



## *Trail Whispers*

**BCHC—Caballeros del Sol**

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### PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

We are planning on seeing you and your family at the Pool Party on the 24<sup>th</sup> of July. Come out and have fun with us, guests are welcome. The salt water pool is so great. Bring your own meat to BBQ and a dish to share. There will be a very short meeting and maybe someone interesting to talk to us?

I hope that you all are getting in a lot of good trail riding and or packing this summer. Enjoy it for me too, as my horse. Joe has had a serious injury so we are not riding and are doing a lot of handwalking. He has a muscle tear in his left hind. I do believe that he will recover, but it will probably be the first of the year before I get on him.

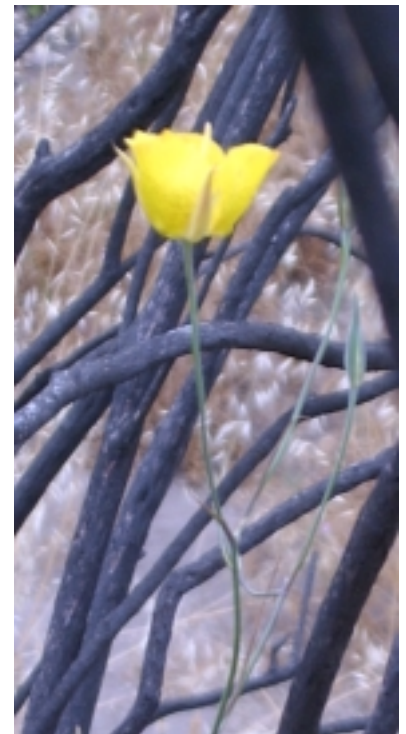
I am sorry that we had to call off our Ranchita ride. We had only one paid reservation and I was not feeling well enough to pull it off. I am finally feeling great. First time since the fires it seems.

There is a new equestrian group forming with the focus on Cuyamaca; note the invitation on page 11. If you would like to join to represent our unit, please let me know that you are going to the meeting. CRSP trail repair is ongoing, hope you can make some of these workparties.

Kathleen and Candace both attended Senator Pombo's Congressional Resource Committee Hearing on RS2477 in St. George Utah. Their reports are on Pages 2 & 3.

Our fall meeting should be in October. We are seeking a place that is central for a general meeting. There should be a Unit Board Meeting (probably at my home) in September to prepare for the State Board Meeting and take care of other business. I'll let you know by email and newsletter as soon as we know the times and places.

Ardelle Smith took the picture at the right at Miramar. She calls it "Out of the Ashes". The flowers in contrast to the burn were awesome this spring. Hope you are having a great summer!



# Report on Congressional Hearing on RS2477

Held June 28, 2004 in St. George, Utah

By Candace Oathout

(short form, more in-depth report on [www.care-usa.org](http://www.care-usa.org))

Congressional Officials in attendance: George Radanovich, Ron Bishop, Chris Cannon and Jim Matheson.

Witnesses; the Honorable Helen Chenoweth-Hage, Mr. Alan D. Gardner, Mr. Chuck Bell, Mr. Randy Johnson, Mr. J. Mark Ward, Ms. Barbara Hjelle, Ms. Kathleen Hayden, Mr. Dennis Iverson, Mr. Bill Redd, Mr. Scott Groene and Mr. Jim Hughes.

Congressman George Radanovich welcomed all in attendance, especially the number of Utah County Commissioners who had made attendance at this Hearing a priority. He and the other members of the Congressional Delegation discussed the impacts that Forest Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA) has had on transportation corridors and access to private property as more and more land has been claimed by the Federal Government under open space and wilderness designations. FLPMA has put policies in to place that have created a great deal of controversy over traditional rights of way, but the fact remains that these policies cannot interfere with a grantees right to these traditional rights of way. Equally important is the issue of the State's right to govern lands within its boundaries. Does a State's right to determine its transportation corridors and trail systems supercede Federal control of lands in the public domain?

There was discussion by the Congressional Delegation concerning the circumstances that have led to the current need to clarify the status of RS2477 assertions. A series of policy decisions by land management agencies has led to controversy that has created dissension between federal and state officials regarding who has the authority and right to determine the validity of the use of RS2477 rights of way in this modern era. A question was presented to the witness panel; "What should be the role of Congress in solving the issues surrounding the use of RS2477 assertions?" Congress has treated the whole RS2477 issue as a political football. Congressional Representatives of Eastern States have not been educated to the tremendous difficulties faced by local governments in the Western States where most of the land is in the public domain.

Funding for local governments is not adequately met by Payment in Lieu of Taxes. Local governments (counties) are faced with loss of economic opportunities and increased costs to provide fire and search and rescue services on lands within the county that are in the public domain. In some cases the National Park Service has claimed an RS2477 Right of Way within its boundaries, but has expected the County to continue to maintain the road. The counties feel strongly that government, as a whole needs to clarify the standing of RS2477 routes so that they have reliable certainty that they will have continued access. Continued access is vital to the economic viability of counties. It also sustains rural activities that are the primary economic base for Western rural counties.

The issue at hand is, in reality, very simple, can the federal government in the form of land management agencies close a valid RS2477 route without state and county agreement and support? Additionally, can any form of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) supercede state and federal law? The RS2477 statute grants a right of way, which is defined as the right to cross the lands of another. It is irrevocable and it is not an easement. The major issue with the current MOU between the head of the Department of Interior, Gale Norton and former Utah Governor Mike Leavitt is that it usurps both state and county authority. It does not follow the rule of law and it has no definition of scope.

An additional issue is that the onus falls on the county governments to prove the existence of an RS2477 route. Since these routes are self-enacting and many of them were constructed to traditional standards of the late 1800's to early 1900's, there is often little or no documentation of the route. The traditional standards of construction were; continued travel over the land, brush removal and occasionally removal of trees. Many of these routes are still maintained by a ranchers and miners who need to access parts of grazing allotments, mine sites and water sources. For instance, the statute refers to "construction of highways across public lands not reserved for public purposes". In 1866 a "highway" was often simply a trail of wagon ruts across the land. Many of these routes were developed as the Western Territories were settled and have been in existence since before the recognition of these Territories as States. Roads are not the responsibility of the federal government. Some roads through Wilderness Study Areas have caused a great deal of controversy due to their location and unclear history

Former Congresswoman Helen Chenoweth-Hage pointed out that "lands to which rights or claims of another are not by definition not "public lands".

The Congressional Delegation asked all of the witnesses what the role of Congress should be in dealing with the RS2477 controversy. The response was clear, follow the rule of law and clarify the right of counties to determine RS2477 routes. Help the counties to determine the constitutional law regarding RS2477 Rights of Way. Review and clarify a citizen's right to private property by following the rule of law established in the Constitution. Review and clarify land use laws following the rule of law established in the Constitution.

# Testimony Before the U.S. House Committee on Resources

## Chairman George Radonovich

### June 28, 2004 @ 9:00 am

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today regarding rs2477 and how it impacts my family and friends, both on private property and on the public domain. My question and dilemma is simply this: WHO MUST govern the granted RS2477 rights for we the people as the dominant tenement??

Throughout this country agencies have rezoned the public domains as if the preexisting routes were a figment of our imagination so that they could be vertically mulched and designated road-less.

Approximately 25 million acres comprise the California desert. Nearly four million acres are included in the Biosphere Reserve program. The well funded UN Agenda 21 is working to sabotage the R.S. 2477 grant. The Desert Managers Group is a primary example of this process at work.

The historic right of passage is often closed simply by posting them. We, as well as our friends, are being confronted, intimidated, cited and arrested by law enforcement officers whose priority is to Guard the Resources. Is it NOT INCUMBANT THEN on those who govern the Grant that they must also be accountable and liable to protect our civil rights? We maintain that these have been violated by illegal closures.

Incidents that illustrate the public land issues include Dr. Sandra Thorpe's citation issued for riding a pack animal in a non-designated area. She was on a typical historic desert route.

Route closures have enabled the proliferation and cultivation of illegal drugs some of which were discovered during recent wildfires.. How much is not discovered?

We were confronted by 21 illegals on an old route. When I reported this to the Park Superintendent he replied, "Border Patrol is very difficult to work with since they tend not to respect the environment. HE WAS NOT CONCERNED ABOUT OUR SAFETY. This attitude is typical of management armed with assault weapon to Guard the resource, and typical of the officer who issue Dr. Sandra Thorpe's citation.

One evening while we were camping on the dessert a man in the next campsite began shooting at his wife. As she escaped he came into our camp looking for her. We were unarmed because of agency firearm regulations. We called 911 and were told that the rangers had to wait for deputy back up. Essentially this left us unable to protect ourselves. Clearly our second amendment rights have been compromised. Who gives the agencies the power and authority to do this?

The only access to our home is an RS2477 established as a part of a BLM subdivision patented out in the early 50s under the CA small tract act. which reads " the rights of way are common law dedications to the public to provide ingress and egress to the patent holders. Upon issuance of a small tract patent the government gave up all right to the land. However the 91 memo states, "To the extent that the common law dedications were accepted through use by appropriate parties those rights are protected by the provision of 43 USC 1701 and 1769." Is this our title policy and is the US government liable for takings when those rights are violated????

BECAUSE: Eight years after we bought our home the new neighbors objected to our grading the easement and threw rocks at my husband on his tractor. They proceeded to fence and block our lower roadway with junk cars debris and a shed. First we requested that the county and deputies intercede to protect our property rights and us. They maintained it was a civil action issue and they had no jurisdiction. And the assaults continued. Legal counsel advised us that we had the right to remove obstructions. In July of 1997, I attempted to cut the fence wire and was battered and beaten by the neighbors, These two men also battered my husband with rocks. As a result we were hospitalized and surgery was required to remove a broken vertebrae in my back. Still the county insisted the road was a civil matter. In 1999 as a result of the civil litigation we quieted title to the easement based on the BLM patents, memorandum and small tract act. The road is an RS2477.

In 2002 the San Diego County Board of Supervisors unanimously passed a Blanket RS2477 assertion. This resolution recognized their obligation to honor the rights accepted by the public pursuant to the grant offered under RS2477. Yet they and all other agencies have neglected to do so. Then I ask you today WHO is responsible to govern the rs 2477 grant and who accountable and liable to protect our civil rights on an RS2477?

We must have a clear statement from Congress that this irrevocable grant cannot be rescinded and it was granted to the people to be administered by the counties in which they are located (Ca. Public code of 1883)

Thank you, Kathleen Hayden

The committee asked me a few questions about the disposition of Sandra Thorpe's citation. I responded that Parks did not show up in court.

The committee responded to our private property issue noting we had a problem with our county. I suggested that it may be a Federal problem since the adjudicated issue had ruled on the BLM memorandum which states "to the extent that the common law dedications were accepted through use by appropriate parties prior to revocation of the classification those rights are protected by the provisions of 43 USC 1701a and 43 USC 1769. (no revocation of the classification has occurred) Kat

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## Conversation about OHV USE AND THE ACTION PROGRAM

Ron, can you answer this question? Kathleen Hayden

I feel that the commonly accepted use of the term OHV does not commonly refer to equestrians driving to a trailhead on a dirt road. If it does, fine. Do we have anything more in common with the majority of OHVs besides driving on a dirt road to reach a trailhead? I don't think so. Ruth Gerson

Sure Kathleen, I'll give it a try.....

What a lot of people don't understand is the new "National OHV Strategy" that was developed and implemented just before Clinton left office (signed the day before inauguration day). Unfortunately, the commonly accepted use of the term OHV as it applies to any vehicle used on public land isn't applicable in this case. Page 7, column 1, paragraph 2 of the document states, "The BLM elected to use "off-highway," partly because it is a more popular term, but primarily because the regulations address vehicles which use roads and trails on BLM-administered land, and are therefore, not just "off-road." In other words, under the new guidelines **ANY VEHICLE that leaves the pavement is classified as an off-road vehicle**. Bicycles were included in the draft document but they had enough pull with the environmentalist to be excluded in the final. Now it doesn't matter if you are pulling a horse trailer, out in the backcountry, looking at wildflowers with the garden club, on a field trip to see petroglyphs with a museum, touring historical sites with a historical society, or for any other purpose, once you leave the pavement, you are operating an "OHV" ... period.

The entire 51 page National OHV Strategy is available on the Internet at <http://www.blm.gov/nhp/efoia/wo/fy01/im2001-110a.pdf>

I argued adamantly against this during the public comment period because it is very misleading to the public. When one uses the term "OHV" or "off-roading" it conjures up a negative image of dune buggies tearing across the dunes, motorcycles flying through the air, or four wheel-drive vehicles spraying mud as they travel through a bog. Most folks that do not participate in such activities automatically respond that we have to stop the destruction but little do they realize that the term applies to us all.

My personal interests are in gem and mineral collecting, hunting, fishing, casual backcountry outdoor activities, and equestrian access on an individual basis. However, now, through my wife, my young granddaughters, and a few good friends, I have become more involved in organized equestrian activities.

Although I have owned and ridden horses for a long time now, I have learned that organized equestrian events very often depend upon the same motorized access that so-called "motorized" recreation or "OHV" recreation depends upon". In helping friends setup and work to support several equestrian endurance rides, I now know that you must have motorized access for vet checks and emergency needs, even though an endurance ride is a "non-motorized" event. I also learned that because endurance rides are competitive in nature, they are not allowed in designated wilderness on federally administered property even without vehicle support! The only exception that I am aware of is the Tevis Cup Endurance Ride which was grandfathered in by the wilderness legislation enacted for that area.

This coming Saturday, my wife will organize and oversee a poker ride as a fundraising event for the local gymkhana association here in Ridgecrest. The ability of the group to have a poker ride requires the use of motorized vehicles on the so-called "off-roader's jeep trails" to pass out the cards and haul water and soft drinks for the horses and riders.

My friends who have participated in the annual week-long equestrian ride that leaves the fairgrounds here in Ridgecrest and ends at the festivities at the Death Valley Encampment celebration also depend upon motorized access for support vehicles to haul food, water, hay, emergency supplies and camping equipment for the riders on the same jeep trails needed for the four wheel-drive club campouts. In fact, I talked with one fellow at the most recent BCHC Rendezvous who is involved in organizing the ride to the encampment. He told me of one stretch of the route about which he is very concerned. It seems that the federal land management agency is no longer allowing motorized access on one of the longer more strenuous segments of the route and he is afraid that they could lose a horse in the area because they would not be able to use vehicles necessary to retrieve the horse and rider. Sorry for the long diatribe but my point is that so many of us fail to recognize the fact that we share many of the same concerns and problems with the other recreation interests. I'm afraid that we are missing valuable opportunities to reach out and work with folks in partnership to gain the strength, understanding, and alliances that we will most assuredly need in the future to protect our access. Ron Schiller [schiller@ridgecrest.ca.us](mailto:schiller@ridgecrest.ca.us)

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## Conversations Continued

To All:

Since I was appointed a member of the OHV (Off Highway Vehicle) Stakeholders Roundtable [by BCHC]; we "non-motorized" users have been trying to get the State of California to listen to us concerning the use of gas tax money for trail heads for all users...not just "motorized".( I know..confusing! ) It was not until the new grant to the State for a new Gas Tax Study (to be completed in 2005) was started, that the State of California actually thought of equine user folks as part of any user group.. for Off Highway.

The State is now realizing the equine folks are BIG users as "Off Highway" and pay a lot of money via gas taxes to the State..The Equine user people are a strong force : we just have not figured out what to do with it.(humor) We must work together if we are going to see that trail heads and user areas are fixed for use by the equine and non-motorized user.  
John Keyes

To All, But Especially Ron,

Thank you so much for the simple explanation that so many horsemen find impossible to understand. Maybe you have accomplished what several of us have been trying to tell people. Our hats are off to you. I believe that the first email sent was totally common of horse people. They think they will be forever left alone never touched and ultimately be the last users of the land. Well, maybe you reached them where some of us could not. Thanks,  
Public Land For Public Use

Mr. Ron Schiller wrote a very thoughtful piece about off-highway access, thank you! As an endurance rider (AERC) I can vouch for what he said about this sport. Also, Competitive Trail (NATRC out here) is in exactly the same situation regarding vet access. Neither of these two disciplines could exist without motor vehicles. (I think the truck manufacturers should advertise heavily in the two monthly magazines of those sports, but so far, none do. The strange thing about that is that auto makers DO advertise very heavily in Bicycling magazines and bicycles don't necessarily need motor vehicles — go figure!)

As an aside, the Tevis almost stopped when the Granite Chief Wilderness was established. Now, the Tevis crosses only a small corner of GCW but it was enough. It took the efforts of Rep. Doolittle (R-Auburn), many hundreds of letters, and enabling legislation from Congress to allow not only the Western States 100-mile Ride (Tevis) but also the WS 100-mile Run, the foot race, to continue on to this day. Rep. Doolittle is still in office, BTW, and has been helpful in other ways.

You are all right in that we must work together to see that the taxes are used equitably. Equestrians pay plenty for gas and fuel and we should share in the benefits. It's a good trip when my rig (Tundra and Circle J trailer) gets 13 mpg ! Thanks, John, for representing us on the Roundtable, and I believe we should be more supportive of ACTION than we are. Just my 2 cents worth! Connie Berto

Editor's note, *The Action Committe seeks sponsors (truck and trailer manufacturers) to support research and law incurred expenses for access issues. The BCHC will be considering support for the Action Committee, probably at the next State Directors session. By lending our support (not money) it would make it more creditable for horse trailer manufacturers to come on board the Action Committee. Buy the way, if we don't get support and we lose much access (at the rate we are losing it now), where will you trailer your horse to, to pack and ride?*

Connie:

I feel that ACTION is a name that is misunderstood. I believe the beginning of ACTION has set the tone on the belief by people of what they think ACTION is really all about.

For years there has been a WAR concerning loss of land use versus species, between the Environmental groups and Motorized groups. (Motorcycles, Jeeps ...etc.) A lot of bad press has been directed toward the "motorized folks" by the environmental folks and this has started the thinking: OHV IS BAD... ACTION is a great idea!

I am glad to see so many people starting to step up and learn about ACTION. As you know. BCHC has had resistance in becoming a part of the ACTION program . But maybe the air will clear and the there will be a change of heart by the BCHC State Directors? In talking to the State folks, they were stunned by the 'use numbers' of the equine user group concerning the gas tax survey. We are HUGE.... BUT..... We must continue to all work together. Fragmentation will kill our momentum. John Keyes

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## **COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSAL TO FENCE RANGE OF CLOUD'S HERD IN THE PRYOR MOUNTAINS**

To:  
Nancy Curriden, Forest Service Supervisor, Custer National Forest Service at ncurriden@fs.fed.us; Kim Reid, Custer National Forest Service at kreid@fs.fed.us; Rand Herzberg, Custer Natl. Forest-Beartooth District at rherzberg@fs.fed.us; Jeff Rawson, Director of the BLM Wild Horse and Burro Program, at Jeff\_Rawson@blm.gov; Sandra Brooks, Bureau of Land Management, Billings, MT, at Sandra\_S\_Brooks@blm.gov; Linda Coates-Markle, Wild Horse Manager, BLM at Linda\_Coates-Markle@BLM.gov.

### **BACKGROUND:**

Wild horses have lived in the Pryors for at least 200 years and are the last wild horse herd remaining in Montana. The Pryor wild horses are believed to be the most Spanish of the wild horse herds remaining in the West. Through DNA analysis, Cloud's herd is linked to the horses brought to this continent by the Spanish Conquistadors in the 1500s

Isn't this herd guaranteed the unobstructed right to their native range as it existed when the Wild Horse and Burro Act passed in 1971? While BLM takes this fiduciary duty to heart, isn't it also incumbent upon the USFS to also comply with the intent of the Congressional mandate?

While the fate of the Pryor horses appears to be complex—multi-jurisdictional turf battles and political agendas involving the US Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management, isn't it true that the intent of Congress is the final rule of law?

The 1971 intent of Congress was clear: “ Congress finds and declares that wild free-roaming horses and burros are living symbols of the historic and pioneer spirit of the West; that they contribute to the diversity of life forms within the Nation and enrich the lives of the American people and that these horses and burros are fast disappearing from the American scene. It is the policy of Congress that wild free-roaming horses and burros shall be protected from capture, branding, harassment, or death; and to accomplish this they are to be considered in the area where presently found, as an integral part of the natural system of the public lands.”

What laws should be followed regarding the legal boundaries of the horse range? The outcome will determine how much of the the horses' current and historic homelands they will be allowed to occupy. Again the Congressional Act is abundantly clear, “range” means the amount of land necessary to sustain an existing herd or herds of wild free-roaming horses and burros, which does not exceed their known territorial limits, and which is devoted principally, but not necessarily exclusively, to their welfare in keeping with the multiple-use management concept for the public lands.” Scientific studies indicate that the herd presence is compatible with the sub-alpine Forest Service grasslands.

### **CORE ISSUE: FENCING THE RANGE:**

The proposed fencing prohibits the herd's ability to range into their higher meadows in July, through the time the snows force them to lower elevations. Once fencing is done, the herd size (now only around 160) will be reduced to about 100. Isn't it true that this number puts the herd below the genetically viable level?

### **ADDITIONAL MANDATE:**

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (16USC470 Congressional finding and declaration of

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policy; The Congress finds and declares that the spirit and direction of the Nation are founded upon and reflected in its historic heritage; the historical and cultural foundations of the Nation should be preserved as a living part of our community life and development in order to give a sense of orientation to the American people; historic properties significant to the Nation's heritage are being lost or substantially altered, often inadvertently, with increasing frequency. The preservation of this irreplaceable heritage is in the public interest so that its vital legacy of cultural, educational, aesthetic, inspirational, economic, and energy benefits will be maintained and enriched for future generations of Americans.

In the face of ever-increasing extensions of urban centers, highways, and residential, commercial, and industrial developments, the present governmental and nongovernmental historic preservation programs and activities are inadequate to insure future generations a genuine opportunity to appreciate and enjoy the rich heritage of our Nation; the increased knowledge of our historic resources, the establishment of better means of identifying and administering them, and the encouragement of their preservation will improve the planning and execution of Federal and federally assisted projects and will assist economic growth and development; and although the major burdens of historic preservation have been borne and major efforts initiated by private agencies and individuals, and both should continue to play a vital role, it is nevertheless necessary and appropriate for the Federal Government to accelerate its historic preservation programs and activities, to give maximum encouragement to agencies and individuals undertaking preservation by private means, and to assist State and local governments and the National Trust for Historic Preservation in the United States to expand and accelerate their historic preservation programs and activities.

**CONCLUSION:**

Please refrain from fencing the above-mentioned range. The American Public rely on you to protect and promote the preservation of the Pryor Wild Horse Herd from any action that would diminish the range or management necessary to insure continuity of this precious natural, cultural, and historic resource.

Thank you,  
Kathleen Hayden,  
Backcountry Horsemen of California  
Caballeros Del Sol, Public Liaison Chair

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**EXOTIC, NON-NATIVE SPECIES  
(EVOLUTION of the modern horse, *Equus caballus*)**

“Wildlife groups” consider the bighorn sheep and the American bison “native” to North America. However, both species actually evolved in Asia and came into North America via the Bering Strait land bridge. The horse, *Equus caballus*, conversely, evolved exclusively in North America and crossed the Bering Strait land bridge into Siberia, traveling in the other direction! *Equus caballus* fully evolved on the North America continent before they supposedly became extinct about 8,000 to 10,000 years ago. So the (wild) horse, *Equus caballus*, is truly a native species to North America contrary to the myth that they are an exotic, non-native species.

See <http://www.savewildhorses.org/history.htm>

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## ANIMAL IDENTIFICATION PLAN LARGELY MISUNDERSTOOD

by: **Stephanie L. Church, News Editor** 2/26/04 <http://www.thehorse.com/news.asp?fid=5036>

Comments collected on the Draft U.S. Animal Identification Plan (USAIP) have been largely characterized by misunderstanding and frustration, according to one government official. The plan, which at this time is not an official program of the USDA, was designed to establish a timely traceback system to minimize the spread of foreign animal diseases, such as foot and mouth disease, and to minimize its detrimental effects.

The plan is being prepared by different livestock industries with government collaboration so that industry recommendations are taken into consideration as a national ID program is established. Hundreds of comments from the public have been received, with a significant percentage from the equine industry.

"There's a sense of misunderstanding as to what the USAIP is and isn't," said Neil Hammerschmidt, Animal ID coordinator for the USDA/Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service/Veterinary Services. "There was a lot of misinterpretation that this was a USDA program...it's really an industry-developed plan championed by the industry. Explaining that has eased the minds of many people."

The identification program would apply first to livestock, such as cattle, as they enter commerce. An Equine ID Working Group, through the leadership of the American Horse Council is being organized to consider the ID priorities for horses. This work group will propose a plan that the horse industry can support, including standards for the national program. Many horse owners expressed concern that horses wouldn't fit into the plan, since they are not a food animal. Hammerschmidt said, "That's why it's so important that the industry establish their working group and make that the top priority question that they address: Is there a justifiable need for equine ID, and make it very clear what the driving factor is if there is one."

Comments are still being accepted at the USAIP web site, <http://www.usaip.info>. Hammerschmidt said, "We had indicated that comments are open through Feb. 1, but that was a benchmark so the Steering Committee could collect, categorize, and appropriately summarize comments. Certainly there's no hard, fast point where they're not going to accept comments, as the document itself is a work in progress, and the USAIP Steering Committee is receptive to ongoing feedback."

There's no speculation as to how soon the equine industry would be folded into a national ID program, but the urgency is more on the food animal side. "It's safe to say that cattle, swine, sheep, and so forth, are the priorities of the day," said Hammerschmidt. It's fair to say that the USAIP wouldn't exist if these species groups and their industry producer organizations hadn't taken this issue up and championed it themselves, and I'm hoping that's exactly what will happen on the equine side," said Hammerschmidt. "We look forward to the results of the equine working group."

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## HORSE HAIR WARNING

In a press release today, the National Institute of Health has announced the discovery of a potentially dangerous substance in the hair of horses.

This substance, called "amo-bacter equuii" has been linked with the following symptoms in female humans:

- Reluctance to cook
- Reluctance to perform housework
- Reluctance to wear anything but boots
- Reluctance to work except in support of a horse
- Physical craving for contact with horses (may be an addiction)

Beware: If you come in contact with a female human affected by this substance, be prepared to talk about horses for hours on end.

This has been a public service announcement

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**COME TO THE SWIMMING AND BBQ PARTY**  
**SATURDAY 24TH JULY 2004**  
**(please note date change from last publication)**

Swimming Party and bring your own meat BBQ / Potluck to be featured for the summer quarterly meeting. Held at the home of Khandy and Charles Collins in Crest Their beautiful home was mostly spared during last October's fires. We thank them for opening it to our use.

Pool is opened at 3 PM BBQ / dish to share about 5:30 or so. Meeting (short) will be about 7PM. Come share in the FUN.

**DIRECTIONS**

**Take 8 East to the Greenfield Exit,      TR at bottom of the ramp -onto Greenfield**  
**TL at La Cresta Road                              Go to the top of the hill**  
**Stay to the far right                      Follow the double yellow line in the road through Crest**  
**Pass the fire department, pass the school                      TR on West Drive**  
**TL onto Paloma lane- dead ends into property                      384 Paloma Lane                      619-444-4996**

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**BONITA VALLEY HORSEMEN TRAIL TRIALS**  
**JULY 31ST 2004**

I am sending this information regarding the Bonita Valley Horseman (BVH) OPEN TO ALL, trail trials to be held the weekend of Friday, July 30, Saturday, July 31st and Sunday, August 1st at Sweetwater Summit Park in Bonita. This event is so AWESOME I want to make sure that all realize what a fun opportunity it is to participate in. This is to be held at the SD County Summit Park in Bonita The ACTUAL competition is on Saturday, July 31st.

Anyway, Laura and I went on a GREAT trail ride there. The trees and the grass were green, the weather PERFECT and showers free! Running water in the toilets, dogs allowed on leashes.... Etc. This is a wonderful activity to get involved in. Low stress, you can wear what you want and the experience for both horse and rider is AWESOME! Carne asada dinner is included in the price of the activity. If you don't want to camp, you can trailer in for Saturday, pay a small day-use fee if you don't want to trailer tie your horse(s) for the stalls after your ride and enjoy the dinner, silent auction and raffle & then there is a moonlight ride after the awards ceremony. All the 'stuff' is great! I have done this for the past 4 years or so and I wouldn't miss it.

What to expect for the actual ride/competition.... There are two categories; adult and junior riders. Starting at 8am riders are sent out in groups of 4 every 15 minutes. You pick your group or you can ride with others & make new friends. The trail goes around the golf course and there are 8-10 placed obstacles placed every so often that you and your horse are challenged to accomplish. You earn points for how you and your horse complete the obstacles. At the end of the ride your points are tallied and awards are given. It is very low key and relaxing, in my opinion. Both horse and rider are exposed to a variety of challenges; this is what makes it such a valuable experience.

Anyway, if you would like your own personal flyer with all the details PLEASE call **Diane or Ray Mansur @ 619-470-3244** ASAP. I believe that the camping sites are all booked, but people can have tents at their site and may share. Or, you can trailer in for the day of the event and get a

day-use stall. On Sunday, there is a beach ride.

I hope you choose to attend. I get no kick backs for this e-mail, I just know that it is a valuable experience.

Good Luck and Hope to see you there!

Sincerely, Marcy Millar

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## FIRST MEETING OF THE CUYAMACA EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION

Sunday, June 27th at 5:00 pm. Montijo's Ranch at 13549 Hwy. 8 Business, El Cajon. Duane and Rosemary Bush 619/443-2955.

We probably won't appoint officers until the next meeting after this one. We're fortunate to have several people attending who have been involved with Cuyamaca Park for many years and they will explain what is happening and how we as a group, can help when the time comes.

For those of you who may not be aware of CEA (Cuyamaca Equestrian Association), we're a newly established group of representatives from various horse clubs in San Diego. Our goal is to combine our resources by creating a unit that will represent our horse community. This meeting is a perfect opportunity to utilize the guidance of the above mentioned park people. What will be discussed is VERY important to everyone who cares about our trails in Cuyamaca State Park.

Clubs that are currently involved are; Blossom Valley Riders, Poway Ridge Riders, Lakeside Frontier Riders and Pine Valley Mountain Riders. All groups are encouraged to be represented.

Please come and bring interested friends. We need a GOOD turnout. Pass this email on to others.

Bring what you like to drink and a snack to share. Call the Bush's with any questions.

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## Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Trails Maintenance Unit Workpartys

Saturday, July 17, 8AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Dave and Michele Hernandez at 619-669-1697 or [jerrydave@earthlink.net](mailto:jerrydave@earthlink.net)

Saturday, July 24, 8AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Terry and Nancy Nickols at 619-588-5235 or [terrynickols@mail.escapees.com](mailto:terrynickols@mail.escapees.com)

Saturday, July 31. 8AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with John Sproule at 619-390-9737 or [jsroule88@hotmail.com](mailto:jsroule88@hotmail.com)

AUGUST:

Saturday, August 7, 8AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Matt Jankowicz

Saturday, August 14, 8AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with Serena Hill at 619-390-8685 or [lagoonnebula@aol.com](mailto:lagoonnebula@aol.com)

Saturday, August 21, 8AM start. Meet at Paso Picacho. Register with John Sproule at 619-390-9737 or [jsroule88@hotmail.com](mailto:jsroule88@hotmail.com)

SATURDAY & SUNDAY, August 28 & 29, 8:30AM start. Silver Crest Day Use Parking at Palomar State Park. Camping available Friday night August 27 and Saturday August 28. Register with Michael Curtis at 858-278-3280 or [cmcurtis@pacbell.net](mailto:cmcurtis@pacbell.net)

# BCHC / CdS CALENDAR

**MARK THESE IMPORTANT DATES  
ON YOUR PERSONAL 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 General Meetings will be held quarterly with a special attraction and Potluck or BBQ. Check the back of each newsletter for location and directions to the Next meeting.

## **NEXT GENERAL MEETING**

**24th JULY**

**At Khandy's home in Crest  
Pool available a 3 pm  
B.O.Y. Meat and Dish to share  
Eat at 6 pm, Meeting at 7 pm  
Come have FUN !**

**See page nine and Back Page**

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**BONITA VALLEY TRAIL TRIALS**

31st JULY

See Page 9

Info? call:

Ray Mansur @ 619-470-3244

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**Next Unit Board Meeting  
as needed or in September.**

Next General Meeting in  
October

Need Sugestions for a  
place to meet!

Call Nola

858 278 9088

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CRSP

ON-GOING

WEEKLY TRAIL REPAIR

The faster it is repaired the quicker  
it will all be open! Come out as  
often as you can!

See the schedual on Page 10

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**BCHC STATE BOARD MEETING**

**OCT 16th 2004**

**FROM MONTANA de ORO  
Thanks for putting the pressure on!**

Hello All

I have received a copy of a new District Superintendent Posted Order issued by Nick Franco on Tuesday. Nick has signed off on a Posted Order that will open all trails recently closed by Greg Smith. Of course, this does not guarantee lifetime access, but it does give us freedom and peace of mind for 2004. We will definitely have to remain vigilant to protect our interests as long as Greg Smith is the Sector Superintendent.

In the meantime, Nick Franco has suggested that we set up an advisory committee of equestrian organizations to meet and review any and all trails issues regarding state parks in the local district. I think this is an excellent idea and it will go a long way towards (a) improving relations between parks and people, and (b) preventing the type of unilateral actions we have been subjected to this past year.

I recommended to Nick that this committee should include;

ETI Corral

Back Country Horsemen

Coast Mounted Assistance

Atascadero Horsemen

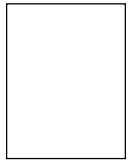
Pacific Long Riders

Ride Nipomo

This is a good cross section of local equestrian groups. Thanks again for all of your support.

John Krueger, Coast Mounted Assistance

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



**June /July 2004**

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Label

**GENERAL MEETING WILL BE  
ON SATURDAY JULY 24th 2004  
Pool 3 PM Meeting 7 PM  
POOL PARTY AND BBQ / DISH TO SHARE  
DIRECTIONS TO KANDYS HOUSE  
ON PAGE NINE  
384 Paloma Lane Crest, El Cajon  
619-444-4996**

Mailed courtesy of Morgan Stanley, Rancho Santa Fe