

REDSHANK RIDERS



An Affiliate of Backcountry Horsemen of California

www.RedshankRiders.com

A group of dedicated men and women working to preserve the historic use of trails with recreational pack and saddle stock.

2010 Officers

Issue 1

JANUARY 2010

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Message from the President

There I was, minding my own business, riding my mule, trying to stay warm. Next I was being served me up some really yummy food along with a little splash of spirits that was warming me up nicely too. At this point my guard was completely down. Then I heard a fiendish sounding voice say "ummmm, new blood" (I think it was Tom Firth's voice). After that it was a bit of a blur. There was a very short discussion about how unqualified I was (by me), which was cut off by some very soothing words of encouragement by Allison Renck ("oh, you're good, you're very good") and before I could say 'hold your horses' there was a vote and what do you know; tag, I'm it.

I kinda feel like Obama; a complete unknown, very little experience and no qualification suddenly thrust in your face as the new President. (I'm only sorry we don't have billions in our coffers so that I can pay off everyone's mortgages.) Anyway that's the story how I became the new President of **our** Redshank Riders group for 2010. I guess now only time will tell if the 'new guy' can pull it off.

I've had a lot of catching up to do the past few weeks. I've been pouring over all the past newsletters and talking to a lot of the people who have been doing our groups work. What I have learned is that our group has a **lot** of things going on and I'm frankly blown away by all the work that was being done by our past leaders. I've also learned that we have, without a doubt, **the best** BCHC newsletter and website in the state. I know, I've read them all, including the other units, and I'm telling you, it made me proud to be associated with the Redshank Riders. Rhonda & Stacy, you guys ROCK!!.... Thank you, all of you, for all the work you have done to get us to this point. I know I can count on all of you to help keep me out of trouble, right guys??

First order of business is to carry on with all the good work we are already doing. Namely, working to keep existing trails open, educating the public about backcountry use, and working with government agencies to maintain access to our public lands. As the saying goes, "united we stand, divided we fall" Without the BCHC we would not have a voice to protect our rights for access to our public lands. And then there's the phrase 'You can't fight city hall'... unless that is, you band together with your neighbors and people of like interests and build a voice loud enough to be heard. There are many different ways that voice is used to help maintain our rights. The BCHC has people fighting the fight at all levels, federal and state. Without them and the support we provide our access to public lands would be even more limited.

Equally and I think even more important is our job at the local level. Every time we ride



(Continued from page 1)

out we have an opportunity to show by word and example that we are responsible caretakers of our public lands and as such have earned the right to the continued use of them. 'You can catch more flies with honey' and 'deeds speak much louder than words'. So be courteous, be a caretaker of our back country and help out a fellow back countryman whenever you have a chance ... It's the right thing to do and only helps us to promote our cause.

What I would like to propose next regards the gem that has been dropped at our back door; the Beauty Mountain Wilderness (BMW). According to brochures written by the people who advocated this area being designated a wilderness, "The newly designated Beauty Mountain Wilderness comprises 15,621 acres of Bureau of Land Management lands in Riverside County, California. The area consists of a series of steep mountains, twisted canyons, streams beds and the 5,548 foot Beauty Mountain, overlooking the surrounding wild lands. Beauty Mountain's Million Dollar Spring is considered by the BLM to be one of the most pristine watersheds in all of southwestern California". Well I don't know about all that and as an off-road enthusiast I had mixed feelings about this new designation. But now that the cards have been dealt I am at least thankful that we still have access to this area by horse or foot (or mules). There are miles of existing trails to be ridden and explored. There are many springs scattered throughout the wilderness for our stock and there are many beautiful settings to camp in... and it's all right here in our own back yard....

I believe we have a unique opportunity to participate in the beginning planning stages for the development of this area. If we miss this opportunity we will only have ourselves to blame later. The overseeing agency, the BLM, is in need of our help. I'm sure they would welcome our assistance in helping to develop this area into an awesome riding, hiking, and camping area..... I propose that our group adopt this new area with open arms. That we nurture it, participate in the planning for it and help to build it into a recreation area that we, our community, and our children can enjoy for years to come...

The BMW will definitely be on the agenda for discussion at our board and general meeting on January 14th. Those of you who have ideas or other input on the subject or if you wish to contribute some of your time towards making this happen, please come to the meetings and share them with us. The more people working on this, the more that will get done. It's that simple. So please, attend the meetings and join us for the discussion.

Lastly, I don't know about you, but I love to ride and lately it has become a passion for me again (and at my age I need all the passion I can get). Bottom-line, I want to do a lot of riding this year. I have a 360 view and I want to ride in every mountain range I can see from my house, **and** I'd like to ride it with you.... I'm thinking that Robyn and I would like to host at least 4 rides ourselves... How many would you like to host? Lead our group on one of your favorite rides. I personally would love to go..... We will be discussing rides for this year at the meetings too so if you've got a good one in mind, let's get it on the calendar and DO IT!!

Ok, I've said a mouthful for sure so guess I better stop here, but in case you've been reading this and saying to yourself "Bob Jones?... President?? ...Who the hell is Bob Jones??" I thought a very brief bio might be in order:

56 yr w/m, the lesser half of Robyn Prinzing & Bob, AKA 'Boby' Between us we have 5 kids, 4 grandkids, 9 mules, 5 horses, 3 dogs, 6 hogs, numerous chickens, etc... We volunteer pack for the Forest Service and like I said, are passionate about riding horses and mules.....Also, we're both jazzed to working with the group this year.

I'm looking forward to meeting and having some fun with all of you through the year. I hope you all had wonderful holidays and that your New Year is blessed...

Sincerely,

Bob Jones "The New Guy"

PS, Call me anytime #951-445-3890



Robyn & Bob aka Bobyn

Unit Minutes For Meeting

December 6, 2009

Location: Allison Renck's home

Meeting called to order 3:45 pm

by Pete Spencer, President

Board Members in Attendance:

President/Public Lands: Pete Spencer

Vice President: Audrey Turpin

Treasurer: Stacy Kuhns

Education: Allison Renck

Members in Attendance:

Chuck Streeter	Sherrie Rondean
Karleen Esparza	Val and Jerry Young
Susan Gonzalez	Gail McCreight
Tom Firth	Ken Renck
Kathy Haun	Tim Turpin
Robyn Prinzing	<i>Guests:</i>
Bob Jones	Lana Thompson
Rhonda Strickland	

Minutes read and approved as in Newsletter

REPORTS:

President/Public Lands - Pete Spencer:

Review of projects done by Redshanks Riders
Ca Riding and Hiking Trail, Horse Gate in
Aguanga Heights

Need Volunteer hours

State board remained the same

Vice President: Audrey Turpin - No report

Secretary: Paula Bellesi: Not present - no report

Treasurer: Stacy Kuhns: Treasurer information can be obtained at any membership meeting

Membership: Teri Baron: Not Present - Reported currently 76 members

Trail Development/Maintenance: Next work party to be held on Jan. 10th, if bad weather then rescheduled to 1/17

Adopt a Highway: Position currently open

Education: Allison Renck: No report

OLD BUSINESS:

Turkey Treasure Hunt Ride deemed a success. report from Teri Baron

NEW BUSINESS:

Elections/Volunteers for Redshank Riders Board (Shang Hide) - Election Results:

2010 Board:

President: Bob Jones

Vice President: Chuck Streeter

Treasurer: Teri Baron

Secretary: Robyn Prinzing

Public Lands: CO Chaired- Pete Spencer/ Tom Firth

Education: Tom Firth

Ride Coordinator: Allison Renck

Newsletter: Rhonda Strickland

Congrats and good luck the new board. Lets give them our support and help!

Redshank to pay for Rhonda Membership for her continued great work on our newsletter and website. Thanks Rhonda

Allison wants to get Riverside County to put in more horse gates. Wilson Valley, Aguanga.

Work Parties to be scheduled for Cahuilla Mountain and Beauty Mountain in January 2010

Motion to Fund a reserve account for Education under the State in the amount \$479.00

From Tom Firth Seconded from Ken Renck

Motion to amend to \$500.00 from Stacy Kuhns
Second from Ken Renck

Passed

Meeting adjourned 4:35 pm - party started

Twin Lakes Cleanup Party

On Saturday, Dec. 19th the first of probably many work parties took place in the Beauty Mountain Wilderness (BMW). BLM Volunteer coordinator, Jennifer Taylor, arranged an all volunteer group of about 12 people to clean up around Twin Lakes. All the volunteers were great and many different trail supporter groups were represented. Several thousand feet of drip-line was gathered from the old orchard and removed to a waiting roll off dumpster, which was filled by the end of the day. Our group was represented by myself and Allison Rencks' 18 yr old son, Dustin, a super nice young man. At first I thought that Allison had pressed him into service, but I soon learned that his only motive was simply to lend a hand. I was duly impressed.



My own motives were slightly more self serving. I wanted to meet the person who is going to have a lot to say about how the BMW is to be developed. Besides being BLM volunteer coordinator, Jennifer Taylor is also involved in developing the plan for how BMW is to be used and managed. An important person for us to know and work with.



Things got off to a great start, Jennifer was excited about our interest in helping. Some of the ways we can participate will include monitoring the area, mapping the trail system, packing out trash etc. Our groups ability to ride and pack will be instrumental in helping out. If you are interested in doing some volunteer work for the BLM in the BMW contact me, so I can get you on the list, and get you the forms needed. Remember the more we participate, the more influence we will have in how this area is developed.

Special thanks to Dustin for 'lending a hand'

Submitted by Bob Jones

From The Trail Ride Coordinator

Hello Redshank Members

So do you want to have the honor of hosting a ride this year. Well its your lucky day.

All you have to do is call me and let me know you want to be the person who sets up a trail ride.

Its not hard, here is what you need to do.

- 1. Pick a date*
- 2. Pick a place*
- 3 Check out parking, cost, get directions, and decide if its an easy or a hard ride.*
- 4. Contact me with all of #4 information by emailing me at Ali9591@aol.com or by phone 951 663-5452*
- 5. And I will put it on the Ride calendar and get it in the newsletter.*

Easy huh.....

THANKS

Allison Renck

BCHC San Geronio Pass Unit
January 2nd 2010 Palm Springs - Indian Canyon Ride

It's time again for a lovely ride in the beautiful Palm Canyon in Palm Springs. So saddle up your ponies and join us! What a super way to start the New Year! This years ride will take off from the Equestrian Parking Area (see directions below) at 10:00 am, January 2nd.

Where - Palm Springs Indian Canyon.

When - January 2nd 2010 ride out at 10:00 am.

What to bring - lunch, water, warm clothing just in case it get's cool. (Traditionally it has been perfect).

Remember - there is a \$10 fee per horse and rider charged by the Cahuilla Indians at the entry gate.

Be prepared - There are some water crossings and rocky areas and climbing. (The view is fantastic)!

Directions:

From I-10: Take Hwy 111 towards Palm Springs, Stay straight to North Palm Canyon, Make a right onto South Palm Canyon. Take South Palm Canyon to the Indian Canyon Toll gate, and then on to the Equestrian Parking area on the left.

If you would like more information on the canyons, Maps, rules, info etc. go to www.theindiancanyons.com or call (760) 323-6018

For more information on the ride - Please call Mandy Picozzi @ (951)767-0986 or (951)970-6640 Goodponies@aol.com

Hope to see you all there!

Meet with Bruce De Mott, BCHC VP of Public Lands

Bruce will be traveling to Hemet on the 9th of Jan. 2010 to meet with all Presidents and Public Land Liaisons. A new approach to PL issues will be discussed. If you are one of the above officers please plan to attend. Any other interested members will also be welcome. The meeting will be held Mountain Valley RV Resort at 235 S Lyon Avenue, Hemet, CA, 92543 starting at 9am.

RSVP: *Please let them know if you will attend so they can have things set up.*

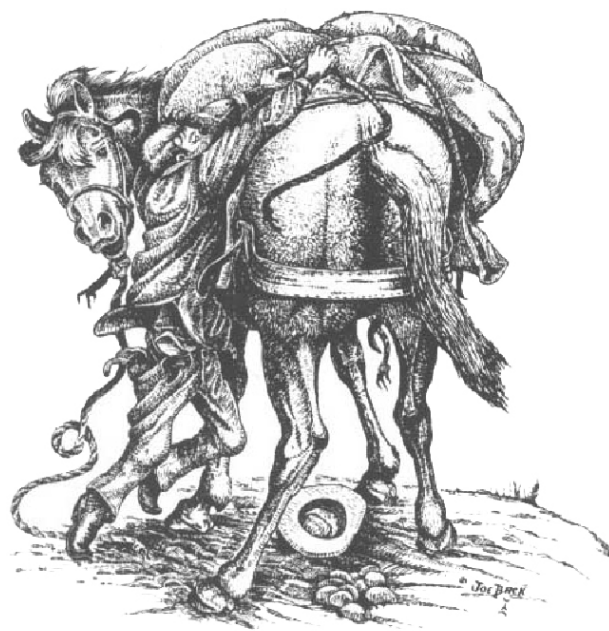
Bruce De Mott
 209.599.2620
 Email: Demott9@aol.com

Equestrian Campground Work Day

January 23, 2009

Riverside County Regional Park & Open-Space District will host an equestrian campground work day at Lake Cahuilla Recreation Area. The work party will begin at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, January 23, 2009. The barbecue will follow the work party Saturday night. To RSVP or for additional information please contact

Dan Nove at (951) 955-6998, dnove@co.riverside.ca.us or Gayle Cady, Riverside County Trails Committee at (760) 398-2724, gncent@aol.com.



...THE SHORT OF IT...

Happy New Year!!

FUN FACTS about the GOOD OLD DAYS

Lead cups were used to drink ale or whisky. The combination would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road would take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather around and eat and drink and wait and see if they would *wake* up. Hence the custom of holding a wake.

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top, or the upper crust.

Back in the early days in England those with money had plates made of pewter. Food with high acid content caused some of the lead to leach onto the food, causing lead poisoning deaths. This happened most often with tomatoes, so for the next 400 years or so, tomatoes were considered poisonous.

The Use of Horses and Stock in the Wilderness and Public Lands

Saving Trails is What They Do - Back Country Horsemen of America

By Sarah Wynne Jackson

When the U.S. Forest Service began to make changes to the trail classification system that had been in place for nearly 100 years, Back Country Horsemen of America took notice. When they realized the huge impact it would have on horse users, they made every attempt to resolve the problem. Despite their efforts, they found in 2005 that litigation was their only choice.

Under the U.S. Forest Service's proposed plan, as much as 50% of the Wilderness trail system may not have ultimately accommodated pack and saddle stock. Because of BCHA's persistence, this trail use that has been an integral part of the history of the United States will still be available.

Background of the U.S. Forest Service Trail System

Through much of the twentieth century, pack and saddle stock provided a primary means of transportation in our nation's backcountry and wilderness. The historical three level system – mainline, secondary, and way – had evolved over the better part of 100 years and served backcountry travelers well.

In the mid to late 1980s, trail specialists from around the U.S. determined that the three level system wasn't "visitor friendly" and changed the classification to "easy, more difficult, and most difficult". But the design standards remained unchanged until about 1999, when U.S. Forest Service personnel began overhauling the system.

Back Country Horsemen of America heard rumors of the change, but was unable to learn the specifics until late spring of 2004. After reviewing the information, BCHA determined that not only could the modifications have profound effects on traditional pack and saddle stock use, those changes were made without public input, as is required by the National Forest Management Act. This revision to a century-old trail system reflects a progression we see in today's society. When first constructed, these trails served as transportation routes that would provide "(a) safe and unobstructed passage of loaded animals and foot travelers at a walking gait and in single file; and (b) durability designed to meet expected use and liability of damage from natural causes," as stated in the U.S. Forest Service Trail Handbook, 1935.

Except in fairly rare instances, all U.S. Forest Service trails were originally designed to standards that would accommodate horses. Mainline (easiest) trails were designed for a loaded pack string, with an 8' clearing width and 10' clearing height. They were common throughout backcountry and in western wildernesses up through the 1990s, and comprised about a third of the entire system. At the other end of the trail design spectrum, the standard for way (most difficult) trails was a clearing width of 3 to 4' and a clearing height of 8'. Although this is recognizably inadequate for fully packed animals, it would accommodate a saddle animal and rider. Not only do a number of people like to enjoy undeveloped land by horseback, hunters have also been known to use way trails to pack out game.

In our modern age, traveling in backcountry has become more of a pastime than a necessity. In an effort to make available the kind of leisure experiences the public seems to want, the U.S. Forest Service now views trails in an entirely different manner – as a recreational facility. Unfortunately, equestrians seemed to be almost completely disregarded as users of these trails under the revised plan.

The proposed trail classification system would have categorized trails into five different classes, trail class 5 being the most developed (sometimes including such things as interpretive and handicapped trails) and trail class 1 being the most primitive. When compared to the historic trail system, nearly all classes of trails would be maintained at a narrower width and tread, and a shorter clearing height, making it unreasonable and/or unsafe to take horses on those trails.

BCHA found that of the three trail classes that would occur in Wilderness areas, trail class 1 would not accommodate the use of horses; trail class 2 would marginally accommodate a horse and rider, but not loaded pack stock; and trail class 3 would marginally accommodate packers with one to a few pack animals, but they would be in jeopardy on steep side slopes. The historic tradition of traveling with a number of pack animals would have been eliminated with these lower trail standards.

This potentially would have meant that up to 50% of the trail system, which had historically been available to pack and saddle stock users, would have no longer been managed to standards that would accommodate that use.

Another concern BCHA had was the decision making power given to land managers. The proposed classification system gave them the ability to change a trail's user status or maintenance standard, or even drop it from the system altogether, at their own

(Continued on page 7)

Do you have pictures from a ride, an event, a great animal story or joke that you would like to share?

Let's put it in the newsletter. Your input is always appreciated!!

Email me at editor@redshankriders.com

Rhonda - Newsletter Editor & Webmaster

(Continued from page 6)

discretion and without an appropriate decision process (including public involvement and effects analysis). There was also concern that the assignment of new trail classes might be based on current condition, use level, or budget rather than upon land management plans or history of use.

BCHA's Attempts to Save Trails for Equestrians

The goal of Back Country Horsemen of America was to get agency decision makers to step back and take another look at their proposed changes. They went to great effort to gain an audience with U.S. Forest Service national leadership, and despite their credibility as the nation's experts in wilderness horse use, they were unsuccessful in having their voices heard.

BCHA also requested information and statistics from the U.S. Forest Service and were refused. Then they invoked the Freedom of Information Act at both the regional and the national level, but were again rebuffed.

After BCHA hired an attorney, U.S. Forest Service leaders did finally meet with them. They insisted that these changes were within their discretionary authority and that there was no obligation to involve the public. They also dismissed the need to consider alternatives or analyze the effects of this change on historic uses.

But they did assure BCHA that their concerns would be addressed in the final draft of the proposed trail classification system. However, when that draft was released, BCHA found that none of their concerns had been incorporated. They had no alternative but to litigate.

BCHA Achieves Results

Back Country Horsemen of America prevailed in its claim that the U.S. Forest Service violated provisions of the National Forest Management Act requiring public involvement. Consequently, in October, 2008, the U.S. Forest Service met in Clearwater National Forest in Idaho with BCHA and a number of other wilderness user groups to discuss the impact of their proposed changes.

Having many different user types involved (such as hikers, bikers, and off-road vehicle users) helped fulfill the U.S. Forest Service's desire to avoid unfair bias to one user group. Many of these organizations thanked BCHA for bringing the changes to their attention and being persistent in seeking resolution.

To comply with the court's order, the U.S. Forest Service also released an "interim final rule" in October, 2008, and has invited the public's comments. Significant modifications were made to the original proposed classification system, and BCHA is pleased with the result.

As outlined in the interim final rule, the trail classification system will not result in fewer miles of trail being managed for pack and saddle stock, or trails being managed to a lower standard.

The U.S. Forest Service resolved that issue by increasing the parameters of trail class 2 to those of a secondary trail of the historic system, and the parameters of trail class 3 to approximate those of a mainline trail. Trail class 1 will not accommodate pack and saddle stock users, but under the interim final rule, a trail that already has pack and saddle stock use will be classified as trail class 2 or better. At this time, only about 5% of the national trail system is identified as trail class 1.

Instead of allowing land managers to make changes at their own discretion, the interim final rule specifically states, "Trail management and use [are] based on the management intent for the trail, as determined by the applicable land management plan, applicable travel management decisions, trail-specific decisions, and other related direction."

BCHA is very happy to have been able to preserve their solid partnership with the U.S. Forest Service despite the differences. When they traveled to Washington, D.C., for a formal meeting with U.S. Forest Service leaders, they were welcomed and treated graciously. In fact, U.S. Forest Service Deputy Chief Joel Holtrop, USDA Forest Service Director RHVR Jim Bedwell, and RHWR Director of Wilderness and Wild & Scenic Rivers Chris Brown have been attending BCHA's board meetings.

Get Involved Locally, Regionally, and Nationally

Back Country Horsemen of America encourages horsemen and other public lands users to stand up and have their say. In an environment where increasingly more recreationists, and different types of recreationists, are competing for the same trail system and land base, it is essential we be fully engaged in the planning processes and in monitoring plan implementation to ensure that trail management decisions are consistent with those plans.

BCHA encourages horse users to volunteer for their local, regional, and national land management organizations. Getting your hands dirty doing trail maintenance and being present at meetings will enable you to stay current with proposals and potential changes. It's far easier to prevent those changes than to try to revert them after the "No Horses" signs are posted at the trail head.

About Back Country Horsemen of America

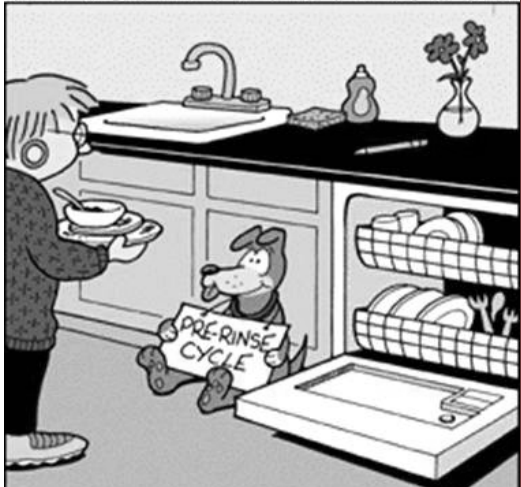
BCHA is a non-profit corporation made up of state organizations, chapters, affiliates, and at large members. Their efforts have brought about positive changes in regards to the use of horses and stock in the wilderness and public lands.

Submitted by Bob Jones



*Redshank Riders Potluck Party
December 2009*

off the mark by Mark Parisi
www.offthemark.com



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2010 BCHC Rendezvous

March 19- 21

Merced County Fairgrounds

Our annual equine extravaganza for horse and mule folks of all persuasions.

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/id25.html>

EQUINE AFFAIRE®

Pomona, California - February 4-7, 2010

<http://www.equineaffaire.com/california/index.htm>

The 10th annual Equine Affaire in the West will draw tens of thousands of horse people to enjoy a world-class educational program, extensive trade show,

**REDSHANK
RIDERS
UNIT
MEETING**

Next unit
meeting:
January 14th
6:30 PM
at the
Little Red
School House
in Anza
General Meeting
At 7:30 PM

www.BCHCalifornia.org

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

membership@bchcalifornia.org – (866) 748-2033

MAIL TO: Backcountry Horsemen of California
PO Box 1610
Oakdale, CA 95361-1610**PARENT Unit Affiliation:** (Select and CIRCLE ONE Unit as your Primary Unit Affiliation)

Antelope Valley	Kern River Valley	Mojave River	Redwood	Sequoia
Caballeros del Sol	Kern Sierra	Mother Lode	San Diego	Shasta Trinity
Eastern Sierra	Lake-Mendo	North Bay	San Geronio Pass	Sierra Freepackers
High Country	Los Padres	Ohlone Riders	San Joaquin Sierra	Sutter Buttes
High Sierra	Mid Valley	Redshank Riders	Santa Ana River	Top of the State

DCTR (your Membership Number): _____ (For new memberships, will be determined by Membership Coordinator)

MEMBER'S NAME—No Business Names; Print Clearly

SPOUSE / Co-MEMBER'S NAME—MUST SHARE SAME ADDRESS

Address _____

City _____

State _____

Zip Code (full 9 digits, if known) _____

()
Area Code Phone _____

Total Enclosed: \$ _____ Check No.: _____

Parent Unit Membership Types: (CIRCLE ONE)**Individual \$40.00*****Family \$50.00*****Benefactor \$100.00****Patron \$250.00****Mt Whitney \$500.00**

* = BCHC shares portion of dues with Backcountry Horsemen of America

Associate Memberships: AN ADDITIONAL \$15.00 PER UNIT IS ADDED TO YOUR PARENT UNIT DUES.ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP UNIT AFFILIATIONS **MAY NOT** BE FOR THE SAME UNIT AS YOUR PARENT UNIT.Associate Membership for: _____ \$15.00/unit
Unit Name (from above list)Associate Membership for: _____ \$15.00/unit
Unit Name (from above list)

Please write additional choices on back.

Please clip form along dashed line.

Application is available also online at:

<http://www.bchcalifornia.org/sitebuildercontent/sitebuilderfiles/membershipapp.pdf>

Tentative Event & Ride Schedule 2010

January 2010

Jan. 2th - San Geronio Indian Canyon Ride*

Jan. 9th - BCHC Public Lands Meeting - Hemet

Jan. 14th - Unit Meeting at the Little Red school house

Jan 23rd - Equestrian Campground Work Day (see pg 5 for info)*

February 2010

Feb. 4-7 Equine Affaire in Pomona*

Feb. 11th Unit Meeting at the Little Red school house

March 2010

Mar. 19-21 BCHC Rendezvous 2010 at Merced County Fairgrounds

April 2010**May 2010**

Please note: Items with an (*) by it are not Redshank Riders events and therefore may not be a BCHC affiliated event.

Aguaanga, Ca 92536

P.O. BOX 383

BCHC

RedShank Riders



HAPPY NEW YEAR

