

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA



SAN DIEGO UNIT

August 2008

2008

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BCHC SD Unit

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bchcalifornia.net

Chairperson's Address

Hello BCHC/SD members!

I hope this newsletter finds you well and enjoying your summer! During one of the REALLY hot weekends, a few of us loaded up and headed for the beach. You know, we're so lucky to live in a such a diverse place. To be able to enjoy the beach one day, the mountains another and the desert on another (winter day), we'll that's pretty special.

I'd been thinking it would be nice to be able to gather at the beach, so we looked at when might be a good day and picked August 16th. We've invited Pine Valley Mountain Riders to join us. Turns out that's a popular day, as I found out Ramona Trails Association, Bonita Valley Riders, and the local group, Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association are all planning on riding the Tijuana River Valley area/beach that same day. Ride out is at 10am. Space is somewhat limited at the County Staging Area on Hollister, Imperial Beach. Call me with any questions. (760-788-0354 mail to: chrylwgnr@cox.net)

75th Anniversary of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park by doing a pack trip tThe weekend of June 27-29 our unit celebrated the 75th Anniversary of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park by doing a pack trip to the wilderness camps of Granite Springs and Arroyo Seco. This was a great way for us "baby packers" to learn the ropes, so to speak, without getting ourselves to far out on the edge. Part of our objective, in addition to celebrating this wonderful State Park, was to show equestrians that you too can enjoy a backcountry experience here in your own "backyard". Yep, it would be great to get to the Sierra's more often, but for many, that's difficult. We've got some wonderful backcountry here within an hour or two drive.

Terry Hamilton, our unit's Public Lands person, planned this adventurous weekend. On the trip was myself, Patty Heyden, Terry Hamilton, Marty Jorgenson, Suzie and Walt Kirkwood. Allie Heary and Debbie Schott provided "support". (Yeah, we cheated a little, but ice cold beverages and fresh salad were a welcome treat.) We all had our own mounts and a pack animal. Terry and Marty had Miss Millie the Mammoth Mule, a new member of their herd; Walt and Suzie had their BB; and Patty and I got to borrow Scout, from Dan and Judie Clifford. We staged from behind Descanso Feed and McClintock Saddlery and headed north. We got to Granite Springs late afternoon and set up camp. We had known that the well pump at this primitive camp was not working, so had arranged for a water tank to be trailered up. We all brought extra water and it was a good thing, as here comes a boy scout troop, hiking up to camp the night there as well. They were expecting there would be water (remember one of the first rules of Leave No Trace: plan ahead, know what the conditions are, be prepared). We gave them the water they needed. It would've been a long night for them without it. With special permission from State Parks, we were allowed to highline our stock. (Both primitive camps have 3 corrals and pit toilets.) Terry made some Dutch oven chili and we sat under the glorious old oak tree (thank God the Cedar fire missed this area). Terry had arranged for Sue Wade, the state archeologist and fellow equestrian, to come up and have dinner with us. As we sat under the canopy of the old oak, Sue talked about the history of the area, the East Mesa, from before recorded history through the time of cattle grazing and the white man. We bedded down that night under a blanket of stars, with visions of the past dancing in our heads.

Saturday morning we lingered a bit, had a nice breakfast and packed up. The boy scouts, who had camped across the creek from us, headed down before

delight Dan Clifford and friend Joyce Jewell showed up to ride to Sweetwater Bridge with us. Our webmaster, Doug Cruger and his "Go Horse" Bowtie, were there at the Bridge to photograph our arrival and one of the State Park rangers stopped by to say Hello, otherwise it was a pretty low key deal. We took our lunch there and it was a good thing, because as we were getting ready to head on to Arroyo Seco, lo' and behold, a van comes pulling into the staging area. To our delight and surprise, Valerie and Ben York happened to be heading up Hwy 79, saw the pack animals and stopped by. Boy were they excited when they realized who it was! Ben had a big 'ol smile on his face and was shaking hands and getting hugs. I had to wipe tears from my cheeks. It was a moment.....

So, with joy in our hearts from getting to see our unit's Patriarch, we headed for Arroyo Seco and made good time. Got there in plenty of time to just sit back and enjoy some cold beverages and munchies while our stock relaxed under their high lines and in their corrals. Allie had brought the water tank up, as the water had been pretty nasty the last time we'd been through there, but now the water that came from the pump was pretty darn good. That night I noticed the lights from "civilization" made the stars not so bright, I thought about the fun and adventure we'd had and was thankful for this opportunity to be right here, right now.

Sunday morning we packed it up and headed back to our trailers. I'll tell you, our animals knew what direction we were going. My horse Nova was on the muscle the whole way back it seemed. Once back and loaded up, we all headed to the deli next to Perkins in Descanso there, and enjoyed some cold brews and burgers. It was a great weekend.

We put out a call to action regarding the El Dorado National Forest Motor Vehicle Management Plan. Please take time to read the concerns and comments within this newsletter and on our website and write your letter to our legislators. You might think that El Dorado National Forest is a long way from here and what does it have to do with us?! What happens somewhere else could happen anywhere, here maybe. Currently our local Cleveland National Forest Plan has a different tone than that of up north, but we must stay vigilant to our mission to ensure that we as stock users will have continued access to our public lands.

I hope the rest of your summer is filled with wonderful adventures! Hope to see you on the trail (not the narrow ones, though)!

Cheryl

Draft Minutes—July 17, 2008

BCHC/SD UNIT MEETING

Present: Cheryl Wegner (President), Terry Hamilton (Public Lands Chair), Patty Heyden (Education Chair), Pat Peters (Treasurer), Allie Heary (Secretary), Buck Ward (Member-at-Large), Ingrid Tighe (Newsletter Editor), and Deb Schott, member. Meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. Buck led Pledge of Allegiance. Agenda approved. Allie read the minutes from June 19, 2008. Terry moved the minutes be approved as presented, Patty seconded, Minutes were approved unanimously.

Treasurer's Report: Pat handed out copies of register report, dues income report, graph showing account balances by quarter. Report accepted for audit. Pat made motion, as of this date, unit maintains a Secretary's Book, in paper format, to be passed to each successive unit Secretary, and that these documents are available to members upon request. Patty seconded motion, motion passed unanimously. Pat made motion that a list of unit assets (i.e. packing equipment, trail tools, etc.) become a part of the Treasurer's Report. Buck seconded the motion and, following discussion, motion passed unanimously. Pat will give Ingrid a check for the calendars ordered by the unit earlier in the year. Due to a horse emergency, Pat excused herself at 8:25 p.m.

Public Lands Report: Terry gave report of the pack trip held June 27-29 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of CRSP. She wrote a letter to Nedra Martinez, Sector Superintendent, thanking her for her support of this pack trip in the Park. The Eldorado NF Motor Vehicle Management Plan was discussed. Plan will impact equestrian users, as it deals with dispersed parking on FS lands. All are urged to write letters to elected officials asking that the NFS delay implementation of the FEIS until further review of alternatives can be addressed.

Newsletter/Webmaster report: Ingrid advised that the newsletter for this month was completed. We are still wanting to obtain a list of members without email addresses so a hard copy of the newsletter can be mailed to them. Cheryl suggested that perhaps we may want to consider bi-monthly newsletters instead of monthly. No final decision was reached on this suggestion. Cheryl advised that Doug Cruger was given a 1-year membership in exchange for being our unit webmaster.

Old Business: **1)** The Joyce Gay Natural Horsemanship Clinic dates will be September 6-8. This event will not only be an excellent opportunity for member education, but can also be financially beneficial for the unit as well. **2)** The Santa Margarita River Park ride will be July 19th. All unit members are welcome to attend. **3)** Seahorse Ranch Campout/Ride August 16-17...Cheryl expressed some anxiety that the overnight accommodations might not be sufficient for the group. This will probably be a day ride only,

but should be a lot of fun for encouraging prospective members for the unit. Cheryl will find out about insurance concerns.4)Boulder Oaks/Wooded Hills—not much new to report on this as of yet .**New Business:** PCT Ride Challenge: Deb gave a report. The rides will begin possibly in January, 2009. Deb is working out details of this venture. It is expected that this will be a very well-attended series of rides. Deb will continue to bring her reports to unit meetings. Terry brought samples of silk fabric to show. Wild rags may be created to use as incentives for member participation, or given as prizes, etc. Our **next meeting will be Aug. 21 @ Coco's Restaurant in Poway** Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Allie Heary, Secretary



MEMORANDUM
(VERY IMPORTANT for any of us pulling a rig (truck and trailer) and parking on National Forrest Land)

June 27, 2008

To: Backcountry Horsemen of California Public Lands Delegates and Interested Parties

From: Dan Clifford, BCHC Vice-President Public Lands

Subject: Dispersed Parking on National Forest Lands

Over the past seven weeks, I have forwarded important information to you via our email tree regarding the Eldorado National Forest Public Wheeled Motor Vehicle Travel Management Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) and Record of Decision (ROD). I know that many of you are very busy and may not have understood the impact of these documents. Therefore I

am taking this opportunity to condense the issues and request your support and help.

Background

At first blush, the Forest Service plan appears to be directed at constricting the use of Off Road Vehicles (ORV) to Forest Service (FS) trails and roads, and would have little impact on equestrian use of the national forest. **If one were to reach that conclusion, he would be wrong!**

The primary issue, as outlined by Claudia Ball, Bill Ball and Patricia Gibbs of the Mother Lode Unit, is that the new regulations will force the use only of FS roads and trails (no over land travel), **but importantly they will restrict camping within one vehicle length of the road or trail. One vehicle length is about 18 feet.**

Interestingly, the FEIS distinguishes between "motorized" and "non-motorized" recreational experiences. *Your horse rig fits into the "motorized" recreational experience, but "camping" is a "non-motorized" recreational experience.* So think of it, you can camp almost any place, but if you are using a living quarters trailer, or a pickup camper, or a motor home, *or just a camper shell*, you will be **restricted** to the one vehicle length rule.

Now lets say that you and some friends want to horse camp in a national forest, all of your rigs would have to be lined up on either side of the road where no part of any rig is more than 18 feet from the edge of the road.

Think what this will do to safety considerations when other users travel right down through the middle of your "camp." Then consider how many trailheads that do not have adequate parking for horse rigs, you would be prohibited from using an adjoining meadow, just to go on a day ride.

When a horseman pulls his rig, consisting of a hauler and a horse trailer, on to a FS road, that rig, for FS purposes, becomes an ORV. As a result, it is bound by the same restrictions as if it were a dune buggy or some other type of "traditional" off road conveyance.

Procedural status

After an "informal disposition meeting" with Ramiro Villalvazo, Forest Supervisor for the Eldorado National Forest, attended by representatives from the BCHC Mother Lode Unit, and no other appellants, the attendees were J.Ball, Bill Ball and Patricia Gibbs of the Mother Lode Unit, is that the new regulations will force the use only of FS roads and trails (no over land travel), but importantly they will restrict camping within one vehicle length of the road or trail. One vehicle length is about

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Now lets say that you and some friends want to horse camp in a national forest, all of your rigs would have to be lined up on either side of the road where no part of any rig is more than 18 feet from the edge of the road. Think what this will do to safety considerations when other users travel right down through the middle of your "camp." Then consider how many trailheads do not have adequate parking for horse rigs, you would be prohibited from using an adjoining meadow, just to go on a day ride.

Interestingly, the FEIS distinguishes between "motorized" and "non-motorized" recreational experiences. Your horse rig fits into the "motorized" recreational experience, but "camping" is a "non-motorized" recreational experience. So think of it, you can camp almost any place, but if you are using a living quarters trailer, or a pickup camper, or a motor home. **In the FEIS there is no mention of vehicles that are purposely designed for camping: living quarter trailers, van conversions, cab over campers, motor homes, trailer tents, etc. It is as if the FS chose a blind eye to the use of the forest by a large segment of the population that purchased vehicles that are designed for the express purpose of camping.** As was noted in the Mother Lode appeal, by leaving these vehicles out of the FEIS, the FS skirted having to make their owners a part of the public discussion that is required by the administrative rules for changes in the forest's use. Whether this was deliberate or not, the result is that these people (including equestrians) were disenfranchised from their right to comment.

Analysis: In my opinion, the FS failed to meaningfully consider viable alternatives **as required by 40 C.F.R § 1502.14 ("agencies shall rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives")**. *The alternatives section is considered the "heart" of the EIS.* The NEPA analysis is invalidated by "[t]he existence of a viable but unexamined alternative." See *Resources, Ltd v Robertson*, 35 F.3d 1300, 1307 (9th Cir. 1993). Clearly, there are alternatives to bunching camping vehicles, including horse camping vehicles, in with "traditional" OHV's and banning all of them beyond a vehicle's length from the road. Automatically, one thinks of an alternative that would explicitly exempt these camper type vehicles from the prohibition. Or, in the alternative, expanding the distance to the road requirement for these vehicles. Neither of these alternatives was examined in the NEPA analysis.

Procedural status: After an "informal disposition meeting" with Ramiro Villalvazo, Forest Supervisor for the Eldorado National Forest attended by representatives from the Mother Lode Unit, and no other appellants, the attendees were told that

mined in the FEIS on [DATE]. **What this means to you and what can you do** It is our understanding that the Forest Service intends to use the Eldorado National Forest Public Wheeled Motor Vehicle Travel Management Plan **as the model for all such plans in all national forests**. With just a little research, like asking your FS management, you can find out the status of any proposed travel management plans in your forest. **Clearly, if the FS has a travel management plan in your forest, you need to get involved ASAP.**

Secondly, and this is where I am asking your help, we need to write to our national legislators asking their help in delaying the implementation of the Eldorado National Forest Public Wheeled Motor Vehicle Travel Management until the FS explores all reasonable alternatives to the motorized camping restrictions implied in the **ROD**. As I have discussed at our prior meetings, **I do not believe that a bunch of "form" letters has as much impact as well written individual letters or emails.** That is why I am not attaching some form letter for you to reproduce and send. But, you can use this memorandum to devise the talking points for such letters or emails.

Essentially, the letters should include a brief overview of the problem and a request for the legislator to intervene with the FS to delay the implementation of the Eldorado National Forest Public Wheeled Motor Vehicle Travel Management.

Unlike this memorandum, the letter or email should be **contained on one page, one and a half at most**. *If you chose to email, and I recommend that as the primary contact, you should follow it up with a letter.*

Finally, when writing a legislator it is important that in the first paragraph you explain who you are and who you represent. I would appreciate being copied on the emails or letters. Here are my addresses:

**Daniel Clifford, 521 Alpine Trail,
Alpine, California 91901
bigeasycowboy@mac.com or
dclifford@feinberggrant.com**

CONCLUSION: This is a very important issue that needs to be addressed now. I know how busy you are, especially with Summer upon us and plans of getting into the back country looming on the near horizon, but we need your help. Naturally, if you have any questions, I will be happy to try to answer them. **Happy Trails!**
Dan Clifford

Sample letter:

On the next page is in essence what a letter to your Government Representative may contain. It is important to use your own words and personalize.

"When a horseman pulls his rig, consisting of a hauling vehicle and horse trailer, off the highway and onto an NFS road or trail, that rig becomes an ORV for purposes of the NFS

more importantly they will restrict parking within one vehicle length of the road or trail. One vehicle length is about 18 feet! Horsemen enjoy camping and riding on National Forests; in this pursuit many of them own trailers with attached living quarters or use cab over campers and such to haul their horses.

These camping vehicles will be subject to the new parking regulations and that is where the problem arises. Parking that close to a traveled road creates safety concerns for the campers and their stock when other users drive down the NFS road. This, of course, will lead to conflicts between users. Moreover, causing equestrian and other campers to park so close to the road significantly lessens the camping experience.

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but if he is using a living quarters trailer, or a pickup camper, or a motor home, or just a camper shell, he will be restricted to the one vehicle length rule.

In the FEIS there is no mention of vehicles that are purposely designed for camping: living quarter trailers, van conversions, cab over campers, motor homes, trailer tents, etc. It is as if the NFS chose a blind eye to the use of the forest by a large segment of the population that purchased vehicles that are designed for the express purpose of camping. By leaving these vehicles out of the FEIS, the NFS skirted having to make their owners a part of the public discussion that is required by the administrative rules for changes in the forest's use. Whether this was deliberate or not, the result is that these people (including equestrians) were disenfranchised from their right to comment. In my opinion, the NFS failed to meaningfully consider viable alternatives as required by 40 C.F.R § 1502.14 ("agencies shall rigorously explore and objectively evaluate all reasonable alternatives"). The alternatives section is considered the "heart" of the EIS.

**The NEPA analysis is invalidated by
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Clearly, there are alternatives to bunching camping vehicles, including horse camping vehicles, in with "traditional" OHV's and banning all of them beyond a vehicle's length from the road. Automatically, one thinks of an alternative that would explicitly exempt these camper type vehicles from the prohibition. Or, in the alternative, expanding the distance to the road requirement for these vehicles. **Neither of these alternatives was examined in the NEPA analysis, nor were any others!!!!**

PEDRO FAGES HISTORIC EQUESTRIAN EVENT

SEPTEMBER 26TH – 28TH 2008 Come join us for a weekend of camping and riding adventure at **LOS VAQUEROS HORSE CAMP** IN CUYAMACA RANCHO STATE PARK—Hear the story of **Pedro Fages**, the first European to ride through what is now Cuyamaca Rancho State Park. He was the Military Governor of Alta Calif. from 1770 to 1774 & 1782–1779

Registration begins Aug. 1st— Deadline is Sept. 12th, 2008. Check in Friday Sept. 26th after 12:00 noon Check out Sunday Sept. 28th before 2:00 pm if paid for three day package. Check out Monday Sept. 29th before 2:00 pm if paid for extra day. Camping for the 3 days is \$40.00 per rider. Includes Camping space & one corral, Saturday dinner & Sunday breakfast. Directing and assignment of camping space will be handled by the Event Coordinator. Extra Day =Sunday Sept. 28th with check out Monday Sept. 29th = \$10.00 per rider. Guided trail ride Sept. 27th, Saturday - no charge to join the ride. Event day parking will be limited to the space along the road to Los Vaqueros. Bring your own horse.

Food – **Country Inn Catering** provided by www.ChuckWagonGuy.com Jim & Jan Sherdan.

Additional meals may be purchased – Dinner \$20.00 per person Breakfast - \$8.00 per person.

Saturday Evening's Guest Speaker will be **Garry McClintock** – An interpretive recollection of Pedro Fages & his travels as the first European in the Cuyamacas.

For further information contact Cindy McKievick @ #619-390-9553 or Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association @ #760-765-3056. Sponsored by **CRSPIA** (Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association) with the assistance of CEA (Cuyamaca Equestrian Association) **Celebrating 75 Years of Mountain Adventure in Cuyamaca Rancho State Park**

BEACH RIDE -Saturday, August 16th

Join Bonita Valley Horsemen, Tijuana River Valley Equestrian Association, Ramona Trails Association, Pine Valley Mountain Riders and us, Backcountry Horsemen of CA on the BEACH RIDE and POTLUCK. **3 trails to choose from**

Staging at 9:30am, Ride-out at 10 AM

From County Staging Area, 2310 Hollister Street, San Diego. (It's actually in Imperial Beach, but has a SD address.) Come join the fun and bring a dish to share. This will be a great way to meet other trail folks!

Directions: I-5 south, take exit 3 toward Tocayo Ave, continue on Tocayo Ave, turn left onto Hollister St, begin looking for staging area **after you pass Sunset Ave** and go over a bridge. Staging area will be a right turn onto a dirt road which leads back to the parking area.

For more info call Cheryl: 760-788-0354 or check out TRVEA's website: trvea.org, look for "trail maps" on the right side.

NEW MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

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

MAIL TO: Backcountry Horsemen of California
PO Box 1810
Oakdale, CA 95361-1810**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

Associate Membership for: _____ Unit Name (from above list) \$15.00/unit

Associate Membership for: _____ Unit Name (from above list) \$15.00/unit

Please write additional choices on back.

Please clip form along dashed line.

Parent BCHC Membership Types

Individual, Family (Shared*), Benefactor, Patron, and Mt Whitney. A Parent Membership is affiliated with a single Local Unit. BCHC members may NOT hold more than one active Parent Membership.

A SHARED Membership is for two adults with differing last names, each sharing a common address.

Associate Memberships

These special Memberships are only available to persons already holding Parent BCHC Membership. No one may sign up for an Associate Membership without 1) having registered one of the Parent Membership types, and 2) having selected Parent Unit affiliation.

- You may sign-up for as many Associate Memberships as you like.
- Associate Memberships may also be initiated at any time during the term of your Parent Membership.
- Associate Memberships must expire concurrently with the Parent Membership, and are renewable only at the time of renewal of the Parent Membership.

Complete information regarding BCHC Memberships is available on the MEMBERSHIP pages at BCHCalifornia.net.

KEEP FOR YOUR RECORDS

I submitted an Application Form for a new –

- | | | |
|---|----|--------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Individual Membership | \$ | 40.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family (Shared) Membership | \$ | 50.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Benefactor Membership | \$ | 100.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Patron Membership | \$ | 250.00 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mt Whitney Membership | \$ | 500.00 |

On that form, I also requested –

_____ Associate Memberships \$ _____

My Total Remittance: \$ _____

My Check Number: _____

Date Mailed: _____

If you find it necessary to communicate with BCHC about this SIGN-UP, please send email to

membership@bchcalifornia.net

Or phone

1-866-748-2033 (Toll Free)
(In the 209 area code, call 847-6118)

Backcountry Horsemen, SD Unit
c/o Cheryl Wegner
235 Oak Street
Ramona, CA 92065

TO: