



Trail Whispers

BCHC—Caballeros del Sol

Volume 3 Issue9

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Howdy,

We are getting closer to the cowboy swap meet in Descanso. Still need some more volunteers to help serve and flip burgers and dogs, should you want to volunteer for a couple of hours of fun, feel free to call Tauri. She will put your name on the list and give you a time to show up. Those of us that have volunteered already will greatly appreciate the break. We are also going to be putting together a booth for setup at Ramona Information Days for Equestrians (RIDE). So should you want to volunteer some time to help, feel free to contact me and I'll get you setup to help out.

Well enough on trying to roust out more help. We had a good meeting last month. Next month's meeting will be at Kandhy's house, bring a towel, and your bathing suit. Swimming will commence when you get there. It's been fun in the past and will continue to be fun in the future.

The state board meeting will be happening in Oct on the 18th, 19th, and 20th. Our unit will be assisting with some of the expenses for our delegates that are going.

Pete Spencer contacted Linda Eskin to see if we would host the officers training this time. Some research needs to be done in that area and the results will be in the next news letter.

On the weekend of the 13th and 14th of Oct there will be free camping at Los Vaqueros Horse camp in Cuyamaca in conjunction with a work day on Saturday. More info to follow in next news letter. I know reservations are needed.

There was discussion of a work party, at MCAS Miramar stables to clean up some of the trails. There is old barb wire left over from the military doing tactical operations. We will be cleaning it up, date to be determined.

I know that this is early but rendezvous is fast approaching and we have only heard one idea for unit table decoration. Should you have an idea that you would like to share with your unit on a decoration for rendezvous, feel free to show up at a meeting.

Time to close, hope to see you at the next meeting. Happy riding.

Bill Huston, President BCHC/CdS

Meeting Minutes

Caballeros del Sol unit, BCHC

27 August, 2002, 7:25 p.m.

The meeting was held at Montijo's, around a blazing fire. Cold, in August? Nice for a change, but brrrr! It was a relaxed and efficient meeting this month. After a nice dinner and some chit chat we breezed through business, and got right to standing around the fire.

Minutes from Past Meetings: The minutes from the July meeting were accepted as published in the newsletter. Tauri moved, Rosemary seconded, passed.

Committee Reports:

Treasurer's Report: Donna presented the Treasure's report.

Public Lands: Most of the Public Lands issues were discussed in the newsletter. Nothing new for now.

Work and Education Hours Reporting: Get your hours in - even "old" hours - anything from March up to now. We need to turn in work hours (Steve Randall) and education hours (Linda Eskin) at the State Board Meeting in October. If you have any question about what hours "count" please call one of us and ask.

Public Relations Report: Gary McClintock has gotten some good publicity for the Cowboy swapmeet (Sept. 29). We will start publicity for BC 101 just as soon as the date is set.

Education Report: No report this month
Parade Report: The Mother Goose Parade will be the 1st Sunday after Thanksgiving. No plans to participate.

Unit Business & Projects:

Donation to BCHA: In July we agreed to send a donation of \$1/membership to BCHA, to support the national newsletter. That worked out to \$70, which Donna promptly sent. We have received a letter from BCHA thanking us for our contribution. We hope this will help BCHA avoid the need to increase dues.

Tie Rail at Hernando's Hideaway, near Lake Hodges: Tauri will be contacting the water district to coordinate installation of a tie rail.

Officers' Training: Linda is exploring the possibility of hosting the southern units' Officers' Training. This is a one-day workshop for current and incoming officers, held in January. Info to be reported at September meeting.

State Board Meeting, October 18-20: Tauri moved that the unit help with the expenses of those who have to attend the State BCHC Board Meeting. After discussion, Tauri moved that the unit contribute \$150 to help with gas and lodging, Steve seconded, and the motion passed.

Upcoming Events: Note - See the Calendar for a complete listing of events -

Horse Fest at Miramar Stables The Flying Hooves Club will be hosting Horse Fest at Miramar Stables, Saturday, September 21st, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. - open to the public. There will be demonstrations of various breeds and riding styles, lead-line rides for the kids, free food, and tons of fun. This is a great opportunity to introduce friends and family to the tremendous diversity of equestrian activities going on in San Diego.

Cowboy Swapmeet at McClintock's The date is now set for September 29th. Sign up now to help! We're doing the chuckwagon and a consignment booth. This is to raise funds for our unit.

R.I.D.E - Ramona Information Days for Equestrians To be held October 6th. Nola moved, and Sharon seconded, that we pay \$20 for a BCHC booth at R.I.D.E. - the motion passed. We will be inviting neighboring units to help support the cost. Volunteers are needed to staff the booth. Easy duty - one day - set up, answer questions, pass out literature, tear down. Sit in the shade and talk to fellow horsepeople.

Backcountry 101 - 2003 Backcountry 101 will be on May 17-18, the third weekend in May, at Granny Martin's in Descanso.

Volunteers for Backcountry 101 so far:

- Marty Jorgensen - Event Chair for 2003
- Tauri Cornell and Mike Ellison - Public Relations Committee
- Tauri Cornell and Linda Eskin - Clinician Recruitment Committee
- Tauri Cornell and Linda Eskin - Vendor Committee
- Donna Jesse - Registration Committee Chair
- Steve and Mary Randall - Packing and Stock Restraint Clinics and Demonstrations
- Nola Michel, Bill Huston, and Marcy Millar - Food Committee

Rides and Work Parties: See the Calendar for a complete listing of rides.

For all CdS rides, please RSVP with the trail boss or ride coordinator - their phone number will be on the calendar. If you will

be late due to an emergency, try to let the trail boss know so the ride can wait (up to 20 minutes) for you to get ready. Please show the other riders the courtesy of getting ready as quickly as possible. Unless the trail boss hears from you, the ride will leave on time.

September 14th - Tenderfoot Ride - Sweetwater Summit Campground - Day Use Area (small fee). Linda is the ride coordinator (619 441-7675 to RSVP), and Bill will be the trail boss. Meet there at 10:00 a.m., ride out at 11:00 for just one hour, at a walk, then we'll enjoy out sack lunches around noon. Anyone who wants to ride more after lunch may do so. (Report follows.)

October 13-14 - State Parks Trails Workparty. Free horse camping at Los Vaqueros group camp. Work on the 13th, ride on the 14th. Camping is by reservation - call Steve Randall for more information. Some work will involve riding in, but you can go without a horse too - there's plenty of work for everyone. Just come up for the day, if you like.

October 26 CdS Unit Day Ride. Los Caballos Campground, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park - Leave the Day Use Area at 10:00 a.m.

Meeting adjourned.

**SEPTEMBER MEETING:
Tuesday, September
24th, at Kandhy
Franklin's house (see
map on cover of news-
letter), for our annual
end-of-summer pool
party and bar-b-que.
Hanging out at the pool
begins at 3:00 in the
afternoon, with a bar-b-
que and pot-luck about
6 p.m., and the meeting
starting at 7:00. If we
don't get to see you
very often, please try to
make it - this is a great,
relaxed time to get to
know each other better.**

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

8/1/02

Attn: "Trails Whispers" Editor

Dear Editor (aka Nola)

After reading the July 2002 issue of our unit's "Trail Whispers", I felt compelled to write. We, of the Backcountry Horsemen, must stand together to accomplish our goals- and these goals require the support of all those concerned with trails, open lands and our wonderful four legged friends, especially horses and mules.

I feel that some material included in the July issue of our newsletter was inappropriate and divisive. (See article on p.2) I do not believe that it is in our best interests to re-print articles that take party-line stands. I feel that Clinton bashing and sarcastic and/or derogatory comments about conservationists, environmentalists (tree-hugger) or democrats is inappropriate and do not belong in our newsletters. Those comments are offensive to many of our members.

The article reprinted from the Wall Street Journal is written first person and represents the attitudes of the writer. This is not a news story; it is an article – not factual, not objective. What's the point? I see no reason for "fillers" like this to be included in our Caballeros de Sol newsletters.

Sincerely,

Arlene Kent, Donald Kent.



NOTES FROM NOLA

OK Folks! This is a plea for articles. I want to hear about your adventures, good humor and pictures. This is your newsletter. Tell me about your about your favorite place to ride, camp, pack. Did something funny happen to/with you and your animal?? Do you have something else you want me to put in this missile?? I can't do it without you!!! I want to print what you want. You may email your piece or request, or fax it (if printed out, a larger font scans the best, 12-14). And yes, I will accept hand written too..... Nola

Education Corner Our Unit's First "Tenderfoot Ride"

By Linda Eskin

Well, we finally did it! The first Caballeros del Sol "Tenderfoot Ride" - aride for people and horses who aren't up for the longer, more challenging rides our unit offers.

We met at the day use area of the Sweetwater Summit Equestrian Campground in Bonita at 10 in the morning.

The plan was to ride out at 11:00 for an easy one-hour walk. Anyone who wanted to could bring a lunch, and even go for another ride afterward. No takes this time, but we'll keep that plan for future Tenderfoot Rides.

Bill Huston was our very capable trail boss, on Moola. He also brought his horse Jenny, for Donna Jesse to ride. Tauri Cornell brought her cute little Arabian, who did *not* prance on the way back (yay!). I got Sabrina out for our first-ever BCHC ride - and the biggest group we've ridden with.

It was great having some steady, experienced horses and riders! Aside from wanting to stop and chat with passing joggers Sabrina did great - no doubt due to the good influence of the other horses.

I hope we can do these rides at least once every few months, at a variety of nearby, easy-to-reach locations. If you would be interested in participating, either as a "Tenderfoot" or as a steady influence, please stay in touch so we can make arrangements.

This first group was pretty seasoned, but for groups of newer people I'll come up with some short presentations about trail manners and safety, items to pack in a first aid kit, camping tips, etc.

We may even be able to do an easy campout one of these days. Many thanks to those who participated!

I hope we can expand the idea, and share it with other units. Maybe we'll see you there next time?

More on Fire in Healthy Forests and Wildlands

Del Albright

<http://www.delalbright.com/fire2.htm>

Editor's note: this is the opinion of an experienced firefighter that happens to be a motorized recreationalist. He has many good points of view to consider. Please read.

Prescribed fire is not the only way to manage a forest or wildland. Although one of the best tools available to land managers, it should be combined with other techniques like mechanical thinning. The bottom line is that land managers should have ALL the tools possible available to them to manage our public lands. Radical environmentalists have influenced enough lawmakers (politicians) that land managers are severely hampered in doing their job.

Land managers should be able to write a scientific prescription for a piece of land, and follow it without excessive political considerations. Not being able to use controlled burning because of air pollution laws influenced by radical environmental groups, is ludicrous! Controlled burning causes ten times LESS air pollution than wildfires. It comes down to particulate matter in the air. Because controlled burning means you can select the time, place and atmospheric conditions to start the fire, land managers can not only prevent a wildfire, but also REDUCE air pollution.

Then when you add mechanical fuel treatments (thinning, selective harvesting, brushing, hand-clearing, etc.) to small, mosaic controlled burning, you have a landscape that becomes nearly fire proof!

Communities need to work with their public land managers and help them get to the point where the land is managed based on local conditions and local objectives, with solid science backing everything up. Land managers need to have the ability to manage without excessive, unruly, unnecessary politics driving everything. It can be done if we all work together and tell our politicians what we want. There are a lot of good politicians who are working for us. We need to help them so they can be a stronger influence on the ones who are being swayed by the radical environmental groups.

FROM THE PUBLIC LIAISON CHAIR

Kathleen Hayden

Much of the information you have been receiving from me may not appear to be specific to the philosophies and purposes of BCHC, California State Horsemen's Association, or CETLC. However if we as organizations do not understand the agenda that is continuing to erode rights to keep livestock on private property and access to our public lands we, as equestrians are doomed as dinosaurs. We can understand the roots of our organizations but our future depends on the strategy in which we deal with our opponents. Who are "they" and what is their "agenda"?

The Wildlands Project disciples... standard tactic is designating critical habitat, a first step toward ultimately locking up land and banning its use by humans. They are behind Boxer Wilderness/Wild and Scenic Rivers Bill, another tool for controlling water and watersheds. This affects both private and public property, regardless of race, religion, political or recreational affiliation. This transfers local governance to the Feds.

Additionally, SB 1828 is legislation that offers the powerful Indian tribes an expanded role in land-use decisions throughout the state. This bill passed both houses of the Legislature this week and is on its way to the governor.

The Center for Biological Diversity had filed an ESA lawsuit every 32 days for the past five years and had 32

lawsuits in progress covering more than 80 million acres including a lawsuit to prevent the use of the mosquito-killing pesticide Fenthion. The Biodiversity Legal Foundation and The Center for Biological Diversity are just two of the point-man organizations in the campaign to gain control of your property - If you doubt that ESA-based lawsuits represent much of a threat to your constitutional rights - or your life, do a web search for articles mentioning either of these two groups. You will be inundated with article after article linking this organization to the United Nations NewWorld Order (see) <http://www.eco.freedom.org/> article on the World Summit on Sustainable Development which convened August 26 - September 4, 2002 in Johannesburg, South Africa, to celebrate the 10th anniversary of the birth of "sustainable development."

While we continue to volunteer in the field the battle is waged on all fronts, in the courts and political arena. While our leaders (BCHC, CSHA, CETLC) are working for equestrians access other user groups across the Nation have come together to form an Action Coalition. It is currently funding litigation and appeals to keep public lands open. This Multiple Use Coalitions' sole purpose is to fund sound science and legal fees for public access for all users. Currently the Borrego Unit of BCHC is represented on the Action Board by their Education Chair, Jennifer Foster. I am

a Board Member representing Ca. State Horsemen's Association. The closures in the Anza Borrego was our primary impetus for joining. These closures are driven by the Mojave plan. When finalized the Plan will amend BLM's 1980 California Desert Conservation Area Plan. BLM claims this is necessary to conform to the 1976 Federal Land Policy and Management Act, the 1969 National Environmental Act, and the 1973 Federal Endangered species Act.

Under the Action Program contributions are solicited from Trailer Manufacturers. User group, business and individual contributions are welcome. Please send a contribution, no matter how small, to Action Coalition, % Michele Cassela, 21790 John Street Perris Ca 92570. We have over 40,000 members between CSHA and BCHC. If everyone just sent ONE DOLLAR!!!!

The legal fees this month totaled \$6,132.00 for the complaint challenging 10 desert closures filed by Procopio, Cory Hargreaves & Savitch. Members of this coalition include BCHC/Borrego Unit, CSHA, High Desert Multiple Use Coalition, Blue Ribbon Coalition, AMA, CORVA, San Diego Off Road Coalition, AMA, and more.

The Action grant process is currently available. For grant form applications please contact Michele Casella: WMNRACER@aol.com



Forester George Duda holds two slices of ponderosa pine tree stumps. The large sample was cut from a healthy, 66-year-old tree, the small one from an 80-year-old pine. The latter grew in a forest where overcrowding is severely stunting tree growth.

THE MYTH OF OLD GROWTH SIZE DOES MATTER

Howard Hutchinson

“Save the old growth” has been the recurrent chant in the environmentalists’ campaign to prevent timber harvesting and forest restoration. Old growth is the habitat necessary to support spotted owls, goshawks and other forest critters, they say. The problem has been defining what constitutes old growth.

Like other environmental myths, old growth has been portrayed as stately monarchs coveted by greedy timber companies. George Duda, a forester with New Mexico State Forestry, contradicts the propaganda with a single photograph. In one hand is a 20 inch diameter 66 year old slice and in the other an 88 year old slice that is four inches across.

The current debate over forest health has been fueled by successive years of massive fires across the west. The unfortunate loss of nearly 400 homes in the Cerro Grande fire in 2000 focused public attention on a growing menace. Millions of acres and hundreds of homes later, government policy may be changing.

Congress is pouring billions of dollars into battling these monster fires to save homes in the wildland/urban

interface. Millions more are going into setting up defensible space around communities. The environmentalists claim they do not oppose this effort as long as old growth is protected from the evil timber industry in the process.

The new preservationist chant is small diameter thinning and only immediately surrounding homes. Management actions outside of this zone and sometimes within it are attacked with appeals, litigation and protests. They insist on diameter size cut restrictions. Again, claiming the desire to protect old growth trees.

What science reveals is that seventy years of fire suppression has created forest densities that are unsustainable. Pre European settlement Ponderosa pine forests had thirty to fifty trees per acre. Sixty per cent of New Mexico’s forests are Ponderosa. Tree densities in some of those stands are as high as three thousand trees per acre.

These stands are severely stressed. This results in stunted growth, being subject to increased disease and insect infestation and disposed to catastrophic wildfire. An equal hazard created by this unnatural condition is a conservatively estimated thirty percent reduction of water to surface flows and nearly equal reduction in ground water recharge.

Reduced water flows increase the concentration of pollutants in our streams and rivers. The unhealthy watersheds are more susceptible to erosion thereby increasing the largest single contributions to stream pollution impairment in the state - sediment and turbidity.

While the environmental champions block forest restoration they litigate for increased river flows for threatened species. At the same time they deride and litigate against municipalities, agriculture, and industries for water pollution. Like schizophrenic dervishes they whirl from one campaign to another not recognizing the destruction they leave in their path.

The Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties joined with thousands of New Mexico citizens and organizations to support passage of Senate Bill 1 in the 2001 legislative session. This

bill made a declaration of emergency on the threat of catastrophic fire to the State of New Mexico and authorized county governments to take action to eliminate the threat.

The Coalition is now joining with the Paragon Foundation in a petition drive to Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman to transfer management authority of the national forests to state and local authority for the purpose of restoring our forest health. The myth of old growth is no excuse to stand by while our forests, wildlife habitat and water sources are destroyed.

Howard Hutchinson is Executive Director of the Coalition of Arizona/New Mexico Counties. He also is Chairman of the San Francisco Soil and Water Conservation District and serves on the New Mexico Water Quality Control Commission. He lives on the San Francisco River in the Gila National Forest in Pleasanton, New Mexico.

DAVE ZUBER REMEMBERED

CdS lost a vibrant farrier and BackCountry 101 clinician on July 24th of this year.

Dave Zuber was our shoeing guru at both of our 101 clinics. He specialized in hard (bad) to shoe horses, trailer breaking, problem solving, spoiled horses and general colt breaking. Dave was a true horseman. His clientele ranged from Valley Center to Imperial Beach, Encinitas to Jamul.

Dave succumbed to cancer at Scripps Hospital, Chula Vista. Before he passed he gave his farrier tools to Dan Wyatt, a BCHC/CdS member who was his apprentice and has just finished farrier school in Bishop, CA.

Dave held all of his friends; he had many, in high esteem. He will be quoted as saying when asked how he was, “Why I’m so fine, if I wasn’t me, I’d wish I was”.

Dave will be always fine and will be forever missed.

WEED FREE FEED

Received by Email and reprinted with
The President of BCHC's permission:

The attached article is from one of our southern Units being circulated broadly in BCHC and seems to express the views of the many BCHC members. I edited it for correctness from my perspective but did not try to alter the research that Dan Clifford has done and his discussions with many of our members.

Our organization is a very democratic process group and this is the perspective of many members as to the need for such a program. It has nothing to do with us being on the Steering Committee or our participation in recommendations representing BCHC or CET&LC for the CWWF Program

You can see all the apprehension implied with so little documentation of instances of equestrian infestations.
Toby Horst

CALIFORNIA'S WEED FREE PROGRAM

By Dan Clifford

Both the federal and State governments are concerned about the loss of public lands to noxious weeds. They estimate that approximately 4600 acres of federal wildlands in the West are lost to noxious weeds each day. To combat the infiltration of weeds in California, beginning in 2004 all National Forest Service (NFS), Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and National Park Service (NPS) lands in the state will require the use of certified weed free feed when horsecamping, packing, traveling, or staying on federal lands. It is expected that when the federal program is in place, California will follow suit for state and county owned lands.

When the Weed Free Program for California was initially announced, BCHC was opposed to it. However, when it became clear that the government was going to implement some form of restrictions on the use of feed on federal lands, BCHC decided that it would be better to work with the agencies to get the best possible

program. In that regard, BCHC has been participating in meetings with other concerned groups to adopt a plan that is broad enough to discourage the spread of noxious weeds, but sufficiently narrow as to minimize the impact on land users.

The federal plan is underpinned by 36 Code of Federal Regulations 261.58, which, among other things, prohibits ³processing, storing, or transporting any hay, straw, mulch or forage products² that have not been certified weed free on NFS lands, Forest Development Roads and Forest Development Trails. Weed free feed includes baled hays, grasses, alfalfa or any baled combination plus straw and mulch. Under the Weed Free Program, growing fields will have to be certified weed free by a California County Agricultural Commissioner. While pellets are exempt from the regulation because it is believed that the heat used to process pellets will kill the weeds, cubes are not considered weed free unless they have been processed from fields that have been certified weed free.

Currently, the law enforcement efforts are confined to only warnings with a grace period designed to educate public land users; however, the Program will be fully implemented and mandatory in 2004. After full implementation, violators will be subject to warnings, tickets, and possibly criminal sanctions of ³\$500 and or six months in jail.² The law enforcement personnel will be directed to use discretion as to the severity of the violation when issuing tickets.

Contrary to abounding rumors, the Program does not require a horse to be ³purged² of non-certified feed prior to entering the public lands. On the other hand, the California Department of Food and Agriculture does recommend that a horse be placed on certified weed free feed 12 hours before entering public land. Said another way, there is currently no plan to employ ³manure inspectors² to assure compliance with the Weed Free Program.

In California certification will be accomplished only when a representative of the County Agriculture Commis-

sioner finds that in a growing field there are none of the weeds listed in section 4500 of title 3, division 4, chapter 6, subchapter 6 of the California Code of Regulations. Weed free programs have been implemented in other jurisdictions, notably Idaho, Montana, Wyoming, Nevada, some parts of Oregon, and Colorado.

Because the weed lists in these other jurisdictions are not as inclusive as the list in section 4500, feed that has been certified in those jurisdictions will not meet the requirements for the California program. Nevada has taken initial steps towards certification based a noxious weed list similar to California's. How weed free forage will be identified is still open to question. Other jurisdictions rely on identifying twine, and this procedure is supported by BCHC. However, growers have voiced concern that because 60% of them hire custom bailers who may bail as much as 12,000 bales per day, changing colors of twine from field to field will be difficult and increase the cost of the certified feed.

The growers also have noted that in order to obtain certification it may be necessary to go from using a small amount of a Category III herbicide to greater quantities of Category I chemicals. They are concerned that the authorities have not addressed the potential risk to health and the environment from the increased use of chemicals. Organic farmers also have voiced concern about chemical laden straw if it is used in compost. Many equestrians believe that there is insufficient scientific data to support the implementation of the Weed Free Program. They believe that much of the data that supports the Program is anecdotal, such as information that there are noxious weeds around pack stations possibly related to hay. The NFS has taken the position that there is abundant scientific literature demonstrating the conditions that facilitate the growth and spread of weeds once they arrive in a new area. But, it admits that there are no studies that demonstrate the relative amount each major user group contributed to weed spread (e.g., livestock permittees, timber purchaser, hikers, OHV).

In October 2001, Adda Quinn, a retired project manager formally involved with research at contaminated soil and water sites for a national research institute, wrote that in a study conducted in 1934, weed seeds that passed through barn animals, including chickens, sheep and horses, resulted in a only a single ³weak seedling². Ms. Quinn concluded that, ³The majority of seeds recovered from pastured livestock are the common and desirable forage species of grasses and legumes.² Until there has a recognized scientific study that concludes that noxious weed seeds will germinate and be viable after passing through the digestive system of a horse / mule, the BCHC opposes any regulation that may require ³purging² stock before entering public lands.

It should be noted that the Weed Free Program is not just directed at equine users. Straw and hay used in erosion control also will require certification.

Bonnie Davis, a freelance writer, who was hired by the California Department of Food and Agriculture to help educate equestrians and food stores regarding the Program and who maintains a web site on the subject (www.weedfreefeed.com) has said, What the cost of (weed free) feed will be is anybody's guess. She reports that the Sequoia & Kings Canyon NPS rangers paid 25% more for weed free feed purchased in 2002 for their pack stock. But, Ms. Davis also notes that not all people buy hay by the ton, and the cost per bale of certified feed purchased in small lots may vary drastically.

In Montana, the cost of certified weed free cubes is approximately one dollar more per 50-pound bag than non-certified cubes. But again, Montana's noxious weed list is not as inclusive as California's so a comparison of the respective costs may not be valid.

There is a great concern among equine groups, BCHC included, that the Program will be implemented before there is sufficient certified feed to meet the demand. This concern is bolstered by the fact that the number of

equine users of public lands is small in comparison to other demands for hay such as dairies and horse farms where certification is not required. Thus, there may be minimal incentive for hay growers to go through the certification process.

The agencies working on the Weed Free Program have expressed their belief that horseowners are just as concerned about the public lands as are the agencies, so the owners will feed weed free forage both at home and on the public land. That belief may be wishful thinking if the cost of weed free feed is not in line with conventional feed.

In February 2002, Joanna Clines of the US Forest Service wrote, ³The plan for implementing weed-free forage requirements will have an evaluation process built in and some kind of mechanism for adjusting the program if prices are too high and the availability of (California Weed Free Forage) is inadequate. We are working on exactly how to address this, but we are aware of the high level of concern among equestrians about possible price increases and impractical circumstances.

It is expected that in November 2002, the NFS Weed Free Forage Use National Environmental Policy Act (³NEPA²) document for the Region 5 forests, encompassing all 18 California National Forests, will be issued for a 30-day public comment period. The NEPA document will be published in the Federal Register. A similar public review process will be used by the NPS and BLM, but no dates have been set. For more information regarding the Weed Free Program, log on to the following websites:

www.weedfreefeed.com;
www.weedfreeforage.com;
<http://pi.cdffa.gov/weed/wff/FAQ%27s.htm>;

www.Californiastatehorsemen.com.
Ms. Clines can be reached at (559) 294-4938.

Dan Clifford is an attorney practicing in California, Arizona and Nevada. He is a member of the United States Supreme Court Bar. He also is a member of the San Diego Unit, BCHC.

THE DONKEY

An old man, a boy and a donkey were going to town. The boy rode on the donkey and the old man walked. As they went along they passed some people who remarked it was a shame the old man was walking and the boy was riding. The man and boy thought maybe the critics were right, so they changed positions.

Later, they passed some people that remarked, "What a shame, he makes that little boy walk." They then decided they both would walk!

Soon they passed some more people who thought they were stupid to walk when they had a decent donkey to ride. So, they both rode the donkey.

Now they passed some people that shamed them by saying how awful to put such a load on a poor donkey. The boy and man said they were probably right, so they decided to carry the donkey.

As they crossed the bridge, they lost their grip on the animal and he fell into the river and drowned.

The moral of the story? If you try to please everyone, you might as well kiss your ass good-bye.

SMOKE GETS IN MY EYES

by Don Amador

Don Amador is the western representative for the BlueRibbon Coalition and writes on environmental issues from Oakley, California. He may be reached by email at: brdon_a@sharetrails.org

Tragically missing in the current debate of “enviro lawsuits/appeals of forest fuel load reduction programs” is the effect of the wildfire’s air pollution on people located hundreds of miles from the fire.

I started to think about this while on a recent vacation at the King Range National Conservation Area in northwestern California. My efforts to photograph the mountain splendors in this region were blocked by a thick brown haze generated from the Oregon fires burning almost 150 miles away.

The active management of our forests — substantial mechanical treatment AND prescribed burning — is something that must become a reality. As one who grew up in the small timber town of Eureka, California in the 1950s and 60s, here is my view on active management v.

eco-lawsuits.

Active management programs on our national forests will not cause elderly citizens and children living 100-200 miles from a wildfire to be asked to stay indoors by state officials because of a smoke-generated smog alert.

Active management of public lands will not cause families to cancel their vacations at Lake Almanor in the Sierra Nevada Mountain Range because the dominating and breath-taking views of Mt. Lassen in Lassen Volcanic National Park are obscured by a filthy veil of brown air.

Active management will not require the Chief of the Forest Service in Washington D.C. to ask his agency to stop campground projects and trail maintenance programs so that those funds can be redirected to fire fighting.

Active management will not require the evacuation of towns in Colorado, Oregon, and California. It will not destroy the homes and property of rural residents. It will not take the lives of brave firefighters and leave those families without a

mom or a dad.

Active management will not destroy the critical habitat of threatened and endangered species. It will not char the bodies of bear, deer, pine marten, red fox, and other animals that can’t outrun a fast moving flame.

Active management will not ruin for generations the many family-oriented recreation areas on Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management public lands.

As smoke gets in the eyes of everyday Americans we no longer have the option of allowing green lawsuits and appeals to stop the active management of our forests. Our forestry professionals must be allowed to do their job..



COWBOY SWAPMEET

Come to the Cowboy Swap Meet! Sell and buy, eat and see your friends. This annual event will be held on the 29th of September this year. It will be held at the McClintock Saddle Works in Descanso. Just come out Highway 8 to North 79. Left at Riverside Dr. Right at (25077) Viejas Blvd . Ph 619 445 39446

The Caballeros del Sol will be running a food booth and we will also have a consignment table. You might want to bring your consignment items to the meeting on the 24th. Volunteer some time in the booth and come shopping.

Booths for Sellers will be \$25 and buyers are FREE

Backcountry Horsemen of California Caballeros del Sol Unit 2002 CALENDAR

BCHC sponsored activities are BOLD

Any BCHC activity may be attended by BCHC members from any unit, unless so noted. Call a board member for a contact phone number.

Other activities of interest are in italics (not sponsored by BCHC)

BCHC Caballeros del Sol Meetings:

All regular meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month.

Check the back of each newsletter for location and directions to the meetings

SEPTEMBER

September 21

FHRC Horse Fest
Miramar MSAC Stables

September 24th

BCHC / CdS Meeting 7:00pm
Swim 3:00pm - 6 Pm Potluck BBQ

Meeting will be held after a pool party at the Franklin-Collins home in Crest. Map and/or directions are on the back page. Page two has the bring-ums. Don't forget your bathingsuit!

September 27th - 29th

BCHC / SD Workparty - CRSP call Bernie and Peggy Martin's Oakzanita Ranch (619-445-1289)

Call for information.

september 29th

Cowboy Swapmeet.

Gary McClintock's Saddle Shop.
Our unit running food booth. 8am - 3pm See Page 9

Booths \$25 Buyers FREE

OCTOBER

October 5th-6th

Ride event, Fred Grand Arena area. Ramona

BCHC / SD Day Ride
San Dieguito River Park

callallie Heary 858

October 6th

Cowboy SwapMeet

Descanso, Ca

Our unit is running the Food Booth

October 13-14 CRSPA Workparty.
Call Steve Randall for camping reservations (Free)

October 18th-20th

BCHC State Board Meetings

If you wish to attend call Bill Huston

October 22nd

BCHC / CdS Meeting

This will be our first indoor meeting. Held at the Randall Home. Map will be in October Issue. Meeting time 7pm

October 26

CdS Day Ride

Los Caballos Campground, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park - Leave the Day Use Area at 10:00 a.m. Trailboss Steve Randall. Call and make sure he knows you are coming. Phoonnee Number on Fromt page Sidebar.

October 25th - 27th

BCHC / Los Padres Unit Halloween Camp 'n Ride

Santa Ynez Ccall a board member if you need information.

NOVEMBER

November 2nd

BCHC / Redshank Unit

Turkey Trot & Treasure Hunt

Flyer closer to time.

November 14th - 17th

BCHC / SD Workparty

Lower Willows / Vern Whitaker Horse Camp

November 26th

BCHC / CdS Meeting

DECEMBER

December 7th-8th

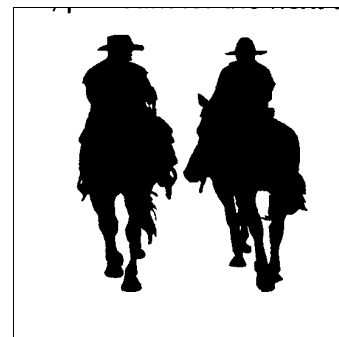
Vaquero Days

Descanso, Ca

No BCHC / CdS Mtg in December

Joint old/new Board Mtg in Dec.

Caballeros del Sol's Annual Post-Holiday Party will be in January



Backcountry Horsemen of California
Caballeros del Sol Unit
P.O.Box 12311, El Cajon, CA 92022
(Return Address Requested)

Stamp



Label

September 2002

Greenfield Drive

Take Interstate 8 to...

Take La Cresta Road all the way up the hill

Stay to the right at th

Tuesday, September 24th
3:00 on - swimming and fun.
6:00 - Potluck and bar-b-que.
Meeting begins at 7:00.

If you get lost...
call 619-444-4996
for directions.

Kand
on Pa
Park