

# Packin the News

BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF CALIFORNIA

VOLUME 15 ISSUE 2

## President's Rant

The Equine Affair finally gave in and provided BCHC with a free booth space but not until we had to scramble to get folks to man it. Of note were Suzie and Troy Patton who were there the entire weekend helping us immensely. Thanks you guys!

George's work party down by Campo was a study in how much wind you could tolerate. It was absolutely amazing how strong it blew. One of the trail crew was a rather frail older man who was walking down the trail bent over pushing into the wind next thing I saw he was standing upright pedaling backwards trying to keep from being blown over.

Linda and I could only get down there for the weekends of the 8-9 day project planning on going back the last weekend but we both ended up with a pretty severe cold. Later as we discussed this project with other PCTA folks come to find out there was a Typhoid Mary amongst us. Several folks all came down with a pretty bad case of flu.

Linda and I also volunteered to pack-in Don Line's work party for his section of the PCTA. Initially it was to be a pack-in of the brush saws and other tools but due to the weather it turned into a no-animal hiking work party.

Don is a very gracious host. He purchased a motor home just for the trail crews to be able to dine indoors in style no less. We all put it to good use and really came to appreciate it as it started to sprinkle right at dinner time, Friday evening. That night it rained hard so Saturday's work party looked like it was to be in the mud however as we climbed to the site it soon turned very snowy out. We abandoned plan A and went to site B. This proved to be a wise decision and we worked Saturday and Sunday getting most of the section cleared of brush.

If you have never worked trail with the PCTA it is actually not all that bad. They are a bunch of fun folks and you get a pretty big feeling of accomplishment at the end of the day. You also develop a real appreciation of trail conditions both good and bad.

Our first fun ride will be at Wildwood Park March 14th. Dennis has promised us a good ride and a tasty BBQ at the end of the trail. We usually have a side dish requirement with our dinners so practice up on your famous cowboy bean dish and bring it along. Lunch will be on your own but save space for the burgers!

Come on out and enjoy a fun ride.

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## Minutes for February 12, 2009 Meeting at Coco's in Hemet

Meeting called to order at 7:15PM. Secretaries minutes from the last newsletter were approved. The Treasurer's report was made and accepted. The treasurer is preparing the end of year report to be submitted to the State treasurer.

A motion by Ladd and seconded by Terry was made to send in money to the 501C3 BCHC Education Fund so that our unit can use these funds for educational events. This was approved .

Terry reported on the education event at Rendezvous that he and his fellow Mountain Men will demonstrate. Linda reported on the Equine Affaire where we had the booth.

Linda and Chip reported on Geroge's make-up work party down by Campo.

Chip reported on the mistakes in the dates on the event calendar which hopefully have been corrected.

PCTA chain saw certification school is the same weekend as Rendezvous. We have asked the PCTA leaders if they can shift the dates.

Dennis reported on the Wildwood Canyon ride. See the flyer on page 5 of this newsletter.

Dennis further discussed the Play day at his house which will be our first attempt at a trail trials type event.

Events at Rendezvous were discussed, specifically the Thursday Public Lands lecture, and Trail Trials event which was added back into the contests.

We also discussed the Mule Days booth and the manning of same. Last year we just set it up and no-one was there to answer questions. It was felt that this was inadequate and that we should have folks man the booth. A suggestion was to advertise the booth manning in the State newsletter asking for help.

Terry reported on the request for BCHC to have a booth at the LA County Fair. More to come as we learn what is needed and who will help with this event. This booth space is co-sponsored by the Angeles National Forest and BLM.

The volunteer hours report needs to be completed within the next two weeks. Chip will be working on this so send all the data to him soonest.

Meeting adjourned at 8:25PM

State has a new Web Site

[www. BCHCalifornia.org](http://www.BCHCalifornia.org)

Old web site is gone!!

*Calendar of Rides for 2009 (Tentative please!)*

<b>Feb 13-16</b> Chihuahua Valley Pack support for PCTA #09-25	<b>June 5-7</b> National Trails Day at Fobes Ranch	<b>Dec 5</b> Christmas Party
<b>Mar 14</b> Wildwood ride and BBQ	<b>July 10-12</b> Heart Bar Camp out & day rides	
<b>Mar 20-22</b> Rendezvous in Turlock	<b>Aug 9-17</b> Pack Trip to ?	
<b>April 18-19</b> Playday & Camp out at Dennis and Janis'	<b>Sep 18-20</b> Dry Lake Day ride from East Jenks Lake.	
<b>April 24-25</b> Treasure Hunt course lay-out plus camp & ride	Education day no date yet	
<b>May 8-9</b> Treasure Hunt in Garner Valley	<b>Oct</b> State Board meeting. Ride is open for October	
<b>May 23-25</b> Mule Days	<b>Nov 12-15</b> Anza Borrego Work party	

As you can tell from the above schedule there are some holes. We need your input to fill them.

Ride Details or as much as we know right now!

May 9th Treasure Hunt. This is our annual fun event which we have moved earlier in the years to hopefully see the beautiful grass of Garner Valley before the summer heat turns everything brown.

July 12-13 Heart Bar campout. Once again we will be staying in the primitive area and riding from there.

Some possible rides and ideas for September and October that were proposed are: Live Oak Springs overnight camp out. A beach ride in early September. Caspers park camp out and ride in October and one other ride was Deep Creek from the Hesperia Equestrian Camp. Any more??? Let me know.

## Caspar's Park Ride

By Janis & Dennis  
October 2008

Boy, did all of you miss great weekend at Caspar's Park!!!! The weather was perfect~comfortably warm in the day and a slight chill during the night. A great break from the hot weather at home. Campfires as well as barbeques were allowed, and there was plenty of water. Having forgotten, our long hoses, we carried water in buckets to the pens. We mucked to a pile by the road and had manure pick up service daily.

Arriving late Friday afternoon, we were pretty settled by dark in our Sycamore shaded campsite. First off, was a walk around the horse camp to let the Wild Boys know there were no spooks. This was Charlie and Amigo's first trip to Caspar's and only their second camping weekend. They liked having a pen better than being trailer tied or high lined.

Saturday morning we rode out to familiar trails that wound under huge Oak trees. It had been some time since Dennis and I had been to Caspar's, and then it was with our trusty Arabs, Pharo and Raffles. This time we viewed the trails differently atop green horses! The "Stangs did great. After coming back to camp for lunch, we headed for a trail which was more challenging as it wound around the mountain. Quite a few riders and hikers were out enjoying the terrific weather, also. We came upon a major challenge when we rounded a curve and saw a wooden bridge that was not there before. After calmly examining the bridge for a bit, Charlie bravely carried Janis across without hesitation, closely followed by Amigo and Dennis. We were impressed! Returning the same route, Amigo was the leader and crossed the bridge like a seasoned trail horse.

Sunday, after a leisurely breakfast, we traded horses for a long ride. Amigo did not want to cross the rock creek with Janis on him although he had done so with minor hesitancy the day before with Dennis. Guess he trusts Dennis more! Janis missed Charlie's power walk, but the trade was successful and a good experience for all concerned.

The weekend was pretty perfect and made us look forward to our next adventure~Anza Borrego. We are certain we will have company there! Charlie and Amigo will finally meet the other new BCHCSGP Mustang, Bert. Could be a Kodak moment!

*BCHC*  
*San Geronio Pass Unit*  
***Wildwood Canyon State Park***  
*Day Ride and BBQ*  
***March 14<sup>th</sup>***

Come join us on the first ride of the New Year. Wildwood Canyon State Park is located in the foothills of Eastern Yucaipa close to Oak Glen. Previously known as the Hunt Ranch, the Park has a rich history starting with the Native Americans, the Mexican era, the pioneer and ranch era of the 1800's and now being preserved by the State Park system.

The facilities at the park include picnic tables, water, porta-potties with no admission fees. Wildwood Canyon is a beautiful, safe place to ride with countless trails meandering through ancient Oak groves and chaparral. The trails are easy to moderate which is great for getting your out of shape horse ready for the new riding season.

The ride will be approx. 2.5 to 3 hours long and start at 10:00 AM sharp. Plan to arrive early enough to tack up and exercise your horse before 10:00. After the ride BBQ'ed hamburgers will be served for lunch. Please bring a side dish to go with the burgers; potato salad, beans, etc, or a desert. Yep, potluck lunch!

You are all invited to join in on the good trails, good food, and good friendship of our opening season ride at Wildwood State Park. Because of insurance liability all riders must be members of BCHC. If you bring a guest, membership must be taken out the day of the ride.

Where: Wildwood Canyon State Park, Yucaipa, 92399

When: March 14<sup>th</sup>. 2009

Time: 10:00 AM sharp

Directions: I-10 to Calimesa/ County Line Rd. exit, turn NE./ Mesa Grande Dr.,left/ Wildwood Cyn. Rd., Right/ Look for BCHC Ride sign ¼ mile Canyon Dr., Left/ you're there!

Please RSVP by March 7<sup>th</sup> so we know how many burgers to buy

For more Information: Call Dennis McKee, 951-769-5130

Park Information: [wildwoodcanyonstatepark.com](http://wildwoodcanyonstatepark.com)

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