

## President's Rant

The Chihuahua Valley work party was rained and snowed upon but in between these natural catastrophes Don Line managed to squeeze in some serious brushing.

Suzanne of PCTA fame is trying to get the chain saw certification dates moved. Right now the "place" she is looking to stage the school has too much snow to be used. I will let you know as soon as she can work out the details of this weekend course. If you haven't been to this school it is taught by the CAL Fire Hot-shots and it is a real eye opener especially for how to cut trees safely.

Our unit decided to donate some of our funds to the BCHC Education Fund so that we would have a pool of money to draw upon for educational events, such as our Education Day. The BCHC education Fund is registered with the IRS as a charitable organization thus any donation to it either by you or a business that you solicit from is completely tax deductible.

At our meeting we discussed whether or not to change our meeting schedule from monthly to bi-monthly or even quarterly. Initial reaction from those present was that we needed to think on it a little bit and decide next meeting.

Yesterday we went on the Wildwood Ride and BBQ. Quite a few folks showed up at Wildwood Canyon county park and enjoyed a very laid back fun ride. Linda and I brought our new horses to it Linda riding 7 and me Bert. Both of our newbies did fine on the ride led by Dennis. We wandered around through the old ranches and the beautiful tree lined canyons for about three hours returning to the Park benches for our BBQ'd hamburgers. Greg surprised us with some Texas Long-horn beef that was superb. If I wasn't so stuffed from the first burger I would have

eaten nothing but that beef! Wow!

A big thanks to Dennis and Janis for a fun ride and some superb food!!!

Next is Rendezvous in Turlock CA on the weekend of Mar 20-22nd. This years new events are the Marine Corps packing unit and our own Terry Haider's reenactment of mountain men packing. Don't miss this event it is jam packed with classes of all sorts plus a fun time getting re-acquainted with old friends.

After the rendezvous comes our first packing event with the support for the PCTA work party up Mission Springs. The Cal Fire crews have thus far made it safe for horses up a ways into the canyon but lots more work remains. I volunteered our unit help pack in the crews for the scheduled Apr 10-16 work party. We are to pack in kitchen gear and tools for the

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

Meeting called to order at 6:50PM. Ladd motioned and Terry H seconded to accept the Minutes as printed in the February newsletter.

Jill reported on the status of our treasury. Terry H motioned and Ladd seconded to accept the treasurer's report.

Dennis submitted a bill for the Wildwood Canyon ride. It was paid at the meeting.

Education report was presented by Terry. He proposed that our unit participate in the LA County Fair especially during the day when the school children are present. BLM, the Forest Service are requesting that we put on demonstrations with our animals in addition to a Gentle Use Camp set-up. Terry will challenge the Education Committee at Rendezvous for support for this event. Terry also reported on our unit's new web site at <http://bch-sgp.com>. More to come on this as we develop it into a useful communication tool for our membership.

### New Business:

We discussed whether to continue with monthly meetings or shift to some other schedule. Bi-monthly and quarterly meetings were mentioned but in general we all felt that it needed some more thought so we tabled it till next meeting.

Dennis reported on his plans for our unit's first trail trials day at his ranch. We will use one of our public days so that we can have adequate coverage of all the obstacles by helpers who are non-members.

We then discussed the up coming pack support for the PCTA project up Mission Creek. The dates for the project are the 10th –16th of April requiring pack support the first and last day. We do not know yet if there is a re-supply needed but in any case we will help the PCT with this project.

Jill discussed menu items for the treasure Hunt so that the preparation and serving would be easier on us. Several different menu ideas were discussed and some folks volunteered to price their favorite restaurants in the Garner Valley area. We approved the raffle and prizes budget at the meeting but we will need a whole lot of help to put this on. Interested?

We approved the dollar per member donation for Rendezvous. Chip and Linda will purchase an item to be auctioned from a vendor at Rendezvous.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm.

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>Mar 14</b> Wildwood ride and BBQ	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
<b>June 5-7</b> National Trails Day at Fobes Ranch	<b>Dec 5</b> Christmas Party
<b>July 10-12</b> Heart Bar Camp out &	

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 year 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 October that were proposed are: Live Oak Springs overnight camp out, a beach ride, Caspers park camp out and ride or Deep Creek from the Hesperia Equestrian Camp. Any more??? Let me know.

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Cal Fire crew as they clear the dead fall and problems that last years big rains caused to the trail through the canyon. The private land owners within the canyon have given us permission to stage out of the spot we cleared a couple years ago. So, this should not be a whole lot of riding to get to the spike camp. As the details of this work party evolve I'll keep all our volunteers informed. After this event we will try out our first ever trail trial type event at Dennis and Janis' homestead. See the flyer in this newsletter.

The Treasure Hunt will soon be upon us we will need volunteers and a pre-ride to lay out the course. So let me know if you want to help.

*Trail Trials*

**BCHC**  
**San Gorgonio Pass Unit**  
**Trail Trials/Fun Day/BBQ**  
**April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2009**

Come and enjoy the day at the McKee ranch in secluded Mias Canyon north of Banning. The San Gorgonio Pass Unit will host a trail trial obstacle course which will be judged for fun. The course will use the McKee and National Forest property of approximately 60+ acres. The obstacles will simulate, as close as possible, that which you would encounter while trail riding. You will be judged on your horsemanship, safety and skill negotiating the obstacles. Since this is not a sanctioned Trail Trails event, we will not adhere to their rules. All units are invited to join in on the fun and friendship of this BCHC day.

After signing in, we will begin at 10:30 AM and conclude the day with an early potluck dinner at 4:00 PM. San Gorgonio will provide the main dish. Those who wish may spend the night and enjoy the moon, stars and camp fire. Sunday morning potluck and early trail ride will conclude the weekend.

All participants must be BCHC members and sign a liability waiver. If you bring a guest, membership must be taken out when you register. Sorry no exceptions: insurance liability issue. If you bring a dog it must be on a leash except when on the trail. Sorry no exceptions and no pit bulls.

What: Trail Trials and BBQ

When: April 18th

Time: 10:30 AM start

4:00 PM BBQ/ potluck

Where: Dennis/Janis McKee's

10800 Mias Canyon, North Banning

What to bring: Horse, potluck, chair and a smile!

Cost: 0

RSVP: Please by April 11<sup>th</sup> so we can plan the amount of food to buy.

More information contact: Dennis/Janis McKee (951) 769-5130 or [janisdennis@aol.com](mailto:janisdennis@aol.com)

Directions: I-10 East to Banning 8<sup>th</sup> St. exit, Left/ Ramsey, Right/ San Gorgonio Ave., Left/ Follow San G. up over the hill past 3 water tanks on left. Past the tanks is Mias Canyon Rd. on the right. Turn Right onto the dirt road. There is a narrow concrete bridge on the left and a road through the wash on the right. Take the road on the right. Follow the road through the gate with old signs (keep out, no trespassing, drive slow). ½ mile, forth home on right. Look for green metal building on the right side of road as you come up the canyon. 10800 Mias Canyon. Call (951) 218-4597 if you get lost.

Directions: I-10 west from the desert to Banning, Hargrave exit, Right/ Ramsey, left/ San Gorgonio, Right/ follow the above instructions.

The Rendezvous 2009 was a success with several new events and some old too. The new events were great. There was packing demonstration with question/answer period put on by the Marine Detachment stationed at the Bridgeport Mountain Survival school. It was inspiring to hear these guys discuss how to pack with virtually no special equipment (such as panniers, lash cinches, etc) and using whatever rope that they can pick up along the way. Shooting yes, the bad guys are shooting at you and the mules and the loads. They get a whopping 2 weeks training school to learn the basics and then are sent back to their different units with the possibility of being the experienced packer if their unit requires pack support in Afghanistan. The mules they brought to Rendezvous were obviously old hands at this stuff. Calm and collected they weathered all our attentions, strange conditions, rain, trains etc. The mules the Marines use in Afghanistan are ones they procure in Afghanistan so they are a whole different story.

Another new event was the Friday camp fires with home made entertainment. Some of our folks are quite talented! One of the metal magicians put together these two ton campfire pits from the ends of some kind of a large tank. All enjoyed the time to kick back, relax after the all day meetings—some of which were quite heated.

I saved the parade event for last as this was the best. Representatives from all the units were invited to join the Marines in the parade. A couple of local schools provided bands and one of local special people schools for disabled students also rode in the event. We all cheered and clapped and thoroughly enjoyed the parade. All of you who were there know this but all who were not missed a very good Rendezvous.

Other highlights of the Rendezvous were the more than normal vendors. One saddle maker from up NorCal way actually made sense to me when he described how to figure out saddle fit. A new vendor this year provides a discount to BCHC members plus a kickback to the state organization as a per cent of your purchases. There were also several returning favorites.

Since Linda and I had to arrive in Turlock on Wednesday and the first meal served was Friday night we appreciated John Black's foresight to have some food vendors arrive on Thursday. They served some breakfast burritos to die for plus tri-tip and pulled pork sandwiches that I for one ate several of. The catered meals were the best I have ever had. The New York steaks melted in your mouth and even the veges were good! And you all know how I just wait to see what is served for veges.

The contests were a little short this year as we were trying to break even from the rather expensive fairgrounds fees. However the trail trials were a raging success which leads me to believe that soon we'll have the rest of the normal contests back again.

Not officially part of the Rendezvous but a well attended event was the third annual Public Lands seminar all day Thursday, organized by Dan Clifford, BCHC VP Public Lands. Due to other demands of our time we were unable to attend the seminar but those that did attend were very appreciative of the information they received.

The last item on Rendezvous is a request from the State Rendezvous committee for all of us to get involved. The involvement can be as simple as suggesting some new topics for lectures, new contest, new elements of Rendezvous...well you get the idea. The venue is open for all types of discussions from holding the rendezvous at a ranch all the way to putting it back into a rotation between units. They await your input!!! Send your comments/requests/ideas to me and I'll forward to the proper place. Chip

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Www.bchcalifornia.org for more information on BCHC get-  
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