.bchcalifornia.org/rendezvous.htm)

The theme for the Rendezvous is
“Preserving Our Trails for Future Generations.”



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.