

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA



SAN DIEGO UNIT

June 2008

2008

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Hello Members!

This photo was taken in April of 2008 and is of my dear friend Terry Hamilton (blue shirt) with County Board of Supervisor Dianne Jacob, Ranger Walt Schmidtke and myself.

Terry was selected by Executive Staff to be the **Volunteer of the Year 2008** for the efforts she put forth organizing the Celebration, Reenactment Ride and Campout of the 150th Anniversary of the Butterfield Stage Line. She then duplicated her efforts by organizing the 150th Anniversary of the Overland Mail Route from San Antonio to San Diego!! Both events were a huge success and highlighted Vallecito Stage Station, which is a rustic County campground in the Anza Borrego Desert. Terry also fills the shoes of Chairperson for Ramona Trails Association and Vice President of BCHC SD.

It's been awhile since our unit has put out a newsletter. I've tried to keep you informed through email, but it's great to have Ingrid Tighe back as newsletter editor!

As mentioned in a past email, the San Diego Unit was well represented at Rendezvous, held Easter weekend in Turlock, CA. Myself, Pat Peters, Allie Heary, Terry Hamilton, Patty Heyden and Buck "The Living Legend" Ward were in attendance. Allie and Buck are our State Representatives.

Our unit was in charge of the Western Art Show and our Treasurer Pat Peters did a heck of a job with organizing it and we had a terrific response from the artists as well as folks coming by to view the wonderful and varied pieces on display. P a t t y Heyden donned her Easter Bunny costume and hid eggs for the kids (young and old) to find. The kids sure had fun and it was a great way to celebrate the holiday at Rendezvous.

Here's a photo of Patty, the Easter Bunny



On a serious note, we attended meetings and sessions and there was a collective theme about how important it is to work with and develop partnerships with our agencies and land managers. Our unit is right on track, as we strive to "be a part of the solution, not a part of the problem". (My mantra.)

Also, as our membership ages, and we are, we must look at ways to engage youth. As things go, families are finding it more difficult to choose the equestrian lifestyle. But, that doesn't mean we cannot find ways to connect with youth, the people that will someday be our leaders and decision makers. We must take advantage of opportunities, make opportunities to engage youth, educate them about what we're about and why preserve access, why make sure there's continued use of stock in our back country.....

I live near a park where I ride by the ball fields while kids are playing. Many times I'll hear the young spectators yell "Mom, a horse!" I almost always take the time to stop and let them pet Nova, telling how much fun I have riding. Lately I've been ponying my Aunt's little paint mare with the pack saddle and I tell them a bit about that as well. Any opportunity is priceless.

A few of us were able to attend the recent California Trails & Greenways Conference held here in San Diego. We strategically attended sessions and did a bunch of networking. Our own Maryanne Vancio, who is the County Trails Coordinator and her staff, Sue Waters and Chuck Osbrink, were a part of the success of this conference. Richard Louv was the speaker for Thursday night. Richard wrote the book "Last Child in the Woods" and coined the phrase "nature deficit disorder". I read his book last winter and it speaks to the topic of how disengaged from nature many young people are today. Joan Embry was the speaker for Friday night and had a great slide show and spoke about the San Diego River and the El Monte Valley, near and dear to her. She also brought a bunch of critters, from a African porcupine and a two toes sloth, to a very large Burmese python to a Saharan fox and several other cute and odd creatures. It was great! Joan is such a friend to trails and has many times been in front of the County Board of Supervisors speaking in favor of trails, including the County Trails Master Plan adopted in 2005.

Well, we've got some fun stuff coming up. At the end of June several of us are going to be celebrating the 75th Anniversary of Cuyamaca Rancho State Park by packing for three days and 2 nights, staying at Granite Springs and Arroyo Seco. Terry Hamilton, our Public Lands Chair, has made special arrangements with Nedra Martinez, the Superintendent for Cuyamaca to do this pack trip, as we must arrange to have a water buffalo brought into both sites, as there is no water. We'll give you a full report afterwards. You can meet us for a special media opportunity at the Sweetwater Bridge at the south end of the park, on Saturday, June 28th at about 1pm. We plan to ride through about that time and hope we'll have some media coverage. We will have our Wilderness Riders Allie Heary and Erik Blume setting up an educational table at the trail head there, so come on up and celebrate Cuyamaca with us!

Put July 19th on your calendar. We're joining the Redshank Riders for a ride along the Santa Margarita River, in Fallbrook. Bert Hayden will lead us on the lovely ride, which I've been wanting to make for a long time and by golly, I expect to be there! See inside this newsletter for more details.

And, if that isn't enough fun, I'm so excited to announce a Beach Ride & Campout, *yes campout, in Imperial Beach*. We've received permission to do an over-nighter at the Seahorse Ranch on Hollister in Imperial Beach the weekend of August 16th & 17th. Pine Valley Mountain Riders will be joining us, as they had already planned a ride there that weekend. So we thought it was a great chance to have fun together! This is a marvelous opportunity to spend two days instead of one down there and with gas the way it is, I'm thinking this will be a great deal. We will be the guest of Seahorse Ranch owner, David Le Sage, and I'm grateful for his hospitality! I'll be providing more details after I scope it out within the next month. Get it on your calendar!

Down the road we're looking at doing a campout /ride at Oak oasis Open Space Preserve right in Lakeside. More to come on that.

I represented our unit at the National Trails Day celebration, which is an annual event held at Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve the first Saturday every June. Several of our members were on hand to participate in the Ramona Trails Association Raffle Ride. It was a fun event and a great way to connect with all kinds of people.

Well, I hope to see you out on the trail! Don't hesitate to drop me a line with suggestions, questions, or comments.

Happy Trails! Cheryl

Cheryl Wegner, Chair of the San Diego Unit represented BCHC on National Trails Day in Penasquitos Canyon, San Diego



Upcoming Events

June 14th Ride Garner Valley up to the Goldmines. Bring a flashlight for exploration. **Leave at 10AM for a 3 1/2 hour ride.** There are some rocky areas, need shoes or sole protection. Bring lunch, we'll eat after the ride. No Stallions, no dogs.

Please "Red Flag" kickers!!

**Hosted by the Red Shank Unit
Pauline - 951-659-333**

Ride-out at 10 AM 3 1/2 hours

Some rocks, need hoof protection
From Anza to L on Hwy 74

**BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CA
SAN DIEGO UNIT
INVITES YOU TO JOIN US FOR A
BEACH CAMPOUT/TRAIL RIDE**

When: August 16th/17th

Where: Seahorse Ranch,

Hollister, Imperial Beach

Host: David LeSage

www. seahorseranch.com,

What: We'll be camping at the ranch as self contained units; there are a few corrals to be had.

**Look for more
details in the July
newsletter**



PLAN AHEAD FOR 2009 RENDEZVOUS

Dates will be provided asap

Looking ahead

**WATCH FOR UPDATES regarding our San Diego Unit support of the Coyote Canyon campout/service weekend led by the San Gorgonio Unit in November.
Date to follow**



Patty Heyden & Cheryl Wegner, after their Rendezvous as Wilderness Riders, presented a session on "Gentle Use On Plants & Animals".

Patty brought preserved "road kill" she uses for educational purposes as a County Ranger at Stelzer Park in Lakeside.

RE: ELDORADO NAT. FOREST PUBLIC WHEELED MOTORIZED TRAVEL PLAN

Appealed by Mother Lode Unit :

Forest Supervisor Villalvazo failed to adequately consider comments made by appellants during the comment period. The FEIS, Appendix C, page C106, records appellants' concerns, "Alternatives B through E would create an impossible parking situation for equestrians to use the many trails designated multiuse. In essence, they create a de facto situation to severely limit equestrian use of ENF; they make group rides impossible." Appellants' comment letter also explained that if horse trailers cannot be reasonably parked at trailheads, equestrians cannot use the multiuse trails they have a right to use.

This is an excerpt. The full report will be in the next issue with the Forest Supervisor comments included...

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: