



<b>2022 Board Members</b>	<b>Newsletter</b>	<b>January / February 2022</b>
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PO Box 383  
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## Presidents Message

Like many other units in the state, ours took a membership hit in 2020. In reality, with lock downs and the inability to gather in person, we had very little to offer existing and potential new members. Sure, we had zoom, but it can't replace face-to-face interaction.

Even though things improved in 2021, it was by no means back to normal. That being said, we did make great strides in getting previous members back and gaining new members. With our ability to once again hold in person meetings and have outdoor social events, things were looking much better.

The year started slowly with just a few rides and mule packing paydays. No trail work though as our forest remained closed to volunteers work. As mid-summer arrived, we were able to get back on the trail to do scouting and did a few pack support trips. Towards the end of summer, despite more fires and forest closures, we were able to host a member's only poker ride/membership drive. Had a great turnout (I believe folks were hungry to get out) and it ended up being a great fundraiser to boot. We gained many new members and renewed quite a few expired members. October brought the rendezvous and our members stepped up to help in many ways. Twelve members made the trip and all pitched in to help.

We have also been meeting with our local forest service on a number of upcoming projects including a trailhead kiosk, trail re-alignments, new wilderness brown post camping sites, and pack and volunteer support. We were also able to do a PCTA crosscut re-certification class.

We have a full summer planned for 2022 and are looking forward to more rides and projects. Lastly, we began earnest negotiations with a venue to bring Rendezvous back to So. California in 2023.

- ⇒ Twelve regular monthly meetings
- ⇒ PCT scouting trips
- ⇒ Three pack support trips for PCT trail maintenance (includes packing 400# of explosives to a wilderness project)
- ⇒ Trail work in prep of poker ride
- ⇒ Poker ride
- ⇒ Four pack support trips for Forest Service invasive plant removal
- ⇒ Trail sign replacement project
- ⇒ Crosscut saw re-certification class

Michael Lewis  
President – Backcountry Horsemen of California  
Redshankriders Unit



REDSHANK RIDERS GENERAL MEETING MINUTES

Next Month: March 10, 2022

February 10, 2022  
6:56 pm – 9:19 pm  
Calamity Ranch

**Members present:** Hope Adams, Greg Bruce, Brenda Cowan, Art Inserra, Stacy Kuhns, Mike Lewis, Pebbles Lewis, Gail McCreight, Jack Peckham, Gretchen Peckham, Allison Renck, Maia Turner, Audrey Turpin, Shirley Willits, Diane Wilstermann, Jackie Gana and Cindy Hay (Secretary)

**Guests:**

**President opened the meeting at 6:50pm.** President Mike welcomed everyone to the meeting and Taco night potluck!

**Reports:**

**Secretary's report:** Cindy Hay

- o Minutes were sent to members by email prior to the meeting. Cindy summarized the minutes.
- o Motion to accept by Pebbles Lewis, seconded by Audrey Turpin. Approved unanimously.
- o Treasures Report: Stacy Kuhns
- o Beginning balance: \$6118.36
- o Ending balance: \$6118.36
- o Membership Report: Diana Wilstermann
- o Membership total: 59
- o Persons: 82
- o Family: 19
- o Individual: 32
- o Associates: 5
- o Patron: 0
- o Benefactor: 2
- o Mt Whitney: 1 (Thank you Allison Renck)
  - \*Some people aren't getting emails. Diana will be working with Rhonda to coordinate membership email lists. Members are reminded to check their spam files.
- o **Adopt a Highway Report:** Gretchen Peckham - Nothing planned
- o **Public Lands Report:** Hope Adams - E-bikes per Troy – This is still an unresolved issue in Tahoe. Tahoe wants to do what it wants to do. The comment period is extended to mid-February.
- o **Education Report:** Stacy Kuhns
- o Stacy thanked those that showed up to officers training. It was a good format, especially the “What can we do better” section.
- o Bylaws
  - ★ 1<sup>st</sup> reading was a Yes vote. 2<sup>nd</sup> reading will be in October.
  - ★ Subcommittee was a Yes vote. Have to determine how to use a Subcommittee.
  - ★ Insurance ( later in meeting)
  - ★ Website for Leadership manual may be redone, because people can't manage it. Alyssa Alvarez is on the job!
  - ★ Intern (Forest Service) - Mike
  - ★ BCHC sponsored the forest service Intern. Some have questioned how it benefits BCHC. One way is that we would have a like-minded person in the Forest Service to help include BCHC in decisions. What if they leave the state? They may return and work when a job is available. So, it's a good program.
  - ★ Looking for units to add money to increase the training program from 12 weeks to 16 weeks. This would include more leadership training.

Stacy Kuhns made a motion to help fund the 2022 intern for \$250.00. Motion was seconded by Jack Peckham. Some discussion ensued, including the salary is \$16,000, housing is included, application process, and planning for the future. Greg Bruce made a motion to amend – increase the funding to \$500.00 for the 2022 intern. Motion is seconded by Jack Peckham. No further discussion. Unanimously accepted.

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o **Insurance** – Mike

- ✦ The new policy was presented at the last meeting. The old policy didn't cover much, it was limited. The new policy covers nearly everything, no paperwork.
- ✦ We budget \$500 - \$600.00 per year. The state pays for the first half (\$8000.00). Membership rebates will fund the remaining cost, but the club then won't get the rebate money.
- ✦ This was a Yes vote.
- ✦ Investing funds passed.
- ✦ We voted No, will see how it works out.
- ✦ BCHC LNT Zoom meeting next week. Tom and Stacy will do it. A summary will be available.
- ✦ State meeting issue
- ✦ Mike is unable to ask questions. Only the director can ask questions during the meetings. Stacy, as the Education Director is able to ask questions. Stacy has multiple hats in our unit. She wants to and will step down as the unit director, so that someone else can represent our unit.
- ✦ Hope Adams made a motion that Mike Lewis will be our Unit Director. Stacy Kuhns seconded it. No one else was nominated. No discussion. Unanimously approved.

Ride Coordinator: Audrey Turpin

Trails discussed include Cahuilla, Beauty Mtn to name a few.

June 25 & 26 may be Sloan per Greg Bruce.

**Old Business**

- A. Remember that live scan is a must if you work with youth.
- B. In-house committees:
  - a. Trifold Brochure – not started yet
  - b. Kiosk – the proposal created at the meeting must go to Andy, so that he can get a grant
  - c. Trailer graphics – design by Ann York, got quotes. May not be able to use it because of the screws in the trailer.
  - d. No Rendezvous 2022
  - e. Newsletter – Some people aren't getting the newsletter. Mike stated that Rhonda moved. There was some lag time r/t getting the equipment set up in her home. She is asking for information/articles from us! Mike said he will use the unit report as his president's message.
  - f. Local newspaper – the meeting address is posted as the Little Red School house. We stopped meeting there r/t COVID. Stacy will contact the paper and supply the president's email as a contact to find out where the meetings will be held.
  - g. Maps – Greg suggested printing the maps yourself, from the Facebook files, and laminating them. The cost is too prohibitive for the RSR's to finance.

Anza Trail Town – Stacy asked about how our donation is being used. Allison stated that they are working with the county to make a topo map, and the Cahuilla Tribe is helping. The goal for the map completion is June.

**New Business** per Mike Lewis

- A. Palm Canyon Project – Mike would like to have a work party on the 26<sup>th</sup>. There is a need for Brushing on the trail. Will probably meet at the Pit Stop, then it's a 30 minute drive to the trailhead.
- B. Joshua Tree Pack Support – Mike received a call from a ranger. They be needing, for our consideration:
  - a. Trail support out of Ryan. They will have a 5 man crew out for one month. Support will be one time per week to re-supply for food and water.
  - b. Support out of Black Rock with building supplies.
  - c. There is a volunteer service agreement with BLM, Palm Springs/S. Coast field Office (El Centro and up the coast). This includes Beauty Mountain.
  - d. Gamblers Choice Obstacle Challenge – Gretchen  
Gretchen passed out handouts:  
Obstacle ideas – 10 obstacles, timed with a point system.  
Roles needed – committees to be formed. Mike volunteered for #3 & 5  
Discussion ensued regarding entrance fees, photographer, vendors, NO alcohol, obstacles and roles.
- E. Rendezvous 2023

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- a. March 24 – 26, 2023 @ CRC (contract is signed) (can arrive on the 22<sup>nd</sup>).
- b. Planning meeting is March 23, 2022 at Stacy's house. Lasagna and Salad. 6pm. Sponsors and committees are needed. Integrity is providing \$2500.00

A letter and advertisement will be created to request sponsors.

22 units can help out.

BCHC lost 10% of its membership in the recent COVID years. It's not because people are moving. Maybe because of a lack of a reason to go. Our unit is ok, and growing.

*Motion To Close The Meeting At 9:19pm By Alison Renck and seconded By Stacy Kuhns.*

## WELCOME NEW & RETURNING MEMBERS

These members are the additions from 2021 through February 2022

- |                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| ◇ Tish Clark                 | ◇ Monique Morton                 |
| ◇ Lisa, Abbi & Devin Cundall | ◇ Julie Onstott                  |
| ◇ Corinne Dale               | ◇ Steve Sr. & Cheryl Silkotch    |
| ◇ Aldrena Harvey             | ◇ Helen Steenman                 |
| ◇ Linda Hogg                 | ◇ Maia Turner                    |
| ◇ Cathy Jones                | ◇ Keith Wheeler & Lillian Peters |
| ◇ Carol Larimer              | ◇ Shirley Willits                |
| ◇ Donna McAloney,            | ◇ Aurora Wilson                  |
| ◇ Cynthia McCarthy           |                                  |
| ◇ Arely Melendez             |                                  |
| ◇ Julie & Randy Meyers       |                                  |



[www.bchcalifornia.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](http://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](http://smile.amazon.com) and know you're making a difference for BCHC. It's that easy!

## REDSHANK RIDERS 2022 EVENT / ACTIVITY SCHEDULE

(Tentative as of 3/16)

January	01/13 - Membership meeting (Mike & Pebbles) 01/15 - Officers training (Murrieta Tractor Supply)
February	02/05 - State meeting - Visalia 02/10 - Membership meeting (Stacy Kuhns residence) 02/25 - !POSTPONED BECAUSE OF WEATHER! Potrero canyon/ Agua Bonita work party (Mike Lewis) Meet at 7:00 am at Santa Rosa pit stop
March	03/10 - Membership meeting (Hope Adams) TBD - Cahuilla Trail work party ride (Jack & Gretchen Peckham)
April	04/14 - General meeting at Mike & Pebbles Home, potluck TBD - Beauty Mountain Wilderness ride ( Mike Lewis, Greg Bruce) 04/30 - Celebrate Anza _ 11:00 to 2:00 approx. (Mary Litch) For more info contact Mary at pct145trailangelmary@gmail.com.
May	05/12 - Membership meeting (Jack & Gretchen Peckham Residence) 05/14 - Gamblers Choice trail challenge, open (Jack & Gretchen Peckham) Location - Anza Lions Field 05/22 - Packing fun day (Mike & Pebbles residence)
June	06/11 - Membership meeting, Dutch oven, LNT presentation (Stacy Kuhns res) 06/25, 26 - Sloan overnight (Greg Bruce)
July	07/14 - Membership meeting (Hope Adams residence) TBD - Chihuahua Valley ride (Hope Adams)
August	08/11 - Membership meeting (Marci Leifer residence)
September	09/08 - Membership meeting (Jack & Gretchen Peckham residence) TBD - Treasure Hunt, members only (Jack & Gretchen Peckham)
October	10/13 - Membership meeting (Audrey Turpin residence) TBD - Eagle Rock (Stacy Kuhns) TBD - State meeting
November	11/10 - Membership meeting (Mike & Pebbles Lewis residence) TBD - Lake Cahuilla overnight and ride (Mike & Pebbles Lewis)
December	TBD - Membership meeting, elections, yearend party (Doug & Cindy Hay) Hay Hanger
TBD	Brown post campsite development Saw certification class

## 2022 Packer Intern Scholarship

2022 Packer Intern Back Country Horsemen of Ca.  
Packer Intern Scholarship  
May - Sept 2022

**ATTENTION: PERSONS 18 – 30 YEARS OLD!**

### Back Country Horsemen of CA Packer Intern Scholarship May - Sept 2022

Don't miss this amazing opportunity with Lee Roeser and Michael Morris of the Inyo NF Pack Stock Center of Excellence and Agnes Vianzon of the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corp.

Duties include assisting FS Packers to pack in trail crews and supplies throughout the Sierras.



**Applications accepted until March 15, 2022**

**Selection made by April 15, 2022**

Questions? Contact Cindy McMurry  
mcmurrycindy@gmail.com 530-640-0429

Click here to fill-out the application:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSe9Tf7cA5HA50tCkt-wmMz-bTWgtSWmxxkDio1XVktKRnyQ-kw/viewform>

For more information or to apply online, visit our Internship page.

<http://bchcalifornia.org/intern.html>

**Attention:**  
Persons 18 – 30  
years old

Don't miss this amazing opportunity with Lee Roeser and Michael Morris of the Inyo NF Pack Stock Center of Excellence and Agnes Vianzon of the Eastern Sierra Conservation Corp. Duties include assisting FS Packers to pack in trail crews and supplies throughout the Sierras.

Questions? Contact: Cindy McMurry

mcmurrycindy@gmail.com

530-640-0429

**Applications accepted until:**

March 15, 2022.

Selection made by:

April 15, 2022



# What's So Great About Dead Wood?



By Lauren and Richard - June 30, 2021 – Submitted by Stacy Kuhns



Some see a dead tree... we see endless potential! It might be easier to identify the benefits living trees bring to parks and protected areas, but did you know dead trees are just as vital to keep our natural areas healthy?

This snag serves a vital role for local wildlife!

Dead wood breaks down into nutrients such as carbon, nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus. These nutrients enrich the soil near decaying wood helping new plants grow and keeping living ones

healthy as the nutrients are reabsorbed.

Dead wood comes in two varieties. Logs are dead wood that has fallen over while snags are dead wood that still stands. Both provide homes for wildlife. Salamanders and snakes utilize logs in different ways: salamanders make their homes under logs, while snakes sit on top of them to feel the warmth of the sun. Just like logs, snags serve a variety of purposes for wildlife. Raccoons and tree squirrels like to make their homes inside snags, while owls and eagles rest on the bare branches to spot prey. Starting to understand just how valuable this dead wood is?!

Last but not least, dead wood serves to provide food for wildlife. Dead wood provides food in two ways—plants and animals, such as mushrooms and insects, eat the dead wood directly. In turn, those mushrooms and insects are then eaten by other things, such as deer and woodpeckers. Since dead trees provide the space for so much life it's no wonder people are starting to use new terms such as wildlife trees instead of snags, because there's actually such an abundance of life around these 'dead' trees.

When visiting our outdoor spaces, it's important to remember everything has its place in nature and needs to be left where we find it. What might look dead to you looks like a mansion to a squirrel and the log rolled out of the way might have been a buffet for a deer!



Leave No Trace

Submitted by Stacy Kuhns

## **There's no substitute for nature.**

From neighborhood walks to backcountry treks, we're drawn to it. It sustains us. Connects us. Inspires us. There is a place for everyone in the outdoors.

## **But it all has an impact.**

More use, over use, trash, endangered wildlife. And around it all: climate change. The nature we love is at risk.

## **It's time to reimagine how we #outdoors.**

Where getting out is about more than views. And taking actions that protect the nature we can't live without happens everywhere, every time.

## **We're Leave No Trace. We empower people to be the solution to conservation.**

We pioneer science and insights, build sustaining partnerships and activate our proven learning system. Because it takes more than checklists to protect our lands. It takes all of us.

## **When you Leave No Trace, you show you care.**

And that makes the difference. Because when we all do our part, we keep forests healthy, protect our parks, keep wildlife strong and ensure everyone is welcomed to enjoy these remarkable places together.

No matter where or why you get outside, it's yours to protect.

## **It's Your Nature.**

[www.Int.org/](http://www.Int.org/)





SAVE THE DATE -  
SATURDAY, MAY 14TH, 2022

GAMBLER'S CHOICE TRAIL  
CHALLENGE & FUN DAY

Redshank Riders  
with the  
Anza Valley Lion's Club  
are putting on a  
Gambler's Choice Trail Challenge & Fun Day  
At Lion's Club Arena  
39551 S. Kirby Rd.  
Anza, CA 92539

For more info, contact:  
Jack & Gretchen Peckham  
[vicepresident@redshankriders.com](mailto:vicepresident@redshankriders.com)





BCHC – Redshank Riders

P.O. BOX 383

Aguanga, CA 92536

Next Meeting is a Potluck at Mike & Pebbles - Thursday, Apr 14, 2022

[www.RedshankRiders.com](http://www.RedshankRiders.com)

The poster features the text "Backcountry Horsemen of California" at the top, followed by "RENDEZVOUS" in large, bold letters. Below that, it says "SAVE THE DATE" in green, "March 24-26, 2023" in black, and "at the California Ranch Co. in Temecula, CA" in black. At the bottom, there is an illustration of a pack train and the text "Hosted by Backcountry Horsemen of California BCHCalifornia.org".

Backcountry Horsemen of California  
**RENDEZVOUS**  
**SAVE THE DATE**  
**March 24-26, 2023**  
**at the California Ranch Co.**  
**in Temecula, CA**

Hosted by Backcountry Horsemen of California  
BCHCalifornia.org



## 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.