



Trail Whispers

BCHC—Caballeros del Sol **Volume 4 Issue 5**
MAY 2003

Website: www.bchc.com/cds

UNIT BOARD / CHAIRS

Co-President/ State Director
Darrah Glynn (858) 442 0789
daraglynn@2by2.net

Co-President/ Editor:
Nola Michel (858) 278 9088
trlrider@san.rr.com

Vice President/Webmaster:
Linda Eskin (619) 441 7675
leskin@cox.net

Treasurer:
Mary Randall (619) 561 6764
sdrmule@cox.net

Secretary:
Tauri Cornell (619) 575 3355
roadappleranch@hotmail.com

Member at Large:
Sharon Haynesworth (858) 279 8518

Public Liaison Chair:
Kathleen Hayden (760) 782 9053
prknride@znet.com

Education Chair - OPEN

Reports / Data:
Steve Randall (619) 561 6764
sdrmule@cox.net

Insurance / Events:
Tauri Cornell (619) 575 3355
roadappleranch@hotmail.com

Public Relations:
Mike Ellison (619) 575 3355
roadappleranch@hotmail.com

Service / Work Chair: Position Open

Ride Coordinator OPEN
Equipment Manager: OPEN

Historian / Parade Chair:
Sharon Haynesworth (858) 279 8518

Hostess: Mary Randall 619 561 6764

President's Message

By Darrah Glynn

There is so much going on and so many different personalities and opinions to be had by so many it's hard to know for what and where to take a stand anymore. I think the important thing is to take a stand, even if it's not the most popular one to take. But then the great Oliver Wendell Holmes said, "The great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving..." When it comes to fighting the State Parks, at least we are trying to do *something* about the illegal actions they have taken. We may not all agree on exactly what must be done, but at least we are doing something.

I remember another saying that says, "Give an athlete an inch and he'll take a foot, but that's OK, who wants athlete's foot anyway." I'm not sure what that has to do with State Parks other than they have illegally taken a mile, closed it off to the public, and disguised it as a fraudulent environmental benefit. We don't want this either. So rather than bicker with each other, let's just choose the common direction of fighting the illegal maneuvers and get on with it. The fight should be against them and not each other. Now, I've said my piece and it's time to get ready for the FUN that should be in BCH.

The poker ride is ON. The big day is almost here. There is a flyer on our website that you can print out and distribute. Please take the time to hang a copy at your barn and local

feed store and get the word out. Invite all your friends and family and let's make this a well supported and good time for all. If you can help out, contact the Randall's for what you can do. I'm sure they will appreciate any help they can get.

The meetings the last two months have been attended by just the board. I am ready for the next General meeting where I get to see all my friends again, so please be sure to come. We will have lots of socializing and food (of course) to be had. Who knows, just maybe we can get a little educated and actually have some FUN. There's that word again, FUN. I love it and hope you don't lose the focus that this can be FUN. See you there!

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CDS BOARD MEETING: April 22, 2003

Called to order 7:40 pm

Pledge of Allegiance

Steve Randall moved and Nola Michel seconded to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter. Motion passed

Mary Randall gave the treasurer's report. We're looking good

Education: We are still looking for someone to fill this position

Member at Large: no report

Nola Michel moved and Steve Randall seconded to buy one youth booklet at a cost of \$15.00 for the unit to have in its library. Motion passed

Public Lands: Robert Coates reported on the Anza Borrego Wild Horse Conservancy for the ABDSP. He was asking \$1.00 per member for the defense fund plus a commitment of one to two rides a year to to Bailey's cabin to report on the wild horses. Robert will be attending all the clubs' meetings in San Diego county to present this. He is hoping for 20 clubs to sign up. Nola Michel moved and Sharon Haynesworth seconded to give \$100.00 to the fund and to commit to at least one ride. Motion passed (our unit has almost 100 members)

About 10 members of BCHC attended the trail meeting with Diane Jacobs. Groups can get funds to work on trails in her district. The matrix that is being worked on includes about 20 trails.

It is planned to have the Santa Maria trail in Ramona join the Mule Hill Trail at the Bandy Canyon trailhead.

BCHC appointed Kathleen Hayden to represent us in trail affairs to widen our camping and trail use. This includes multi-use, not just equestrian rights.

Once one group loses access, another

will follow soon.

Poker Ride in Penisquitos is a go! Steve and Mary Randall are chairpersons for this event. May 31st date Mike Ellison will get info to the magazines. Steve is in charge of flyer

Adjournment at 8:50 pm



POKER RIDE

MAY 31, 2003

Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve

Ride out promptly at 10:00 AM

Come enjoy a 2 hr guided trail ride in historic Los Penasquitos Canyon Preserve. Ride will start and end at the Black Mountain Road Staging Area at the west end of Mercy Road.

Ride is sponsored by the Caballeros Del Sol unit of the Back Country Horsemen of California. Printed material describing the back Country Horsemen and membership applications will be available.

- Snacks and drinks will be provided at the end of the ride.
- Poker hands are \$5.00 each, to be dealt at the end of the ride, high hand will receive 50% of the pot.
- Bring a water bucket for your horse and a chair for yourself
- Riders that are not BCHC members will be asked to fill out a liability waiver
- There is a nominal fee for parking

Reservations are requested to enable us to have enough to eat!

For reservations or more information call 619-561-6764, email marymule@cox.net

NOTES FROM NOLA

Well, I have been using my new rig quite a bit lately, I spent 4 days riding with Robert and Kathleen last month and one of the things Kat & I did was to check out the facility over at the Los Coyote Indian Reservation. I will have a further report on it in the next edition. High on the side of Hot Springs Mountain (tallest Mt. in SD County) should be a cool place to ride this summer and the campground is in an oak studded valley. Picture and phone # now 760 782 0711 ,article next month.

I am going on a trip (without horse) in June. After a bit of arm-twisting Linda has agreed to publish next month edition. Send her interesting tidbits and be kind to her!

Janeen Huston reported that the City of San Diego is open for bids from contractors on the equine staging area at Mission Hills Park. Looks like things are progressing.

FROM BORREGO, To All

Robert Hayden, Editor BCHC-BV

Being in the Borrego unit, I have and will support other units in their struggle to keep trails open on public lands. When asked to support issues to the North, even though I did not totally understand, I would support. It is hard to get the big picture if it is not in your own back yard. Thank God, Barbara made the time to ride, drive, investigate and review a vast portion of this Park and still saw only part of the nearly 700,000 acres in supporting the actions taken. The thrust of the law suit was; VIOLATION of the CEQA Process which resulted in the removal of a historic resource, the wild horses. This same violation also resulted in trail closures. As reported, closures were a point of discussion at the Southern Units meeting prior to the settlement conference. The suit was filed in order to bring Parks to the settlement table. We had also hoped this would open the dialogue to reopen trail closures and return our property, the horses.

Instead, they stated to our attorney, Barbara, Kathleen and Jim

Real their agenda. Wild horses, as exotic species, are not welcome on parklands. They stated their mission to remove the wild horses was only one of many steps in their agenda to restore parklands to nature. (Whatever that is) Fabrication and fraud are part of their process as we began to uncover and unravel vital facts and omissions. As a result of our discoveries, two State Senators have offered their assistance to hold this agency accountable and restore our horses.

Since few riders venture out of Coyote Canyon or Shelter Valley, many may not be aware of the the posted closures, restrictions and limitations that threaten us. I see new signs posted on a regular basis.

The Borrego Valley Riders, and others were independent clubs prior to joining BCHC. I personally joined in order to gain broad support to keep public lands open. I was appalled and angered to hear that Mark Jorgenson had calls from BCHC members saying they do not support this law suit. How disloyal!

It reminds me of the Mural in the Old Stagecoach Cantina at Warner Springs of a man on tree limb barely out of the reach of a grizzly bear on the ground trying to grab him. He prays, "Lord if you aren't going to help me, please don't help the Bear". (California State Park Symbol) It is unacceptable that while our membership continues to donate hundreds of trail maintenance work hours that any agency State or Federal, comes behind us and closes trails in violation of their own mandates and procedures.

State Board voted to give the PL and President authority to act quickly in emergency situations. This was one! Yet some units are demanding their immediate resignation without benefit of a statewide dissemination of the facts and discussion at the next State Board meeting. Don't take the oars away in midstream. We are lucky to have John and Barbara fighting for BCHC and supporting its mandate.

View from the trail about 10 miles from camp at Los Coyotes Reservation, overlooking Coyote Canyon and the Santa Rosa Mountains.



NOTES FROM THE TRAIL

Marty Jorgensen, CdS member

A while back I took a drive down to Borrego Springs. I have always loved the desert in the springtime, my jeep was running good, and something in the back of my mind had been nagging me to go down there for a while.

I have many good friends that work for the state park, and when I stopped at the Visitor Center I found out that Coyote Canyon would be closed for the next few days so that the park could capture the wild horses. I knew the park had been planning this for a while, and I had heard the arguments for both sides. Personally I thought the horses were just fine where they were. I felt their effect on the ecosystem in the canyon was minimal at best and they deserved to stay where they had been born. Their independence and freedom stirred something in everyone who ever saw them. But their enemies outnumbered their supporters, and I knew it was only a matter of time until the park collected them all and sent them to wherever they deemed appropriate. Little did I know it would happen so soon, and with so little fanfare. I suddenly realized what I needed to do so I fired up my jeep and headed up the Bypass into upper Coyote Canyon.

I have been traversing the canyon for over twenty years, by jeep, foot and horseback. For many years I lived in Anza at the top of the canyon, and I

probably know Coyote Canyon and its tributaries as well as anybody. It a place of rare beauty- a special place where the mountains and the deserts meet and crystal streams fall between palms and sycamores. Spring is short but spectacular, with everything trying to bloom at once before the heat of the summer sets in. And spring was in full force as I headed up the Bypass to say goodbye to my friends.

It didn't take long to find them- they were where they usually hung out, near the mouth of Sheep Canyon. They were fat and sleek- the winter rains had been kind and the grass was deep in Collins valley. They didn't look sick or starving as the State Park alleged in their justification for moving them. But I knew the wild and free life they lived (and I envied) was about to change forever tomorrow, and I knew what I had to do.

I parked my jeep and walked toward them through the grass and flowers that carpeted the valley. The horses saw me but somehow realized that I posed no threat to them and accepted me, for a moment, in their world. When I felt close enough I sat down, said a prayer for them, and began to tell them what was going to happen.

I told them that men were coming tomorrow to take them away and I told them why. I asked that blessings be on the horses for the rest of their lives, and that they be treated with dignity, respect and kindness. And I asked forgiveness for

those men who deemed themselves so important that they could take the horses from the only home they had ever known.

As I got up I noticed they had moved even closer, and I could have sworn a couple of them nodded their heads in thanks. I walked back to my jeep and drove away. On the way out I met a friend who was taking the hired wranglers in to size things up for the roundup the next day. The wranglers were nice polite ~good old boys", just there to do their job. I envied them and felt sorry for them at the same time.

I read afterwards that the roundup went off without a hitch, and it only took one day to collect the twenty-eight horses left in the canyon. They were vet-checked and then shipped to relocation centers in South Dakota and Olancho, Ca.. Supposedly they would be in large pastures there and still be able to run free over the hills. But I'm sure when they dream at night it will be of the canyon where they were born. I know I'll never go to Coyote Canyon again without thinking of them and saying a little prayer.

[Donations for David Hubbard's attorney fees can be made out to "Wild Horse Fund" and sent to Lynn Joiner, 16347 Stephanie Road, Bakersfield, CA 93312-9669](#)
[Thank you all for your support on this issue.](#)
[Barbara Ferguson,](#)
[VP Public Lands](#)
[BCHC](#)

AT THE TABLE WITH ABDSP

The first legal meeting.

Hello all, below is a brief overview of the important points discussed with State Parks on Tuesday, May 13. I would appreciate your input or observations. At this time, we are on hold until we can determine our next steps. See below my discussion of "what can we do".

First, we presented our Foundation Proposal to State Parks Attorneys (Dave Robinson and Dave Frandie) and Van Cleve (who was on the speaker phone). We stated that no dollars would be required from the State to manage the wild horse herd. We agreed to establish "an contingency escrow" account that would cover the removal of the horse herd if "things went south with the Foundation". State Parks left the room to discuss with Van Cleve.

When they returned Robinson (I think) stated that he wanted to give us "some history of the Park". Parks are different than BLM or Forest Service Land in that Parks are managed to attain natural conditions. Horses are "exotic species". The horses are causing environmental damage to the "environment" of Coyote Canyon. In the September of 2002, the horses were in bad shape due to the drought. We had an emergency situation. He noted that the condition of the horses was so bad that when the horses were rounded up in March they only found 29 of the 34 horses. State Parks assumes that between Sept. and March, 5 horses died.

He stated that State Parks will not manage wild horses on State Park Land. He stated that the "mission mandate" of State Parks is to "remove non-native species." He stated that this is the reason State Parks removed the cattle from the Park.

I interjected that I understood the reason the cattle were removed was because it was believed that cattle were vectors to disease transmission to bighorn sheep. I noted that we know from our research that neither

cattle nor horses transmit diseases to bighorn sheep. I noted that it appears that their "mission" is evolving. And a logical progression would be to include humans in the "non-native" or exotic category resulting in our removal from the Park.

He then made a counter offer that the horses be moved to "some place other than the State of California". We could establish our foundation and care for the herd.

Kathleen noted that they had already done this.

It was clear at this point that State Parks would not entertain our proposal or that State Parks "counter offer" was not reasonable.

David Hubbard then asked the mares and foals in SD be kept separate from the rest of the herd. He will send a formal request.

After we left we discussed our options. David indicated that just to get to trial would cost \$100,000. He noted that if we won a "CEQA" violation (and he thinks we would) and forced State Parks to go through the required analysis and public review, we could be faced with the fact that the horses would still not be allowed back because it is clear that State Parks does not want them there.

I reiterated that the BCHC joined the law suit in an effort to get State Parks to the table to consider another management option than removal of the horses. BCHC would not support a \$100,000+ law suit. I asked if there is a hook anywhere that would tie in that fact that State Parks is obviously biased against horses and equestrians, given all of the trail closures and other restrictions levied against equestrians. He was not sure this could be done.

Hubbard suggested that special legislation specific to ABDSP and the return of the horse herd be introduced in the legislature. He agreed to drag out (with minimal time charges to us) the process in order to

give us time to get this done.

Now, what can we do?

First, can we do what David suggested regarding special legislation. This herd after all is the last remaining wild horse herd in southern California.

Second, I will investigate the "mission" stuff. I believe that if State Parks has a management "mission" that has not been approved by the legislature and the public, it needs to be addressed.

Third, I think we have adequate information to substantiate the claim that State Parks misled BLM in representing that the herd never left Coyote Canyon. Can the Senator assist in reopening the issue of BLM's purview over this horse herd? Along the same lines, The Recovery Plan for the Bighorn Sheep in the Peninsular Ranges states that "involved State and Federal Agencies along with the Agua Caliente Brand of the Cahuilla Indians should determine whether the wild horse management in Coyote Canyon...is consistent with bighorn recovery objectives in these areas." This could be used to open up the issue of returning the horses if the native Americans want to get involved.

Fourth, I agree with Jim Real (CSHA) at some time (the sooner the better and by someone other than the Plaintiffs) I think we need to get an expose done on how State Parks tried to hoodwink everyone into believing that they "care for the welfare of the horses". If the Park knew in September 2002 that the horses were suffering, why was no action taken. Vets hired by State Parks, observed on FEB.7, and wrote in a report that the horses were in bad shape due to inadequate feed. Yet, pictures taken by State Parks during the round up (March 18) showed that the herd was in great shape and clearly not starving due to lack of feed. It is impossible for a horse to go from a bag of bones to looking great in one month.



COYOTE CANYON ABDSP MARCH 18th 2003

Section 3003.5 of Fish and Game code states:

It is unlawful to pursue, drive, or herd any bird or mammal with any motorized water, land, or air vehicle, including, but not limited to, a motor vehicle, airplane, powerboat, or snowmobile, except in any of the following circumstances:

- (a) On private property by the landowner or tenant thereof to drive a herd of game mammals for the purpose of preventing damage by such mammals on private property.
- (b) Pursuant to a permit from the department issued under such regulations as the commission may prescribe.
- (c) In the pursuit of agriculture.

The question is: Did Department of Parks get a permit to allow the herding of the wild horses (mammals) by helicopter (air vehicle) as per the section 3003.5 (b) above??



NOT ALL HEROES ARE PEOPLE

James Crane worked on the 101st floor of Tower 1 of the World Trade Center. He is blind so he has a golden retriever named Daisy. After the plane hit 20 stories below, James knew that he was doomed, so he let Daisy go, out of an act of love. She darted away into the darkened hallway. Choking on the fumes of the jet fuel and the smoke James was just waiting to die.

About 30 minutes later, Daisy comes back along with James' boss, who Daisy just happened to pick up on floor 112. On her first run of the building, she leads James, James' boss, and about 300 more people out of the doomed building. But she wasn't through yet, she knew there were others who were trapped. So, highly against James' wishes she ran back in the building.

On her second run, she saved 392 lives. Again she went back in. During this run, the building collapses. James hears about this and falls on his knees into tears. Against all known odds, Daisy makes it out alive, but this time she is carried by a firefighter. "She led us right to the people, before she got injured" the fireman explained.

Her final run saved another 273 lives. She suffered acute smoke inhalation, severe burns on all four paws, and a broken leg, but she saved 967 lives. The next week, Mayor Guilaini rewards Daisy with the Canine medal of Honor of New York. Daisy is the first civilian Canine to win such an honor.

THE PRICE OF FREEDOM

Today I saw the price of freedom to use public lands. A price that very few were willing to pay. As Tom Jefferson once said, "The price of freedom is eternal vigilance."

Today is April 14, 2003 the day the Forest Service presented the Wasatch-Cache National Forest Revised Plan in the first of a series of Open House Meetings. Forest Service employees have spent a little over four years and waded through over 3,700 written comments and numerous individual discussions on how the plan should be revised. According to Tom Tidwell, the Forest Supervisor, "this revision will not satisfy everyone and I expect nobody will be pleased with all of it."

Over 3,700 people took the time to comment on the Revised Plan, while a number of those comments were mass formatted e-mails or postcards, there were an unusually high number of carefully written letters from individuals. These comments were influential in assisting the planners to develop an additional alternative to the six submitted for review and alternative seven was chosen as the best revision to the plan.

So how many people were in attendance to see this alternative revealed, review the maps and question the Forest Service employees who had worked so hard to produce it? Three, a reporter from the Salt Lake City Tribune, a young man who enjoys backcountry skiing and me. Where were there representatives of any of the multiple use groups? Where, in fact, were members of the environmental industry? They have a monthly breakfast with Forest Service employees. I plan to attend the next one.

What did I accomplish by attending this Open House? I got valuable information about the Monthly breakfast meeting that often gathers

valuable preliminary data that will lead to the development of various site specific plans, including trails and routes of travel. I spoke with the Forest's Wildlife Biologist who will be sending me maps and statistical data on potential lynx habitat, wolf migration and white tailed deer migration. I also learned a lot about how indicator species are chosen and how the species chosen influence Forest Management.

I learned about the Regional Advisory Committee meetings, when they are held and how to look up the meeting agendas in order to attend and provide appropriate public comment. I learned the reason that we have so many problems with public lands access. We are not paying the price of maintaining that access.

I know how hard it is to make the time to attend these meetings and to write to our elected officials and tell them how important keeping our access is. I know we would rather be out recreating in the forest than sitting in a conference room listening to a power point presentation.

I know we have to earn a living and pay for the livestock or toys we use in our recreation, but we also have to pay the price of freedom for our recreational access. We have to get involved in the process and stay engaged in it. The point behind the recent Multiple Use Summit was to develop a strong united coalition to lobby for our individual rights to recreate on public lands. We need members of that coalition to attend planning meetings and open houses to stay informed, stay engaged and befriend those forest service employees who will be making the next round of decisions that affect our rights to public access. We must pay the price of freedom by being eternally vigilant.

Candace Ricks-Oathout
Member, CdS
Chair, Citizens Against Recreational
Eviction-USA

BCHC - Caballeros del Sol Unit - Volunteer Work / Education Report

Participants:

Date(s)

Activity

Location

For Educational Events - Type of Audience

Notes (for newsletter or other reports):

Hours...

Hours spent working:

Travel time:

Vehicle mileage:

Power equipment hours:

Dollar value of materials:

Stock use...

How many riding animals?

How many pack animals?

Number of people doing...

Skilled labor*:

Trail work:

Education:

Public meeting:

**Skilled labor includes equipment operators (chain saw, tractor, etc.), packers, carpenters, etc.*

Mail completed form to:

Steve Randall,
8149 Medill Ave.,
El Cajon, CA 92021

CDS members Steve and Mary Randall packing "trex" sign posts in thre CRSP.

This is being done to support the Trail Maintenance crew's project to resign the entire park. These posts weigh on the average of 30 lbs each, thus the Rocket Launcher hitch to balance the load.



Use the report form above to report any work done by you or your team. Also report all public lands meeting you attend on the same form. (milage and time)



FIGHT WEST NILE..

OK, mosquitos... prepare to be repelled!!!!

Use Bounce Fabric Softener Sheets...Best thing ever used in Louisiana..just wipe on & go...Great for Babies

Bob, a fisherman, takes one vitamin B-1 tablet a day April through October . He said it works. He was right. Hasn't had a mosquito bite in 33 years. Try it. Every one he has talked into trying it works on them.

Vitimin B-1(Thiamine Hydrochloride 100 mg.)

If you eat bananas, the mosquitos like you, - something about the banana oil as your body processes it. Stop eating bananas for the summer and the mosquitos will be much less interested.

This is going to floor you, but one of the best insect repellents someone found (who is in the woods every day), is Vick's Vaporub.

Plant marigolds around the yard, the flowers give off

a smell that bugs do not like,

so plant some in that garden also to help ward off bugs without using

insecticides.

"Tough guy" Marines who spend a great deal of time "camping out" say that the very best mosquito repellent you can use is Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil mixed about half and half with alcohol.

One of the best natural insect repellants that I've discovered is made from the clear real vanilla. This is the pure Vanilla that is sold in Mexico. It works great for mosquitoes and ticks, don't know about other insects.

When all else fails—get a frog!

BCHC/CdS

CALENDAR 2003

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:

Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month.,

General Meeting will be held quarterly with a special attraction, Potluck or BBQ
Check the back of each newsletter for location and directions to the meetings

Check the Calendar in the Newsletter. All are welcome. May 31st Penasquitos Membership drive and Poker ride. This will be our first insurance-free event, which means you can invite your guest to

ride with us Trail Bosses: Steve and Mary Randall. Call to let them know how many are coming and if you can help!

May 27th

General Membership Meeting BBQ & potluck

Will be at the Montijo Ranch and will be a special event. BBQ at 6PM short meeting to follow. Plan to attend. Bring the family and guests. Direction on the back (cover) page. See you there!

May 31st

Ride and Poker game at Penasquitos. \$5.00 poker hands. to be played after the ride. Drinks and snacks provided You may bring guests, they will have to sign a release. See flyer page 2

June 24th

Board Meeting

Place: TBA

July 23rd

Board Meeting

Place TBA

August 23rd:

Border Field Beach Ride and BBQ.

Hosts: Mike and Tauri Ellison. We will be inviting the public and other units to join us to get away from the heat for a fun day at the beach

TRAIL TRIALS

Bonita Valley Horsemen is sponsoring a trail trial at Sweetwater Summit County Park on August 9. Contact is Ray or Diane at 619-470-3244 - dimanfarm@cox.net

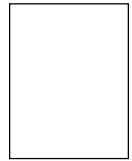
Oct 17 –19, 2003

State Board Meeting Santa Nella

March 11 – 14, 2004

Rendezvous Santa Maria

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

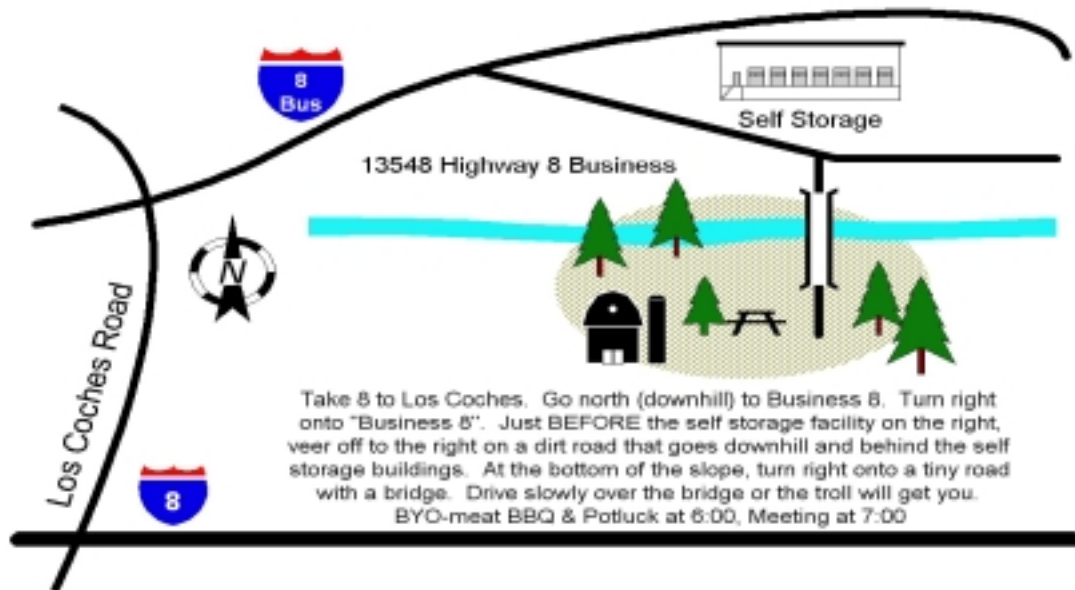


MAY 2003

Label

NEXT MEETING

at the Montigo-Bush Frontier Town 13549 Highway 8 Buss. 619 443 2953



Mailed courtesy of Morgan Stanley, Rancho Santa Fe