



# Trail Whispers

BCHC—Caballeros del Sol      Volume 4 Issue 10  
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Website: [www.bchc.com/cds](http://www.bchc.com/cds)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

By Darrah Glynn

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Hello! I'm back from my trip to the Sequoia National Park. If you remember, I spent 2 months in the area of the lower Kern River. I put in tons of volunteer time and it was a great adventure besides. There are few places I know that are as beautiful as this area. I would love so much to tell you about my time there, but I could never do it all in this short note. There are a few things I learned about the Park Service that I do want to share with you.

I found out just how stock unfriendly they are. If we think we are making brownie points with our work parties and trail maintenance we are sadly mistaken. They do give us lip service about how great they think our work is, but it is not what they say behind our backs. I was privileged to hear the conversations the rangers had with each other about stock users. Don't get me wrong, there are 2 or 3 who are stock users themselves and quite supportive of other stock users, however, they are also looked down on. There are also blatant acts on the park service's part that support this.

There is a stock users campsite that had the misfortune of having a tree lay down right through the middle. A sign was placed there stating that the site was closed for restoration. It is the only campsite good for stock users in this area. Here is the news, they are not planning on restoring this site, nor are they planning on replacing it with another site, as they should. They are pleased that there will be one less place for stock users to camp.

I also learned quite a bit about meadow monitoring. The meadow use is based on how quickly the meadow can recover with a measured amount of use. They then take the percentage and purposely lower the amount of use it can with stand in order to ban stock use. Every time a stock user comes to an area to legally graze their stock, the rangers talk about whether they should allow them to stay at the meadow, regardless if the meadow has had it's full usage or not. It is up to their whim and if they like you or not.

There is an area that park service decided to remove fencing, thereby preventing stock users from using the area, since they wouldn't be able to keep their stock in a safe area. This was never discussed or studied by any officials, it was just done on a whim of a few park personnel. What does all this say?

Well it may sound petty to some stock users, but it is all connected to the park service's attitude towards stock users. The fewer the stock people and stock usage the better. No I am not just paranoid. Not since I experienced it with my own presence there this summer. The truth is stock use in the mountains is way down. Tighter restrictions are not necessary since the usage is falling off on it's

**Continued next page**

own. Instead the park service is taking this advantage to further remove the availability of the park for future stock use. The funny part is they say, "We can't understand why BCHC members don't trust us." Pretending innocence doesn't make you innocent.

We have members in our own unit who are getting tired of the fight. They feel we don't do enough rides or enough work parties. Our meeting attendance is off. Well that is true. People are finding it harder and harder to find the time and the resources to fight the government and their sneaky tactics. But the alternative is to just let the park service and the other agencies continue to shut you out of your public lands. If we only accomplish keeping our unit going, or any of the units going, to fight for our public lands then wouldn't it be worth it? If we stay together just to support our public lands people so they can work for us, yeah for us, then wouldn't that be worth it? The alternative, learn to ride in your own backyard round pen, because it will be the only place available to you.

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## IMPORTANT STATE PARKS MEETING

The Parks and Recreation Commission is meeting at the San Diego Marriott in Mission Valley on [Friday] 11/21/03 at 9:00 AM for consideration and action on DPR's recommendation for approval of the Preliminary General Plan and Draft Environmental Impact.

The DPR has reset this meeting on a weekday and the same day as an OHV Stakeholders meeting. **We need any and all of you and your riding friends to come to this meeting and make as much of an impact on them as possible.**

## BCHC/CdS Meeting: August 26, 2003

Call to Order: 7:12 pm

Linda Eskin moved and Kandhy Franklin seconded to accept the minutes as printed in the newsletter.

Treasurer's Report accepted.

The next newsletter will be done by Linda Eskin during Nola Michel's absence.

Public Lands: Wild horses are still in limbo. Kathleen Hayden's letter will be in the next newsletter about the BLM's involvement.

Beach ride and Ice cream Social made a whopping \$3.00 profit. Linda Eskin won the 50/50 pot with two Kings and two deuces. We had eleven riders.

Ranchita fund raiser for the wild horse fund is on November 1st or 2nd. It will be a joint effort with Borrego Valley unit.

Next meeting will be at Montijo's on September 24th, 7:00 pm.

New business: Horse Fest at Miramar Stables is scheduled for November 15th from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. We will be doing a packing demonstration and be around to answer questions about BCH.

Mike Ellison and Tauri Cornell are the new camphosts at Los Penasquitos Preserve. They are living at the end of the staging area. Drop by and say "Howdy" when you come to ride the trails.

We need to start working on the calendar for 2004.

Elections are coming. September meeting will be nominations and October should be the elections for 2004 officers. [ed: Elections in November.]

November meeting is the week of Thanksgiving. Should we move it?

Adjournment: 8:05 pm

## TO ALL MEMBERS Cabarellos del Sol Unit of BCHC:

Tauri Cornell

As with most organizations, there are 10% of the members doing 90% of the work. This is not saying that those of you who are members in name and financial support only are not doing your share.

We know that most of you joined under that premise and we are glad to have you. And this is not a plea for you to do more than you are willing but the 10% of us are starting to burn out.

We try to organize work parties and are lucky if three people show up. We plan fun rides and until the last few they have been poorly attended. Our meetings are usually only board members even when we have a meeting at beautiful poolside or Montijo's Frontiertown with a potluck.

We are at a crossroads of where to go. The suggestions so far have been to continue on with minimal meetings and include an event, keep going as just a political unit working toward BCHC goals, or dissolve the unit and donate the money to a park, organization, etc.

Our next meeting is at Steve and Mary Randall's home in El Cajon on October 28th at 7:00 pm. If you have opinions, arguments, other suggestions, or just want to know what others think, please show up. We need everyone's voice to make the decision on where to go next.

## Riding and Hiking the Pacific Crest Trail

David and Arleene Foster are planning to leave the Mexican border near Compo on Sunday April 25, 2004. Our start date will depend on snow fall. We may leave a week or two earlier or later. Our son David Foster Jr. will drop us off at the Border. Our Daughter Charlene Cyrus will support us by cell phone and e-mails. We anticipate arriving at the Canadian Border mid to late September.

We will ride and hike, using 3 horses. We plan to ride and hike about 15-35 miles a day depending on where water and graze areas are.

We will resupply our groceries and horse feed every 6- 14 days. We will keep it simple, no ice chests, just dry food. We plan to mail our food boxes ahead or get a ride to buy groceries or arrange for someone to pick up our food and horse feed. Our horse feed will be 3 - 50 pound bags of rolled oats and barley or senior feed. One horse will carry feed, one horse will carry our personal gear, we will take turns riding and hiking on the third horse.

What type of person would attempt a trip of this magnitude, here is a little bit about us.

David retired from United States Marine Corps in 1994 as a Gunnery Sergeant. We have finished more than 10 marathons, and over 5 ultra marathons. We have competed in Ride and Tie Races for 10 years where Davids best finish in the National Championship race was 8 th place. David earned one High Point Ride and Tie National Championship in 1998. Arleene won two High Point Women/Women National Championship Ride and Ties in 1996 & 1998. We have completed over twenty, 25 and 50 mile Endurance rides. Two years ago David competed at the National Championships at Camp Perry with the rifle at 1000 yards and finished 50th. Arleene had entered and planned to shoot the 1000 yard match at Camp Perry last year, but could not compete due to family illness. David worked as a full time farrier for 5 years after retiring from the Marine Corps. Over the last 3 years we have volunteered with the Pacific Crest Trail Association packing in supplies and doing trail work, averaging 40 to 50 volunteer days per year. David is the current President, and service projects chairman, of the Redshank Riders Unit of Backcountry Horsemen of California. Arleene is the membership person for Redshank Riders. Our hobbies are, hunting, horse camping, trail riding and exposing our children and grandchildren to wilderness activities. We have been married for 26 years and have 4 children, 3 girls, and 1 boy. We have 5 grand children, 4 girls and 1 boy.

We plan to write about our trip on the Pacific Crest Trail with the equestrian in mind.

David and Arleene Foster  
38230 Lorenzo Lane, Hemet Ca 92544  
909-767-1237 e-mail: arlene278@juno.com

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## Fee-Demo in the News and on the Ropes

It's been a long time coming, but after 7 years the Recreation Fee Demonstration Program is on the ropes and getting beaten badly. Fee-Demo has become so contentious amongst forest visitors and has proved to be such an abysmal failure that Congress is finally talking about killing the program.

Below are links to several fee-demo articles from today's press. Fee-Demo is battered, bleeding and is more vulnerable than it has ever been. It is, however, NOT YET down for the count. What's more, those in Fee-Demo's corner are working feverishly to patch up the program for what may be its final round.

Let's knock this bully out of the ring. Please contact Congress today and tell them why you oppose Fee-Demo and why it's time for this program to end.

<http://www.aspentimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20030918/NEWS/30917002>

[http://www.insidevc.com/vcs/national/article/0,1375,VCS\\_123\\_2272344,00.html](http://www.insidevc.com/vcs/national/article/0,1375,VCS_123_2272344,00.html)

Information to contact your congressman can be found in your phone book or look here:  
[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

## Senate Still Fiddling On Healthy Forests

The fires are still going. But this season is coming to a close. Out of sight, out of mind. To begin bringing our forests back to good health, we must start now to make a difference before next summer.

The Senate is delaying and delaying.

You must call both your Senators PLUS Senators Tom Daschle (D-SD), Harry Reid (D-NV) and Ron Wyden (D-OR). They are the lynchpins. The numbers are below.

### HERE'S WHAT'S HAPPENING.

There have been threats of a filibuster. Negotiations are taking place right now over if and when there will be a vote. To win, Healthy Forest advocates must get sixty votes to overcome any threatened filibuster.

The Senate needs to set a date and time for the vote.

Your calls and faxes to the following Senators are critical to push the issue to a resolution. THE SENATE NEEDS TO VOTE. Right now, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act is being delayed by the environmental groups who would rather have your house burn down than have foresters clean up the forests or log a burned or bug killed tree.

The fiddling must stop. You, and every person you know, must call your Senators NOW!!! Urge them to do their job. Urge them to do it now..

### ACTION ITEMS:

#### ONE

Call both your Senators to urge them to support the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HR 1904). You can call every Senator at (202) 224-3121. Or, just for fun, use the GREENS own 800 FREE NUMBER, 800-839-5276. Another FREE NUMBER is (800) 648-3516. The Capitol Switchboard will

answer. Ask for your Senators office. Then ask for the person who handles the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HR 1904). Put your Senator on the spot. Ask if he or she is going to allow a straight up or down vote. Urge them not to filibuster to prevent a vote. More talking points are listed below.

Tell them: "I'm asking Senator \_\_\_\_\_ to support the Healthy Forests Restoration Act legislation now before the Senate. We must act now to stop these catastrophic fires that devastate our water, our wildlife habitat, our air quality and our communities.

It's time to act now before Congress goes home for the year. The bill, the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HR-1904) will be before the Senate in the coming weeks. Please support this legislation and oppose efforts to weaken it."

#### TWO

Call the Senators listed below. They are key to whether there is a vote and when it is scheduled. Urge them to allow a straight up or down vote on the Healthy Forests Restoration Act (HR 1904). Call both your Senators PLUS these three:

Tom Daschle (D-SD) - Phone (202) 224-2321 - FAX (202) 224-6603  
Harry Reid (D-NV) - Phone (202) 224-3542 - FAX (202) 224-7327  
Ron Wyden (D-OR) - Phone (202) 224-5244 - FAX (202) 228-2717

#### THREE.

Send your Senators an e-mail. It is possible to access your Senators' web pages to find fax numbers, email addresses and snail mail addresses at:

[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm).

The greens are going all out. If you are not on the playing field, you will lose. Remember that saying, "The World Is Run By Those That Show Up."

### TALKING POINTS.

The Senate is now addressing the forest health issue through The Healthy Forests Restoration Act. The premise of the debate is simple and clear: Given the massive scale of the threat that catastrophic wildfire and disease and insect infestation pose to the health of pristine forest ecosystems, threatened and endangered species, air quality, water quality and the safety of thousands of communities, something needs to be done!

America's forest ecosystems are being decimated at an alarming rate by large-scale catastrophic wildfires and massive outbreaks of disease, insect infestation and invasive species. Currently 190 million acres of land are at unnatural risk to catastrophic wildfire. Of that, over 70 million acres are at extreme risk to catastrophic wildfire in the immediate future. The summers of 2000 and 2002 were the two largest and most-destructive fire seasons in the last 50 years. Huge areas have already burned this summer.

For 100 years land managers have aggressively moved to suppress wild land fire in all forms, including nature's periodic small-scale burnings that restore and rejuvenate forest ecosystems. The unintended result of this policy is a decades-long build up forest fuel, woody biomass and dense underbrush that's as close as the next lightning strike or escaped camp fire from exploding into a large-scale wildfire.

In 2002 (and already in 2003), hundreds of homes and other structures were destroyed, and thousands of people were evacuated. 23 firefighters lost their lives in 2002. The American taxpayers spent in excess of \$1.5 billion containing 2002's record setting blazes. Rural economies that rely on tourism suffered significant financial losses.

The House has done its job. Your Senators must now do theirs. They must address the forest health issue through The Healthy Forests Restora-

tion Act (still called HR 1904, the House passed version).

The Healthy Forests Restoration Act will protect forests and resources, but also homes and communities by allowing for the thinning of diseased and fire-prone forests.

We must bring common sense, science-based forest management to our federal lands...and stop the never-ending stall tactics and litigation which has crippled the process for the past decade.

The bill would empower federal land managers with the tools to implement scientifically supported management practices on overstocked federal forests, while establishing new conservation programs focused on improving water quality and regenerating declining forest ecosystem types on non-federal lands.

This legislation is crucial for protecting our air, water and wildlife from insect infestations and catastrophic wildfires. The status quo of government bureaucracy has led to a sharp decline in the health of the forests.

The Senate is running out of time.

Congress could easily adjourn for the year still fiddling over Healthy Forests.

Help bring an end to this crazy debate. They are debating while your home is threatened.



**LETTER IN SUPPORT OF THE RIGHT TO RIDE  
LEGISLATION  
(IT'S IMPORTANT TO WRITE YOUR OWN!)**

October 8, 2003  
The Honorable George Radanovich  
U. S. House of Representatives  
Cannon House Office Building, #438  
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: Letter in support of H.R. 2966 "Right to Ride Livestock on Federal Land Act"

Dear Congressman Radanovich:

I am pleased to write today in support of your legislation, H.R. 2966, the "Right to Ride Livestock on Federal Land Act." Your legislation assures access to federal lands by visitors with pack and saddle stock and is one of the most historic and natural ways for the public to enjoy their lands.

Public access to public lands, whether federal or state, is a precious right that must be guarded at every hand. How can our children and grandchildren and others, such as the handicapped, appreciate what they cannot see and experience.

Radical environmentalist interests and their fund-raising organizations thrive on scare tactics to advance their agenda to eliminate all public access to the public's historic roads and resources. Their arguments are specious and self-serving and should not be allowed to have sway with decision-makers.

Thank you for advancing H.R. 2966.

Sincerely,

BILL MORROW  
Senator, 38<sup>th</sup> District

**INSIST ON A VOTE NOW!! HOLD YOUR SENATOR RESPONSIBLE.**

[For more information go to Healthy Forest Update at:](#)

[www.agriculture.senate.gov](http://www.agriculture.senate.gov)

**Fire in the Bitterroot Mountains, Idaho**  
**This awesome picture was taken in the Bitterroot National Forest in Montana on August 6 2002, by a fire behavior analyst from Fairbanks, Alaska by the name of John McColgan with a Digital camera. Since he was working while he took the picture, he cannot sell or profit from it, so he should at least be recognized as the photographer of this once-in-a-lifetime shot. Maybe someday it will get back to him.**

# Is Weed Free Feed Still Weed Free Feed?

By Bonnie Davis, WITH PERMISSION FROM THE AUTHOR AND RIDING MAGAZINE.

First, I'd like to thank the folks who have e-mailed and called regarding this column. Glad to hear you guys think it's a good idea and I'm going to use this column to reply to five or so e-mails regarding the California Certified Weed Free Feed program.

For those that haven't heard, California grown and certified weed free feed is now 'required' on California National Forest Service lands. This includes anyone from recreational to commercial user and applies when stock is being fed on California NFS lands. Feed means baled or pellets. Cubes are not allowed as they are not certified as weed free unless they are produced from fields that were certified as weed free. Feeding means anytime stock has something to eat and includes the hay in the trailer manger when just hauling into a California NFS. In other words, California certified weed free feed includes any feed brought onto NFS federal lands be it for five minutes or five weeks. The requirement began April 2003.

As an end-user, the horse owner, finding Certified Weed Free Feed has been the biggest problem!! Not all growers are certifying it and not all Ag Commissioners even want to get involved in the program. There have been some Ag Commissioners who just flat out refuse to be "bothered with the process."

But a Certification Guidelines process for growers was set up and various counties throughout California have established their own method for certifying fields. Fresno has an excellent 'paper trail' process and growers in turn have each developed their own certification form to give to buyers. As the end user, we horse owners have to have that paper certification with the feed because neither colored twine nor tags has been decided on by the CDFA.

Certifying growing fields was the first method for certifying hay but, as County Ag Commissioner Karl Bishop stated in a letter dated Jan. 2, 2003 to County Ag Commissioners, "Questions are starting to come in regarding the status of the Weed Free Forage Program. As most of you know, the implementation of policy and procedures through the guidelines has not gone very smoothly. It has been decided that some changes needed to be made."

In December 2002, a meeting with representatives from CACASA, CDFA and USFS was held to discuss issues and "clarify some of the goals of the program. It was agreed that the direction we were headed was not workable and there were a couple of problems that had no feasible solutions for the immediate future."

During the meeting it was decided that an MOU would be put together. This MOU would specify the functions of each agency participating in the program including CACASA, CDFA, USFS, BLM, NPS, etc. The MOU "will include standards the federal agencies will require for forage and hay products to be brought on to federal grounds and the methods necessary for agricultural commissioners to use to certify these commodities to be apparently free from noxious weeds for entry on to federal lands."

In the mean time, Nevada growers under the direction of Dawn Rafferty, Nevada State Ag Commissioner, has set up their own California Certification Program and are now growing hay in Nevada that meets California Certification. Consequently, it can be grown in Nevada, bought or shipped into California and used in California National Forests. The catch with Nevada hay is that the buyer — YOU — have to make sure that the shipping document received with the hay, be it ton or bale, has the line written on it that states "grown and certified to California Weed Free Feed Guidelines."

Back in California, the question of "what to do until an MOU is finalized?" was discussed. According to Bishop's January letter, "The basis of this MOU as tentatively agreed upon during this meeting (in December) is to use existing procedures already established and maintained by CDFA for quarantine inspection that will allow acceptable risk as OPPOSED to zero tolerance." Bishop's letter went on to state that "The use of the terminology "Weed Free Forage" should be avoided, as we will no longer be certifying to zero tolerance, unless inspection procedures can verify this level of cleanliness."

As for inspection and certification, it was decided that "Inspection of hay to meet these requirements can be done in the field (pre-harvest) or on the end product (post harvest)." Previously, the Certification Guidelines has stated inspection could only be done IN the field prior to harvest. But after the December 2002 meeting, "The two established methods that may be used for pre-harvest are the "X" or equidistant patterns. Post harvest inspections require that approximately two percent of the bales be inspected and include breaking apart some of the bales for internal examination. Certified products may then be identified on a Certificate of Quarantine Compliance which would accompany the shipment." When any bale from this shipment is sold, the buyer HAS to request a copy of this Certificate of Quarantine Compliance to verify the hay in the trailer is indeed, 'certified.'

Representatives of the FS indicated that these procedures would satisfy their requirements for the use of forage (and mulch) products on USFA lands and it is expected that the BLM and NPS will agree. Further down the road, the California Parks Department is expected to join in also.

Hay acceptable to federal agencies should be easier to find since the term 'Weed Free Forage' will be avoided and inspection will no longer be to 'zero tolerance.' California growers now have two methods to certify hay — fields or in the stack. Plus Nevada growers can produce hay too and ship it into California for sale and use on California NF lands.

So it seems that 100% certified weed free feed is a thing of the past. The problem, the MOU still HAS NOT been signed by the agencies. Depending on the forest one enters, weed free feed could still be required by a specific forest or ranger district. And until the MOU is signed, we're still under a California Certified Weed Free Feed requirement.

(For more information on Weed Free Feed and the latest information, go to website [www.weedfreefeed.com](http://www.weedfreefeed.com).)

If you have a question, solution or an idea related to trail riding and/or horse camping, or just want some information, please e-mail me at [bonnie@horsecamping.com](mailto:bonnie@horsecamping.com), call me at 510-657-5239 or visit my website at [www.twohorseenterprises.com](http://www.twohorseenterprises.com).

# OTES FROM NOLA

## STATE BOARD MEETING

Darrah and I attended this meeting on your behalf. I substituted for Kathleen in the Public Lands Committee meeting, as she is still out of state. Much of what we covered has been in previous newsletters, or is in this one. Many of the Northern units were not aware of the problems we are having in the desert, both on the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park, and in the Mohave.

I ran for National Director, nominated on the floor by the Antelope Valley unit. I lost by a very little margin I am told. The only other business that will affect us all is that the Board is sending \$2 for each member to BCH of America (our national organization), as they are in financial trouble. There will eventually be a dues raise at the National level but it will take more than a year to pass and ratify. Our unit voted against the gift as we felt that we would like an accounting and plan of expenditures.

## STATE OF THE UNIT

Your leaders are getting burned out. At the meeting next Tuesday we will discuss how the unit will function in 2004. It is my opinion that we need to stay a unit to be able to make the public comments that we do. We do not have to meet every month. For next year all that is planned at this time is the 'After the Holidays' party in January, a fundraiser ride in May, and helping at the annual Horsefest at Miramar as our main educational outreach. If any member wishes to plan a ride or workparty we would certainly welcome that, but the overcommitted and burned out staff (on the list below), while not planning it, will certainly support you in doing so! Please come to the meeting and put your 2 cents worth into the discussion.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The following have been nominated as your 2004 unit officers:

President:	Nola Michel
Vice President.:	Darrah Glynn
Secretary:	Tauri Cornell
Treasurer:	Donna Jesse
Public Lands:	Kathleen Hayden
Education:	Linda Eskin
Member at Large:	Sharon Haynesworth

Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the meeting.

## HORSE FEST

November 15<sup>th</sup>, Miramar MCAS Stables

We will be presenting a Gentle Use Camp, have a Packing Demo and Dutch Oven cooking display. Festivities will start with a demonstration show of the breeds, types of horses, and disciplines in the main arena at 9 AM. Come on by and see what it's all about. It's a thanks for our military and their dependants. The day includes buggy rides and pony rides and lunch.

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## Simple Lesson

AuthorUnknown

A rat looked through a crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife opening a package. What food might it contain? He was aghast to discover that it was a rat trap. Retreating to the farmyard the rat proclaimed the warning; "There is a rat trap in the house, a rat trap in the house!"

The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Excuse me, Mr. Rat, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it."

The rat turned to the pig and told him, "There is a rat trap in the house, a rat trap in the house!" "I am so very sorry, Mr. Rat," sympathized the pig, "but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured that you are in my prayers."

The rat turned to the cow. She said, "Like wow, Mr. Rat. A rattrap. I am in grave danger. Duh?"

So the rat returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's rattrap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house, like the sound of a rattrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see that it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught.

The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital. She returned home with a fever.

Now everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his axe to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient.

His wife's sickness continued so that friends and neighbors came to sit with her around the clock.

To feed them the farmer butchered the pig.

The farmer's wife did not get well. She died, and so many people came for her funeral that the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide meat for all of them to eat.

The moral of this story:

The next time you hear that someone is facing a problem and think that it does not concern you, remember that when there is a rat trap in the house, the whole farmyard is at risk.

**REDSHANK RIDERS  
BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA  
5th Annual**

**TURKEY TREASURE HUNT RIDE**

**Saturday, November 1, 2003**

**Information: Gail (909) 767-9453 or Arlene (909) 767-1237**

**Ride is located in the beautiful foothills of Aguanga, wandering through 1,200 acres of grassland and redshank covered hills. Pre-paid Reservations Only - Must be received by 10-24-03. Limited to the first 60 riders - mail entry early Absolutely no sign-ups day of ride! No refunds after above date Check-in time: 9:00 am - first group leaves at 10:00 am**

**Cost: \$20 per rider (includes meal) Dinner only: \$15**

**Each group will follow a ribbon marked trail and be given clues as to where your items can be found - Dinner and raffle after ride**

**BACKCOUNTRY MEMBERS ONLY**

**If not a member, you're welcome to join**

**Information: Gail McCreight (909) 767-9453 [gmcCreight@juno.com](mailto:gmcCreight@juno.com)**

**Arlene Foster (909) 767-1237 [arlene278@juno.com](mailto:arlene278@juno.com)**

**Directions: New location this year**

**Temecula - From the 15 Freeway, take 79 South (Indio) to 371 (Anza-Indio). Go 8.4 miles to "Little Creek Ranch" on left side of road. Watch for BCHC signs.**

**Hemet - Take Highway 74 up mountain. Turn right on 371 (Anza-San Diego) and go beyond Anza 2.5 miles past Casino to "Little Creek Ranch" on right side of road. Watch for BCHC signs.**

**Palm Desert - Take Highway 74 up mountain. Turn left on 371 (Anza-San Diego) and go beyond Anza 2.5 miles past Casino to "Little Creek Ranch" on right side of road. Watch for BCHC signs.**

**Note: B.Y.O.C. (Bring your own "chair" - please)**

**Brushy Terrain - Dress accordingly with protective clothing**

-----  
Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Must be received by 10-24-03 Rider Amt. \_\_\_\_\_ Dinner only \_\_\_\_\_ Total \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable and mail to: Redshank Riders, P.O. Box 383, Aguanga, CA

# Petition Re; Closure of Montana De Oro State Park Beach to Equestrians

**SUBJECT:** The San Luis Coastal Park Superintendent intends to close 2/3 of the Sand Spit and all of the Back Bay sections of Montana De Oro State Park to equestrian access! This action is scheduled to take place in January of 2004.

**PURPOSE OF PETITION:** We are collecting signatures of concerned citizens who are opposed to this action, and we will submit our petition of protest to Nick Franco, San Luis Coastal District Superintendent.

**DEADLINE:** Please mail the completed petition to the prescribed address by October 31, 2003.

1. Historically, equestrian use of the entire Sand Spit and Back Bay has always been a part of Montana de Oro, since long before this great expanse of beautiful land was even a State Park. The previous owners of the various parcels that comprise MDO were ranchers, and they used horses extensively. Since becoming a State Park, the State has developed equestrian trails throughout the park and State Park Rangers have actually used state owned horses to patrol MDO, including the Sand Spit area.
2. Restricting equestrian access to the Sand Spit and Back Bay has never been an issue until just a few years ago, when the Sand Spit was identified as prime breeding habitat for the federally listed Snowy Plover. Seasonal symbolic fencing was erected at that time in certain sections of the Sand Spit to keep hikers and equestrians from prime breeding areas. Even though equestrian access has not been banned from the Sand Spit during this time, the Snowy Plovers are successful breeding within that environment.
3. Since horses are prey animals that are similar to other prey animals such as deer, the presence of horses on the beach is not alarming to the Plovers and does not cause them to leave their chicks. This is not the case when humans on foot or dogs approach the Plovers.
4. We are in support of protecting vulnerable Snowy Plover breeding areas in specific locations on the beach with well-marked symbolic fencing during the Plover nesting season. However, total access should be restored during their non-breeding season.
5. Hundreds, if not thousands of equestrians come to Montana de Oro from all over the state, often specifically to ride on the Sand Spit. Equestrian beach access at MDO is truly unique within our state. Equestrians are a substantial source of revenue, not only for the Park, but also for the local economy. Restricting access could cause a sharp decline in tourism dollars from this source of revenue.



# BCHC / CdS

# 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 and FYI)*

BCHC Caballeros del Sol Meetings:  
Board meetings are the fourth Tuesday of each month.,

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

October 25 2003

BLM Auction  
Merigan's Meadow,  
Descanso, CA

Oct 21, 2003

**Meeting, CdS  
Place Randall's Home**

1st Nov, 2003

**BCHC BENEFIT RIDE  
IN RANCHITA,  
*THIS EVENT HAS BEEN  
RESCHEDULED FOR  
MAY 2004***

Nov 13 - 16th, 2003

WORKPARTY

Vern Whitaker  
Horsecamp  
Sponsored by SD Unt  
Contact: Tom Marshall  
760 731 0444

Nov 15th, 2003

HORSEFEST

MCAS Miramar Stables  
Volunteers needed, call  
Nola. See Nola's Notes.

Nov. 22, 2003

TRAIL TRIALS

Third Annual 2003  
Chula Vista Mounted  
fundraiser "So you want  
to be a Mountie" will  
happen on in Lakeside  
at Herring Ranch Polo /  
Team penning arena.  
Contact Mo Parga at:  
[mmekenasparga@pd.sandiego.gov](mailto:mmekenasparga@pd.sandiego.gov)

Nov 25th, 2003

**CdS Meeting/Elections**  
7:00 pm - Location  
TBA

January, 2004

**Unit Post-Holiday Party!**  
Date and Location TBA

March 11 - 14, 2004

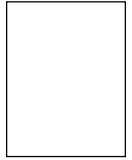
**Rendezvous in  
Santa Maria**

May, 2004

**Fundraiser Ride**  
Multi-unit ride in  
Ranchita at a beautiful  
private ranch.  
Details coming soon...

**Come to the October meeting  
and help your unit plan for 2004**

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



**OCTOBER 2003**

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**NEXT BOARD MEETING**

**All Members Welcome**

**28 October, 2003      Randall's Home  
6149 Medill, El Cajon, CA 92021, Phone: 619 561-6764**

**Meeting 7 PM**

**DIRECTIONS**

**Hiway 8, Exit: Los Coches Rd.  
North to Aurora Dr., Left onto Aurora  
Left onto Serenity, Go to top (end)  
take the cement driveway at 11 o'clock  
At the top, turn left in the dirt driveway (you are there)**

**Mailed courtesy of Morgan Stanley, Rancho Santa Fe**