

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.

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Issue 04

APRIL 2009

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Message from the President

Hi All,

Having just returned from Rendezvous 09 there are a few things to discuss.

First and foremost Congratulations are in order. I am pleased to announce that Rhonda Strickland our webmaster and Newsletter Editor has placed third out of nine entries in the Max and Irene Cochran Newsletter contest held each year prior to Rendezvous.

Excellent job Rhonda and Thanks for all you do for our Unit. Thanks also to Stacy Kuhns for getting the materials together and submitting them for the Judging.

This year the Top Hand Award from the Unit goes to Audrey Turpin. Congratulations Audrey!!! Audrey was instrumental in the success of the Trail Trial last year and was always there when Stacy needed her assistance as Vice President. Thanks Audrey.

On a Final Note:

Every year we have a Membership Drive. It is simple. Get six new members and the club will give you a BCHC Redshank Riders Unit Jacket. Simple as that. Teri Baron is well on her way to getting hers. You could be also. Please help our Organization grow and accomplish more. Get started now. If you were at Rendezvous and I missed you, I'm sorry. If you weren't there you missed a good time and I'm Truly sorry.

I look forward to seeing you on the trail or at a Work Party or Meeting. Get involved, Its your Club.

Your President,
Pete Spencer



State Board Mtg./Rendezvous Report

Submitted by Pete Spencer

First Day: Thursday

I attended the Public Lands Seminar. This was an all day affair. The speaker was Kevin Garden Esq. of Arlington VA. If you read your winter State Newsletter, you saw the write up on him and the subject of the seminar. It was: What you can do, a do it yourself primer on Public Lands and how you can protect your right to use them. I received a Handbook with lots of good information which will be available through the Club for anyone who wants to copy it.

Second Day : Friday

Started off with the Public Lands Meeting at 9am.

Topics of interest were.

1. The One vehicle Length Rule currently being pushed in the El Dorado Nat'l Forest and coming soon to a forest near you. The gist of this is that there will be little or no dispersed camping in the forest any more and you will have to park within one vehicle length of the road and unload your animal, camp etc. Anything else will be a violation and subject to citation. This is not only unsafe for you and your animals but creates a liability issue for the USFS, due to increased security concerns. That is just the tip of the iceberg. A Petition is available to sign, but better yet Write to your congressman and Senators and voice your objection.
2. BCHC supports removal of the Purity Doctrine from the Forest Service Manual and Handbook. This misguided Policy has been the impetus for the continuing effort by Forest service employees and Environmentalists to remove all evidence of modern man i.e. (non-indigenous). This policy if taken to its most radical level would include removal of all roads and trails from the Forest under the guise of "Purity" in the Wilderness. This Issue came up over ten years ago when the USFS decided to remove check dams in the Emigrant Wilderness. The Mid Valley Unit has been working on this ever since. In addition the USFS has a policy to remove roads they don't believe are of any use. It is called rehabbing and has already been done without notice or public comment period as required.
3. The Trail Classification System. Ann Lange and The Kern River Valley Unit started on this Issue over 7 years ago. It is an attempt to downgrade trails so that they are not maintained to levels usable by pack and saddle stock. They can then be closed to stock use under the guise of "Safety". BCHA then filed a lawsuit to get a seat at the table, so to speak. Now we are in a position to speak to issues which we were being ignored on. I would ask each and every one of you to go the Cleveland National Forest and San Bernardino Nat'l Forest Websites and make sure you have all your trails on the inventory and that they are classified no lower than Class 2. This is an ongoing process we need to keep abreast of. You can do this while checking the Forest Travel Mgmt. Plan for the One Car Length Rule. You may also notice that the USFS is putting up New Gates at the entrances to all the Roads in the Forest. What is that about.

OK enough about Public Lands.

State Board Meeting Report

Fri. Afternoon

Called to Order

1:13 pm

Minutes From October 2008 State Board meeting corrected and approved.

Secretary report: Tax I.D. #s went out to the Units who needed it for bank accounts.

Treasurer's Report: Included in 45day notice to Directors. Motion made to accept 2nd and passed.

Insurance Report: We now have a release of Liability form for our 3 free days. All participants of event must sign. Each unit now responsible for their own insurance costs, per member cost of \$4.60.

Membership Report: BCHC lost approx 100 members last year. Why are you quitting? Your trails need you more than ever.

Education Report: Your Education Committee is working on four new Flyers. Snakebite, Wasps, Clean Water, and revamping the Leadership training Manual. Check the BCHC Website for info and updates. Download what you need.

Public Lands: The handouts from the PL Seminar will be posted to the BCHC website w/i the next two weeks. I recommend everyone who cares about trails on PUBLIC LANDS download this to your Computer and become familiar with it. ONLY through the proper sequence and procedure can we fight off the onslaught of policy intended to exclude you from YOUR Public Land. You can bet the current administration will not help you maintain access. Witness the push to pass the latest Omnibus Public Lands Bill of 2009 and cram more unnecessary and ill thought-out Wilderness off on the Public.

Great News!! BCHC unit members did more than 1.6 million dollars worth of Volunteer trail maintenance work in 2008. Two of our units contributed more than \$250K. With Your Help we can make even more of a contribution in 2009. This makes us more credible at the table when we have problems with FS policy's such as the Purity Doctrine, The Trail Classification System, or the Proposed Forest Travel Plan. We are now Players and can have more ability to change things because of how we are perceived. We need you to step up and help out on at least one work party or event a year. Just Do It!!!

State Newsletter: Dead line for Spring Summer issue is April 17th 2009. This year we will only have three state newsletters due to budget constraints.

BCHC Travel Getaway website link is on State website. Redshank Riders Website has a link also. If you book any travel related reservations through this website BCHC gets a portion of the commission. The prices are as low as you can find anywhere.

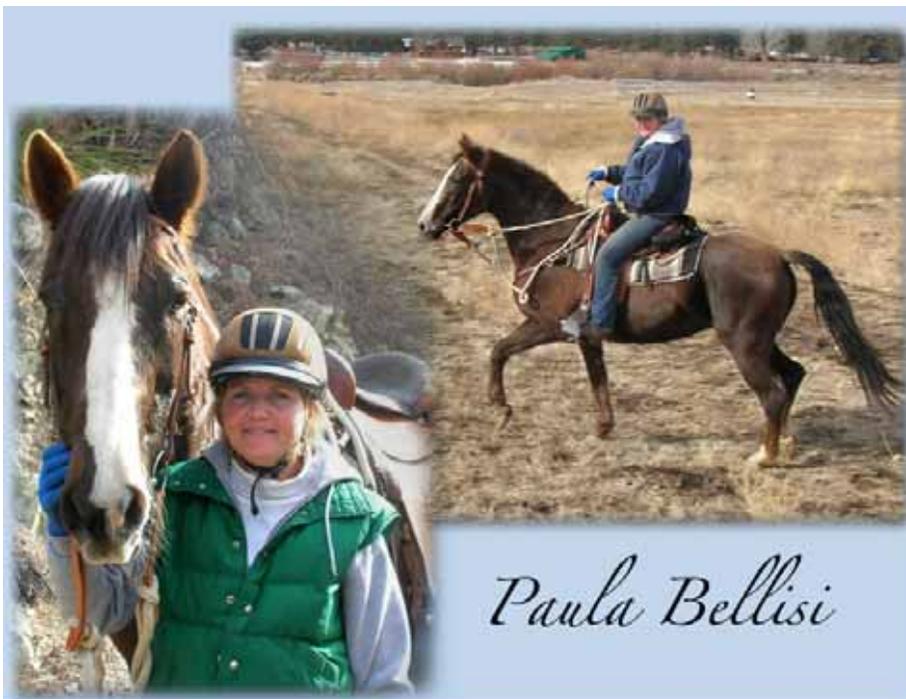
Why not support your organization, it is so simple to do and the benefits accrue to all of us.

Meet our new Secretary Paula Bellisi

I started riding horses when I was 6 years old, taking English lessons & eventually learning to jump. My parents purchased my first horse 2 yrs later. An Arab/Qtr cross that I shared a bond with for over 20 yrs, until his death. I spent most of my childhood in San Diego, where I started showing in Western pleasure/equitation and trail.

I was diagnosed with severe scoliosis in my 20s, and had eight back surgeries. After having everything but my neck fused, I figured I'd never ride again. But I never got horses out of my blood.

I met my husband in 1986. We moved to Lake Riverside Estates in 2004. I was thrilled to just be around horses again. My husband finally convinced me that I should try riding again. The rest is history.



I now ride for the sheer pleasure of it! That is what brought me to Redshank Riders. I heard how much the group did to keep the trails open for everyone, and I felt a need to help in some small way. I am very excited to be a part of this group.

Meet our new Membership Coordinator Teri Baron

PARADISE FOUND

By Teri Lynn Baron

I joined the BCHA many years ago as I was interested in making sure that access to the backcountry trails was kept open and trail maintenance encouraged. The BCHA seemed a good venue for accomplishing this goal. I am now the Membership Coordinator for Redshank Riders.

I group up in Northern California in San Mateo and Saratoga. My husband and I still have a home in Saratoga. We also have a home in Garner Valley. I have four Peruvian horses, two of which are retired and the other two are my main trail riding mounts. I have been involved with horses one way or another most of my life. I was the trails coordinator for the City of Saratoga for many years. This involved (the short version) rewriting and implementing the trails master plan, making sure trails were not blocked as development occurred and maintaining the trail system. Then I decided (notice the use of the word "I" instead of "we") that I really wanted a ranch that I could have my horses on instead of boarding them out. The hunt was on....

The kids were gone and we were free to explore other areas. But there were caveats to this adventure. It had to be somewhat close to civilization (within 1 hour drive time to a golf course – to keep the husband happy), and it had to have direct access to trails and national forest. A tall order to fill – but we found it quite by accident in Garner Valley.

We bought a lot and built the ranch of our dreams. Well, at least the ranch of my dreams as my husband would probably prefer to live in a high rise condo in the city. But as the saying goes: if mama ain't happy, ain't nobody happy.

Every morning I go out to feed the horses and from the first step out of the door, I am in heaven. I smell the fragrant pines, then I look up and see the beautiful mountains that surround our valley, and I think to myself, it just doesn't get any better than this. For me, I have truly found my paradise.



March 21st (Saturday) Work-party Report by Laurence:

For a group who purports to want to "save the trails and maintain access to our public lands", a VERY disappointing turn-out of the membership. Shame on y'all !

After I spent two days telephoning nearly all of the members (100+), to invite you to come out to our "riding-work party", and as a follow-up to our newsletter announcements for this date, only one person showed-up !!!! Even though it was a beautiful dry sunny warm spring day, not a single rider/horse came to Paradise Corner for our outing. My time will be better spent doing actual trail-work, than sitting at the computer or making phone-calls. Pauline and I did manage to complete the trail-gate that was installed last month. We then did recon on the Penrod canyon/Penrod creek junction with the PCT. Finally, after lunch, we utilized the sixty-year-old easement-deeds and maps to rediscover the actual alignment of the old Calif. Riding & Hiking Trail in the Paradise Corner area. For 9hours we did our exploratory reconnaissance work, for a total of 18 man/woman hours of volunteer effort. Thank-you, Pauline, for your enthusiasm, curiosity, and willingness to press-on and look around the next bend. I'm sorry the others could not come out to play/work with us. They did get invited....., ("you can lead a horse to H2O, but you can't force them to come to a work-party").

April 19th (Sunday) - OUR next-upcoming RIDE (non-work-party)

We'll try again at Paradise Corner Cafe (Hwy 371 & Hwy 74). This time, we need FIFTY riders to pound the vicinity-trails back to life for three or four hours, and then gather for lunch and socializing. We'll meet on the Ca. R & H Trail (on USFS land) behind the Restaurant at the tie-rack/hitching-post (outside of the public-lands fencing). Meet-time= 9:00am. (Come early for breakfast). You might get lucky and see some of the early-bird PCT back-packers, either at the cafe or as you cross the PCT, on your ride. Ride-leaders please step forward. I hope to provide a detailed map of the known local trails that need using, when you sign-in. Enjoy.

(Note; PCT kick-off at Mexican border will be Apr. 24th & 25th.)

May 16th (Saturday) Foot-Bound WORK-PARTY

On OUR adopted, two-mile trail-section of Cahuilla Mountain, to the west of Anza. Meet at 9:00am at the Tripp Flats ranger-station parking area or Trail-head (9:30am). Hopefully, we won't have to dwell on the lower section of the trail that we worked on last year, and can speed-walk towards the top to survey and reopen the entire route as we go, then do our actual tread work on our way back down. Watch for signs of last years rumored marijuana growing operation near the spring close to the top. Sign the "Peaks" register at the top. Standard trail tools will be supplemented by a chain-saw /brush saw for the expected downed trees. Please show-up and help-out. See you there ! Bring your hat ,gloves and favorite tool. Some of us will spend the night so if you want to pack in and campout let me know. 760 782 3747 or Laurence.Peabody@gmail.com

Out on a trail,

Laurence Peabody

Service Coordinator April 19th

PALM SPRINGS INDIAN CANYON RIDE

April 4th, 2009

TIME: Ride out at 10:00 am

LENGTH OF RIDE: Approx. 3 ½ hours (including lunch)

DIFFICULTY: Easy/Moderate – some climbing, some rocky areas,
some water crossings

Horses should be shod and in good condition.

Bring halter/lead (or hobbles) for lunch break.

\$10.00 fee per person (charged by Cahuilla Indians)

DIRECTIONS:

FROM Hwy 74: Take Hwy 111 toward Palm Springs (approximately 9.5 miles). Turn LEFT on SUNRISE WAY - go to second street, Turn LEFT on TOLEDO (watch for stop sign shortly after turning onto this street), which ends & turns into MURRAY CANYON: Turn RIGHT (Smoketree Stable is on your left). Take Murray to SOUTH PALM CANYON. Turn LEFT to Indian Canyon Toll Gate. Continue staying to left (Palm Canyon) to the EQUESTRIAN PARKING AREA.

FROM I-10: Take GENE AUTRY/PALM DRIVE from the East. Go to Highway 111 - Turn right and follow above directions (note – distance is shorter). If coming from the West, take Indian Ave. (North Palm Springs) to Vista Chino, turn left and go to SUNRISE WAY - turn RIGHT, follow directions above.

Contact: Beth Grossman (760) 333-3057

MUST BE BCH MEMBER

No stallions, No dogs, No alcohol, “Red-flag” kickers

THE PRESERVATION OF THE FREE-ROAMING HORSE

Sunday, May 17, 2009, 11:00 am–3:00 pm, Pierce College Equestrian Center, Woodland Hills, California, an extraordinary event to discuss THE PRESERVATION OF THE FREE-ROAMING HORSE. Ron Wechsler of Pierce College hosts accomplished veterinarians and authors: Dr. Don Höglund, free-roaming horse expert, will speak about his historic round-up of 2,000 wild horses from one of the most top-secret places on Earth, the subject of his book, *NOBODY’S HORSES: The Dramatic Rescue of the Wild Herd of White Sands*. “I fear that in 30 years we will not have a free-roaming horse alive,” says Dr. Höglund; and, Dr. Robert M. Miller, DVM, expert in Animal Behavior and author of *Imprint Training* and *The Revolution in Horsemanship*, will speak about the unique nature of the wild horse.

Reservations: Joan Waldman at 661.250.4600 or CelticCowgirl@aol.com.

Pierce College Equestrian Center is located on El Rancho Road (the back gate entrance to Pierce College off De Soto Avenue, just north of the 101 Freeway in Woodland Hills).

(submitted by Pete Spencer)

TULE PEAK RIDE

SATURDAY, APRIL 11th

For those who can't get enough riding in this is the

Reschedule of the VALENTINES DAY RIDE into Mary Bono's proposed wilderness area.

Saturday, APRIL 11th, formerly the Valentines Day Ride, now it is Cathy's Birthday ride (barring rain, snow, or gale-force winds.)

TULE PEAK TRAIL RIDE, soon to be Mary Bono-head's wilderness legacy. Come ride an area you've probably never seen except from afar and see for yourself why Mary Bono-Mack wouldn't know wilderness if she fell off her skis into it.

This is a semi-loop of two trails, the **Tule Peak Trail**, and **Tom's Camp Trail**. We will have lunch at Tom's Camp. Shoes on ponies not necessary, but this is a moderate trail with plenty of breather-breaks. This is a great conditioning trail. Wild flowers should be out by then.

Directions:

From Temecula: Hwy 79 south to Hwy 371, head up hill to Bradford Rd, turn RIGHT .

From Anza: Hwy 371, west to Bradford Rd, turn LEFT.

Bradford Rd. is directly across, (south) from Lake Riverside west gate.)

Bradford Rd. to Tule Valley Rd. (Must go right, road is paved then turns to dirt at Hernly)

Tule Valley Rd. to end, (approx 1 1/2 mi.) Left on Evening Star Rd.

Evening Star Rd. to end (approx 3/4 mi) turn right on Carrot Lane.

Carrot Lane to Deer Springs Trail, turn right.

Follow BCHC signs to parking (will be on your right on private property)

Ride out at 9:30 am sharp.

Please RSVP to Tom & Cathy, (951) 763-0405 or lecil_hadley@hotmail.com we need some idea as it pertains to parking.

Ride out at 9:30 sharp!!!!

Bring a lunch, "approximately" 4 hour ride round trip

Please bring shoe boxes full of twenty dollar bills for Cathy's birthday, you can give them to me for safe-keeping, I'll see that she gets them. (Shhh, don't tell her, it's a surprise!!!)

Please note: Comments made in this flyer do not necessarily express the opinion(s) of the members of Redshank Riders and/or BCHC-BCHA.

HORSE TRIVIA ~ Did You Know?

Horses don't have a gallbladder?

In the wild, foals will suckle until they are a year old, and sometimes longer?

The horse has the largest eyes of any land animal?

A horse's teeth occupy more space in its head than its brain?

Horses are not color-blind?

Check next month's newsletter for more Horse Trivia or visit:

<http://www.nickers.com/horse-trivia.htm>



April 2009

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
			1	2	3	4 Palm Springs Indian Cyn Ride
5	6	7	8	9 Bi-Monthly Meeting at Little Red School house	10	11 Tule Peak Ride
12	13	14	15	16	17	18 RCHA Extreme Cowboy Assoc. Cowboy Race
19 Work Party	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		



UNIT MEETING

Thursday

April 9th

6:30 PM

Redshank Riders Monthly Meeting



May 2009

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 Los Vaqueros Horse Camp	8 Los Vaqueros Horse Camp	9 Los Vaqueros Horse Camp
10 Los Vaqueros Horse Camp	11	12	13	14	15	16 Work Party Tripp Flats Ranger Stn
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Have you got pictures from a ride, an upcoming event, a great animal story or joke that you would like to share in the newsletter or website? Your input is always appreciated!!

Email me at editor@redshankriders.com

Rhonda
Newsletter Editor & Webmaster



Update your bookmarks - the BCHC site address is:
www.BCHCCalifornia.org

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

MAIL TO: Backcountry Horsemen of California
PO Box 1610
Oakdale, CA 95361-1610

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

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 Gorgonio 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.

REDSHANK RIDERS RIDE FLYERS AT OUR WEBSITE:

If anyone wants to download a flyer for an upcoming Redshank Rider ride you can find it on our website at:

www.RedshankRiders.com/rideflyers.html



UNIT MEETING

Thursday

~ April 9th ~

Time: 6:30 PM

The Little Red Schoolhouse



Los Vaqueros Horse Camp May 7-10

Thursday through Sunday. This is our annual service weekend with Saturday morning being our to assist State Parks by working on trails.

You must be a member of
Backcountry Horsemen of CA.

Please RSVP by May 1st to be able to get a head count for the dinner.

See flyer at the website: www.bchcsd.com

Questions? Give Cheryl Wegner a call: 760-788-0354
or email: chrylwgnr@cox.net

(please note: not a Redshank Riders event - a San Diego Unit event)

Meet Member Janet Burns

I know I loved horses from the day I was born. I used to plead with my parents for a horse but never had one until I was grown and married. I have had horses most of the time since then. I lived most of my life in Mississippi near the Mississippi-Tennessee-Arkansas border, but moved to Murrieta, California last April with my 2 daughters and grandchildren. I used to say I was born in the wrong century because of my love for horses and anything western, but now I say I was born in the wrong part of the country. I LOVE IT HERE. The country is gorgeous and there are horses everywhere. I was sad when I first moved because I had to leave my 3 horses in Mississippi with my son but it wasn't a month until I found a beautiful flea-bitten 12 year old Arabian mare and a couple of months later bought a 10 year old, white, Welsh mix for my grandchildren. By next year, I hope to be able to go back to Mississippi and get my beloved horses.

As to how I joined your association, I board my horse but there wasn't anyone to go do equestrian events with so I was on the internet looking for all the trails and anything to do with horses and came across your website. I keep coming back to the website and realized you are a group that I would like to be associated with. You just aren't talking you are actually involved in maintaining and protecting our trails, have trail trials, actually teach how to do "Leave no trace" and packing with horses and so on; everything I have ever wanted to do and be involved in. I am really looking forward to attending the meetings and other functions and getting to know California horsemen and women.

For Backcountry Enthusiasts - Black Bear Essentials to Remember

The following are what we bears would like you humans to remember.

You Must Be Alert - Please Do Not Surprise.

You Are Being Aggressive If You:

Get between me and my cub.

Are anywhere near a carcass

It's my food!

Walk directly towards me, circle or crowd me I

need an escape route!

Try to take "your" food away from me

It's mine!

The following are some helpful hints to remember while visiting the forests and parks;

Avoid a Confrontation

Separate cooking and sleeping areas

Store food and garbage properly

Keep a clean camp site

Avoid a Confrontation:

Watch for these Signs:

Large areas of torn up ground

Rocks or boulders turned over

Logs or stumps torn apart

Fish or dead animals

Berries

Claw marks on trees

Bear scat

Remember: Wild Animals Can Be Dangerous, bears habituated to food are dangerous, do not run, try to look larger than you are, do not bend down, each situation is different

To read more visit: www.BCHCalifornia.org and click on PUBLICATIONS.

Tentative Event and Ride Schedule 2009

April 2009

Apr. 4th - Palm Springs Indian Canyon Ride - (see flyer on page 5)

Apr. 9th - Bi-monthly meeting at Little Red School House

Apr. 11th - Tule Peak Ride (see flyer on page 6)

Apr. 18-19 - RCHA Extreme Cowboy Associations Cowboy Race

Apr. 19th - Work party - Paradise Corner cafe 9 am

Apr. 24th & 25th - PCT kick-off at Mexican border

May 2009

May 7-10 - Los Vaqueros Horse Camp

May 16th . Work Party - Foot-Bound, Tripp Flats

June 2009

Jun.. 11th - Bi-monthly meeting at Little Red School House

Work Party information: Call 760 782-3747

RedShank Riders
BCHC
P.O. BOX 383
Agunga, Ca 92536



HELP WANTED:

Workparty Participation

