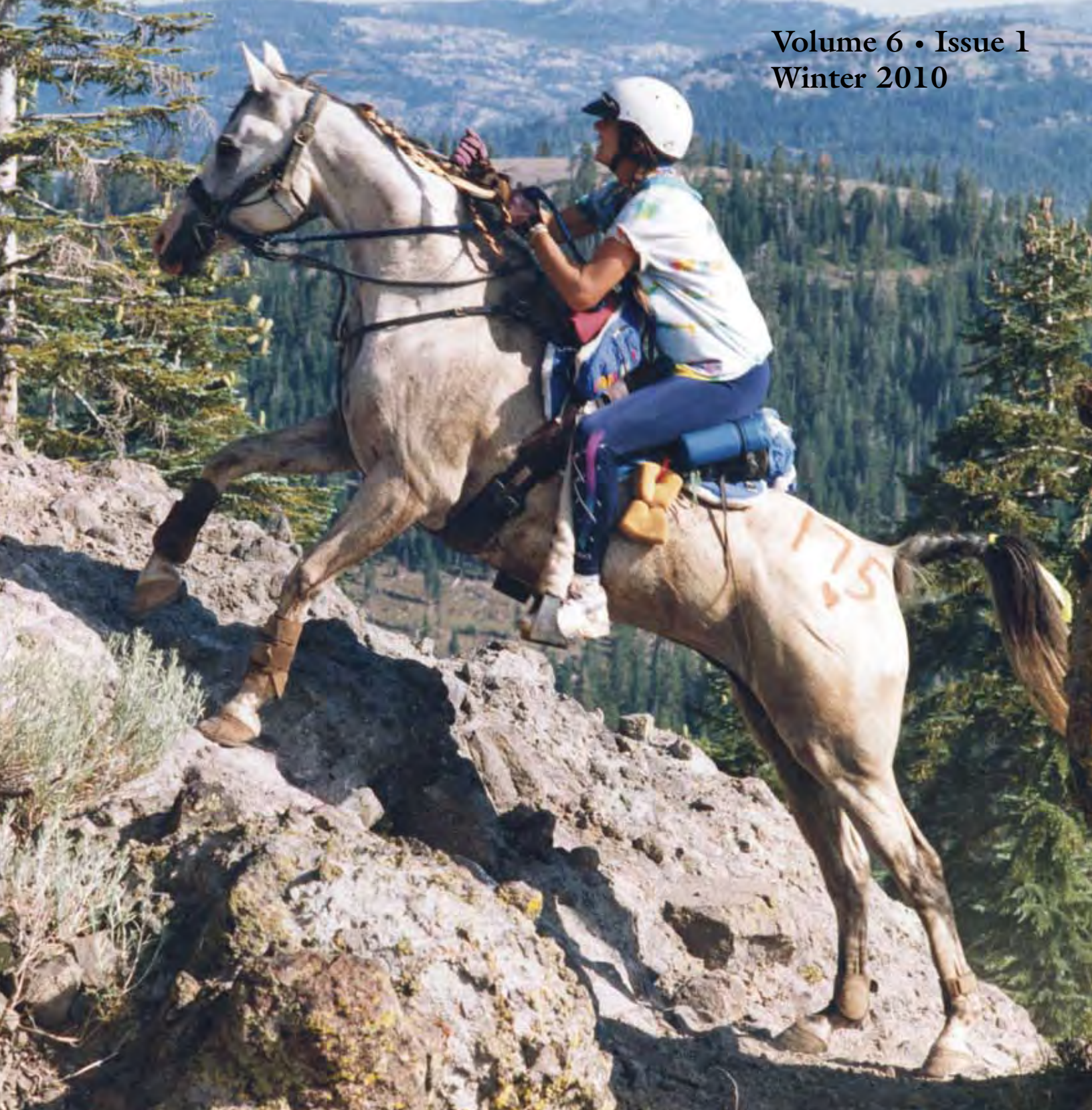


Equus Hall of Fame Awards Edition

Sonoma County

Horse Journal

Volume 6 • Issue 1
Winter 2010



Published by the Sonoma County Horse Council

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Sonoma County**Horse Journal**

Volume 6 • Issue 1 • Winter 2010

Published by the Sonoma County Horse Council – Home of the Equus Awards

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**Cover Photo: Hughes Photography**

The Second Annual Hall of Fame Horse, AA-Allusion (aka "Lu") bounds up Cougar Rock carrying owner, Marci Cook, during his first Tevis Cup finish in 1996. Read more about Lu and the other Equus Hall of Fame inductees in this issue of the Horse Journal.

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A Message from the President



Photo: Vanessa Bastian

Karl & Dinero

Howdy! Welcome to the 2010 Equus Awards Edition!

As usual, we have the opportunity to spotlight some great local folks. I am proud to call your attention to the second annual equine inductee to the Hall of Fame—AA-Allusion. I hope you enjoy reading about your fellow equestrians and their contributions to Sonoma County. The annual Equus Awards Event is only one of the many contributions your Horse Council makes to you and your horses. Read on for the short list of our achievements!

- The economic survey (in partnership with Sonoma State) that discovered horses are the second largest economy in Sonoma County. This information gives us some real power to negotiate our needs.
- Your space at the fairgrounds in an emergency. When you arrive with your horses and they demand one million dollars in insurance coverage, you just tell them you are a member of the Sonoma County Horse Council—you've got it, and you're in.
- Protection again "horse un-friendly" ordinances, such as the one that would have required (unnecessary!) sprinklers in arenas. Robert Pope of "Giant Steps" said we saved them three hundred thou-

sand dollars building their arena.

- Advocacy for your access to public lands. We argued that equestrians are responsible and valuable stewards. We also argued for extended seasons and more days of the week for equestrian use.
- The Horse Journal. The Journal is *for* the SoCo horse community, *by* the SoCo horse community, and *about* the SoCo horse community. Where else can you find such a great local forum for local discussion, news, and information?
- The annual Equine Extravaganza, which highlights and showcases all breeds and disciplines.

If you have a problem, any problem, you can call on your Horse Council. We'll help, whether it's advocacy, legal advice, or just about anything. The Horse Council is your safety net.

What makes our efforts possible? Our "work horses" are our volunteers and our members. We need you. Join the Horse Council today. It's a simple, inexpensive responsibility that all horse people can embrace.

For a list of the folks who stepped up to the plate by joining the board in 2010, check out the SCHC Officers List on the first page! When you see those dedicated folks, give them a "thanks" for hard work and job well done.

Happy Trails!

Karl Bastian

President, Sonoma County Horse Council



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2010 Equus Hall of Fame Winners



Hall of Fame Horse — AA-Allusion

AA-Allusion (aka "Lu") is named to the Equus Hall of Fame for his outstanding endurance achievements and his dedication to service in Sonoma County.

Lu began his life in Sonoma County at what was formerly West Coast Arabians in southwest Santa Rosa. He is currently twenty-three years old. His owner, Marci Cook, teaches kindergarten at Mattie Washburn Elementary School in Windsor. Marci found Lu almost twenty years ago when he was advertised in the Healdsburg Tribune. He was green and living unused in a backyard in Sebastopol. The ad said simply, "Arab gelding. 5 years. \$500." The ad reflects Lu's personality to a "T."

Lu is a no nonsense, no frills horse. On the outside, Lu is not a typical flashy, showy Arab. He is simply a happy, dedicated horse. But he is truly an Arab on the inside: beautiful, spirited, and energetic. He loves having a job and applies himself with fierce dedication. Marci, a horsewoman with decades of experience, says she has never trusted a horse so much to do what he is asked to do. A few years ago, Lu suffered a "career-ending" injury to his right front leg. After a two year recovery period, Lu announced that he was returning to the trail. He rebounded as strong as ever, and has completed several endurance rides since. To date, Lu has an estimated 10,000 miles on the trail.



maintenance work with the endurance community, over 1000 miles with the Mounted Assistance Unit for the state parks, and over 500 miles with the Mounted Assistance Unit for the regional parks. He has mentored many novice Mounted Unit horses over the years, and he loves the public and being an ambassador in the parks. Lu also loves children. Annually, for more than ten years, Lu has traveled to Mattie Washburn Elementary School and taught the kindergarteners that "H" is for horse.

One special story describes Lu's personality well. During the Desert Gold 50-Miler, Marci and Lu met another rider whose goal was to complete this fifty-mile race. The horse and rider had a spill eleven miles from the finish, and the rider broke her collar bone. She desperately wanted to finish the race. The injured rider sadly insisted she was done, and that her horse wouldn't "pony." Marci and Lu knew otherwise. Lu ponied this horse and rider to near the finish, where the injured rider took over and was able to complete the ride on her own. Marci beams when she shares this special story about Lu.

Lu currently lives in Healdsburg with his pasture mates, Lexi and Hank. He also shares his home with a six hundred pound pig, three dogs, several assorted birds (including an emu named EBoo), and other barnyard friends. In his free time he enjoys kicking up his heels, priming the youngster, Hank, for his future as an endurance horse, and relaxing in the sun.



Lu is an endurance champ, with over 6,000 miles in competition. He has completed dozens of fifty-mile rides locally and statewide, including the Wild West 50-Miler and the Cooley Ranch Ride. Lu has also completed several one hundred-mile rides, including the Swanson Pacific and the Virginia City 100. Two of Lu's favorite multi-day rides are the 250-Mile Pony Express Ride and the 205-Mile Death Valley Ride. Perhaps

Lu's finest endurance achieve-

ments are his Tevis Cup completions. The Tevis Cup is a grueling one hundred mile race through the Sierras from Truckee to Auburn. The race has a 50% completion rate, and endurance riders view it as an achievement to simply cross the finish line within the twenty-four hour time limit. Marci and Lu have attempted and completed the Tevis Cup four times, with a 100% finish rate, and each time stronger than the last.

Lu believes in community service. He has twenty years of trail

Honorable Mention—Midnight

Midnight is a very special pony who belongs to Linda Aldrich's Howarth Park Pony Express. He is eighteen years old and of Welsh and Shetland descent. Midnight received nominations from two children. One nominator wrote, "Midnight was the first horse I rode...Midnight listens to everybody on his back...he loves it when everybody pets him...I always want to ride Midnight."



According to Linda, Midnight is always a delight. Never one to miss a day's work, Midnight lives to love the kids...who love him right back. Once an unhappy pony in a goat inhabited field, Midnight has finally found his calling. Now he is hooves down, the most popular pony in the Howarth Park pony corral.

Congratulations, Midnight, for winning over so many hearts.



2010 Equus Hall of Fame Winners



Carol Ann Barnes

A special thank you to Nancy Kasovich



Carol Barnes has been named to the Equus Hall of Fame for her forty years of quiet, dedicated service to the equestrians and equestrian organizations of Sonoma County.

Carol's first horse, named Old Paint, was a Montana Mustang that her Dad brought back in an open-topped wooden trailer. According to Carol, "My dad worked on sheep ranches so we

always had horses. I grew up on a horse and can't remember when I didn't ride."

Carol was born in Santa Rosa and has lived here most of her life. Carol has a long but quiet history of service. According to one nominator, "Carol is an understated, unassuming woman who always steps up to the plate when needed."



Carol and Proust at the National Championships

Carol joined the Sonoma County Driving and Riding Club (SCDRC) in 1968. In the last forty years, she has served several terms as secretary, vice president, and president. In 1990, SCDRC granted Carol and husband, Dan, honorary lifetime memberships for their years of contributions. Carol joined the Sonoma County Trails Council during its formative years. She has served as secretary and as president. Carol's board positions demonstrate her most visible commitments to the equestrian community, but Carol usually works quietly, behind the scenes. To this day, Carol is still active in public service. Four years ago, she joined the Mounted Assistance Units for both the regional and state parks. She has completed hundreds of patrol hours to date.

Carol is passionate about trail riding. She has completed over 8000 miles in both endurance and competitive trail competitions, including the Tevis Cup. She has won numerous year-end High Point Heavyweight Open Horse/Horsemanship Awards. In 1993 Carol and her Arabian, Proust, won North American Trail Ride Conference (NATRC) National High Point Heavyweight Horse Division.

Carol now lives in west Santa Rosa with her Arabian, Liz, and her three dogs—Katie, Zoe, and Belle. Most often she is on the trail, either patrolling, or just enjoying the scenery with her longtime riding partner and best friend, Nancy.

Elizabeth R (Betty) Menefee

A special thank you to Nancy Kasovich



Betty Menefee is named to the Equus Hall of Fame for more than fifty years of service as a teacher and leader for the Sonoma County equestrian community.

Betty's first memory of horses was as a youngster when her mother would bring her out to greet the gray draft horse hauling the "Rags, Bottles, & Sacks" wagon. She was terrified. The next summer she took a pack trip during summer camp in the Sierras, and never stopped riding after that!

Betty moved to Sonoma County in 1954, and settled in Windsor. She bought two horses, and not only introduced her six children to riding, but also any neighborhood kid who wanted to climb on a horse. According to her children, they never made plans until they checked the date against Mom's calendar. Betty founded the first 4H Light Horse Club in Sonoma County. She recalls she had the only trailer for miles, and crammed in as many horses as she could to get to a show. "We took the back seat out of the station wagon and put the pony in there." In 1957 she joined the Sonoma County Driving and Riding Club (SCDRC), serving as treasurer, vice-president, and president. During her fifty-plus years in the SCDRC Betty mentored young riders, showed horses, and competed in the Colorguard. Betty has also served as president and executive secretary of Region 1 California State Horseman's Association (CSHA).

Betty was an early supporter of equestrian trail expansion in Sonoma County. She made numerous trips to Sacramento, paving the way for organizations such as the Heritage Trail Foundation. Betty competed in NATRC, and later became an NATRC judge. She actively encouraged new riders and taught horsemanship. Betty has completed the Tevis Cup.

Betty, now eighty-seven years young, says "Boy, I had a lot of energy back then!" She currently lives in a retirement apartment and spends her evenings playing bridge and keeping her kids busy chasing her around.





2010 Equus Hall of Fame Winners



Veda Rose Pope



Veda Rose and RC

Veda Rose Pope is receiving an Equus Award for her pioneering work training mules and donkeys, and for her special leather craft.

Veda Rose started riding at age nine on her grandparents' donkey. She would ride up and down the railroad tracks, and feel like she was in her own little world. "I was just riding the rails!"

Veda Rose Pope first came to Sonoma County in 1960, after she was married at Novato Air Force Base. At age eighteen, she opened Carters Farm, where she trained and boarded horses. (She

reports she also trained some children there.) Veda Rose started mule breeding and training more than twenty years ago. She has trained mules for Dressage, Jumping, Trail, Roping, Pleasure, and Driving. Her specialty is general ranch work. "Just about anything you'd wanna do off an equine, I've trained a mule to do, including coon jumping," says Veda Rose. Veda has shown at Bishop Mule Days for the last twenty years. She is particularly proud of Apples Peaches and Cream who was Top Ten in the California Regional Open Shows as a three year old, and All-Around Reserve World Champion at Bishop at the age of twenty-one. Bonita Bars was

1994 All-Around New Mexico State Champion. She still breeds and trains a few special mules. She refers to her ex-Jack donkey, Sunny, as her "Cadillac" ride.

Veda began her leather craft for her mules because horse tack "just didn't fit right." She then branched into boots and clothing, with the help of her husband, RC Pope. Chances are

you've seen some of Veda's fancy saddles and ornate, custom boots around the county. Veda sews, patches, fits, and paints each piece. Such individuals as Tommie Lee Jones, Michael Martin Murphy's manager, and several winery owners boast Veda's boots.

These days you can find Veda caring for RC, or making boots, or riding her mules. She has three daughters with whom she is very close. She currently owns Sunny, and four mules—Gracie, Jim Dandy, Charlotte, and Bartholemule.



Veda Rose on Bonita Bars

Michael Alan Rosenberg



Mike and Christine

Michael Alan Rosenberg has been named to the Equus Hall of Fame for his dedicated practice as a farrier in Sonoma County, and for his outstanding leadership of Petaluma Riding and Driving Club (PRDC).

Mike became involved with horses as an adult. One of his first memories involves a beach ride on his first horse, Cody. Cody was new to carrying saddlebags, and as Mike attempted to move him

into the surf, the horse spun and the saddlebags smacked against his hindquarters. Cody started bucking and dumped Mike on the sand in front of his friends. He says he has improved since then.

Mike was born and raised in Santa Rosa. After becoming involved with horses, he chose to train as a farrier. Mike shoes all disciplines but views Reining as his specialty. Mike is well-known for his skilled and gentle handling of horses. One long-time shoer said, "Now there's a horseman. He's just a natural...He takes to them, and they love him." While humble about his achievements, Mike is dedicated to continued growth as farrier, and he has helped many horses return to, and maintain, soundness.



Mike and Spook Team Penning

Mike has been a dedicated president of PRDC. He has improved the club's organization, economics, and professionalism. Under Mike's leadership, the club has become more family friendly and welcoming to beginners, and has become a home for practice and performance of priceless and vanishing western skills such as Roping, Cutting, and Team Penning. Mike, himself, has competed and won in many of these disciplines, including winning the 2000 Redwood Empire Quarter Horse Association High Point Saddle in Team Penning on his horse, Fritter. He has also won many High Point Buckles on his Quarter Horse mare, Calinda, who until recently carried his six year old daughter, Marissa, around the barrels.

Mike and his family now live in Santa Rosa. They have five horses, four dogs, and one cat. In his free time, he likes to trail ride with his wife, Christine.



2010 Equus Hall of Fame Winners



John Corbett Ryan

A special thank you to Debby Bailey



John Ryan is receiving an Equus Award for his collaboration with equestrian groups and tireless political advocacy for equestrian access to open space in Sonoma County.

John does not ride or own horses. He does recall riding a horse as a small child in a corral at a family reunion in Morgan, Utah. "It was a great experience," he recalls, "and made me realize the importance of the horse and rider relationship."

John was born and raised in Sonoma County. He reports that he

practically grew up in Annadel and Spring Lake Parks. John left briefly to earn his degree in Economics at Cal Poly, then came right back home. He has been the Volunteer/Intern Coordinator for Sonoma County Regional Parks for ten years. One of his first projects was to collaborate with Backcountry Horsemen on installation of hitching posts and manure bunkers at Spring Lake Park.

Since then, John has spearheaded many of the equestrian facility improvements in our parks, including installation of water troughs, hitching posts, manure bunkers, and picnic tables, and improvements in parking areas. One of John's largest achievements has been his role in the development of the Regional Parks Mounted Assistance Unit, which extends the eyes and ears of the understaffed park



John and crew at Foothill Park

rangers. John has also lent his time and support to the State Parks Mounted Assistance Unit. According to John, "I have always been impressed by the equestrian community in Sonoma County. Everyone I have come across is willing to help out by donating their time, energy, or money to make the parks a better place. Instead of saying 'The parks should do this or that,' equestrians say 'How can we help the parks?'" John has also strongly advocated for equestrian access to new properties such as Tolay and Taylor Mountain Regional Parks.

John lives with his wife, Maureen, in Santa Rosa in a house they just bought this year. He walks to work, which delights him. He loves spending his free time outdoors, especially hiking, cycling, swimming, and playing soccer.

Gwen Elaine Stockebrand

A special thank you to Chris Mudge



Gwen Stockebrand is named to the Equus Hall of Fame in recognition of her contribution to advancing the discipline of Dressage.

Gwen started riding at three years of age. She remembers learning an important lesson at age seven. She was leading her horse Ginger in order to introduce her to the hot wire and got too close. According to Gwen, "The horse went flying, the lead rope went flying, the horse took off, and I learned about electricity."

Gwen Stockebrand is well-known locally, nationally, and internationally in the world of Dressage. She has trained numerous horses to Grand Prix and has represented the United States in international competitions including the Olympics, the World Championships, and the Pan American Games. At age twenty-three she was one of the youngest riders chosen to represent the US Equestrian Team on her Morgan/Tennessee Walker gelding, Bao. Gwen and Bao enjoyed much success nationally and internationally, and they were named National and International Champions. Gwen also received national acclaim on her Dutch Warmblood gelding, Monseigneur, including National Grand Prix Champion, Grand Prix Freestyle Champion, and Grand Prix Champion Horse of the Year, among other honors.

Over the past thirty years Gwen has made numerous contributions to Sonoma County Dressage. Gwen was one of the original founders of the California Dressage Society's Dressage in the Wine Country. She has been active in training horses and riders, judging, and organizing events. Gwen's students have been successful competitors at local, state, and national levels. One nominator wrote, "Gwen is a brilliant and beautifully gifted rider, as well as a generous and patient instructor. She is an ambassador for all horses and horse lovers in the art of Dressage."



Gwen currently owns and lives at Flying Changes in Santa Rosa. She continues to offer Dressage training all over northern California and Arizona. She owns and houses several retired horses, but her current focus is a six year old Hanoverian named Drambuie.

*A Special Tribute by the Sonoma County Horse Council***Henry F Trione***A special thank you to Debby Bailey*

The Sonoma County Horse Council would like to offer a special tribute to Henry Trione for his decades of dedication promoting the presence and image of horses in Sonoma County. In particular, the SCHC would like to acknowledge and offer gratitude for Henry's role in the creation and preservation of Annadel State Park.



Henry came to Sonoma County in 1948. His name and accomplishments are well known in equestrian circles locally, nationally, and internationally. Locally, Henry was

one of the Wild Oak Saddle Club founders. He is largely credited with bringing Polo to northern California. Trione represented the US amateur team internationally, and was inducted into Florida's Polo Hall of Fame in 2008. Trione has been active in the Thoroughbred industry. He was an original Trailblazer and helped start the Trailblazer Foundation.

Perhaps most notably, Henry was pivotal in the creation of Annadel State Park. "Every time I ride in that park, I give a silent 'thank you' to Henry for his pivotal role in the establishment of Annadel," says one nominator. In 1971, Trione pulled together a consortium of private and state foundation funds to acquire land threatened by development to create Annadel State Park. Henry was a founding member of the California State Parks Foundation, and a creator of the Annadel Visitor's Center Foundation. In 2008, Henry was named an honorary State Park Ranger by the California State Rangers Association. Most recently, as Annadel was under threat of closure due to state budget cuts, Trione acted publicly and privately to ensure preservation of the park.

Henry has two sons, Victor and Mark. He is a WWII veteran. He lives in Santa Rosa, and tries to stay out of the limelight. If you want to offer a "thank you," you might catch a glimpse of him at the Wild Oak Saddle Club, or maybe on the trail.



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Sonoma County Events

Dressage in the Wine Country

Written by Horse Journal Staff



Photo: Ruth Lake

Riana Porter performs on Romax Foldager

For twenty-six years, the Sonoma Chapter of the California Dressage Society has presented *Dressage in the Wine Country (DWC)*, a premiere event that showcases two of the economic mainstays of Sonoma County: horses and wine. This year was no exception. On August 29, thousands of equine enthusiasts from all over the United States enjoyed an afternoon of well-planned festivities and demonstrations. DWC featured an afternoon wine tasting and trade fair spotlighting local wineries and microbreweries, equine-related businesses, and nonprofit organizations, followed by an evening of equestrian performances. Providing education as well as entertainment, DWC is also a benefit event, as all proceeds go to local nonprofit organizations.

Breed demonstrations warmed up the arena during the afternoon. This year spectators enjoyed local Halflingers, Friesians, Peruvian Pasos, Welsh Ponies, Saddlebreds, Lusitanos, and Mustangs. The main program featured Sonoma County's upper level equestrians and professionals along with up and coming junior riders, local equestrian groups, and riders from Santa Rosa's Equi-Ed Therapeutic Equestrian Program and the European Pony School. The program also featured a special performance by Riana Porter, a young rider who recently won the US Equestrian Federation Junior Championship at the US Equestrian

Team Foundation Headquarters in Gladstone, New Jersey. Carol Hill and Art Grunig presented the annual East Meets West performance, simultaneously demonstrating dressage and reining movements.

Sharon Marshall, wearing her high school prom gown, did a rocking number to 1950's music on her Grand Prix mare. Yves Sauvignon, as ringmaster, presented a fast and exciting Farandole with twelve riders over jumps. (A Farandole was originally a group dance in the South of France, dating from the fourteenth century; what a sight to see when done with horses!)

Featured Sonoma County professional riders and drivers included Darren Taplin, Dave Donnelly, Tanya Vik, Kristen Aggers, Jon Michael Durr, and Amber Levine. Other Bay Area Dressage presenters were Rachel Saavedra, Creeky Rouston, Chelsey Sibley, Carla McPherson, Sue Halasz, D'Re Stergios, and Alicia Zecherle.

Nick Bertelli did an outstanding job as announcer, while Jane Weath-erwax, a Dressage judge, led the audience through the steps involved in training to a high level. Santa Rosa's own Shannon Rider Band provided entertainment during the trade fair and wine tasting.

The Ursula Liakos Award, traditionally presented during the DWC program, recognizes individuals or groups that have demonstrated equestrian philanthropy. These individual have worked to protect the wellbeing of horses, and/or elevated the pro



Photo: Ruth Lake

Farandole, directed by Yves Sauvignon, performed by Santa Rosa Equestrian Center riders

file of equestrian endeavors for the good of horses in Sonoma County. This year's recipient was Dr Grant Miller, a local veterinarian who recently founded the Sonoma County CHANGE program, which provides support services to the Sonoma County Animal Control department in cases of horse neglect, abandonment, and abuse. Previous recipients have included the Glen Ellen Vocational Academy, the Sonoma County Horse Council, Dr Mitch Benson, Judy McHerron, and Barbara Chasteen.

The proceeds from Dressage in the Wine Country have benefited many nonprofit organizations in Sonoma County, including horse welfare and rescue groups, children's organizations such as local Pony Clubs, special education and handicapped riding programs, and local nonprofit horse facilities, as well as bird rescue and animal shelters. 2009 Event Manager Judy McHerron pulled the pieces together and organized the army of volunteers working to create an exciting afternoon and evening for the crowd, which gathers from all over California and the United States. Can't wait till next time! U

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Sonoma County Events

CHANGE Program Annual Fundraiser

A Community Success!

Written by Grant Miller, DVM

The Sonoma County CHANGE Program held its second annual fundraiser barbecue on September 20 to raise funds for the upcoming 2010 fiscal year. Thanks to an overwhelming outpouring of community support, the fundraiser was a huge success!

The Sonoma County CHANGE Program is a 501c(3) corporation that serves the Sonoma County Animal Control Department with horse cases. CHANGE provides transport services, foster and rehabilitative care, and adoption services for horses in county custody. In addition, CHANGE works directly with the Sonoma County District Attorney's office to prosecute those charged with animal abuse crimes. Since its inception in October of 2007, CHANGE has assisted the Animal Control Department with thirty-three horse cases, and eight animal abuse convictions.

The fundraiser took place on a sweltering 100 degree day. Luckily, the attendees hardly noticed in the newly renovated, air-conditioned, Santa Rosa Junior College Shone Farm auditorium. CHANGE tries to incorporate local businesses into the fundraiser, and so the junior college farm was a perfect fit. Several local wineries hosted tastings, and Top of the Vine Catering provided delicious hors d'oeuvres to open the event. Over 425 guests visited with one another, and read about horses in the program on oversized posters, while talking with CHANGE Program board members. Despite the jovial atmosphere, few passed the posters of less fortunate horses, marked with lit candles, without shedding tears. American Association of Equine Practitioners research (2008) indicates that one out of every five horse starvation cases will not survive rehabilitation because of the tremendous, often irreversible organ damage that occurs. Supporters of the program shopped in the tack room, purchased CHANGE memorabilia, browsed the extensive silent auction selection, and purchased raffle tickets. Blazing Saddles of Sonoma catered a delicious tri-tip lunch, with all the fixings. Homemade sweet tea was a perfect addition on this hot day.

After lunch, guests walked into the beautiful indoor arena and enjoyed a medley of unique riding demonstrations. Among the highlights included the Marin County Mounted Sheriff's Posse flag salute choreographed to the National Anthem, which was sung a-cappella by Andrea Krout. Patrons enjoyed watching Show Jumping and Dressage demonstrations, including a special Mustang Dressage ride by Wendee Walker. The majestic *Cheval Noir* Friesian team kept toes tapping, and the Petaluma



Tressa Boulden leads the Cheval Noir Friesian team

Junior Drill Team dazzled the crowd with an amazing cantering concert! Gail Davis and Dina DiRicchio showed off their gentle giant Percheron draft mares with a cart and buggy demonstration, and the crowd was awed by the talented gymnastics of the Silver Bay Vaulting Team. The event ended with a bang as Dan and Judy Milliken and a crew of friends demonstrated wild west riding with mounted shooting. With the difficult economic times and large number of equine events that have already taken place this summer, CHANGE saw poor ticket sales for the fundraiser early on. In order to break even on the event, the program needed to sell at least 200 tickets, yet just two weeks prior the event, only 100 tickets had been sold.

Thanks to the supportive community, and help from a new local resource called NeighborhoodNow (a local online calendar), 200 tickets were sold in the two weeks prior to the event. An additional 125 supporters bought tickets at the door, making for a packed event! CHANGE was honored with the presence of the Sonoma County District Attorney Stephan Passalacqua, as well as the Agricultural Commissioner Cathy Neville.



Volunteers serve dessert to well-fed attendees

The CHANGE Board, along with the thirty fundraiser volunteers, wishes to thank the horse community for coming out to support the program. The annual barbecue is the primary source of revenue to fund the CHANGE Program budget, and thanks to devoted horse lovers, several thousand dollars were raised at the event! To learn more about the Sonoma County CHANGE Program and to read about upcoming events, visit the program website: www.sonomachangeprogram.com. U



Readers Write

Hay! What's Up?

Written by Sheri Brodsky

When I was purchasing hay for my first horse I had basically two choices: green or yellow. Nowadays, the science behind both growing hay and feeding horses has matured so much that the choices are many: alfalfa, clover, oat, wheat, barley, orchard grass, rye, timothy, bermuda, vetch, teff, and almost any combination thereof. And that's just in this area! While more choices mean a great opportunity for providing great nutrition for all types of horses, more choices also increase potential for confusion, myths, and misinformation. Hay (or forage) should make up the majority of your horse's diet, so making informed choices is important. This article is designed to cover hay basics and help you get the information you need to provide the best nutrition for your equine.

There are three main categories of hay: legume, grasses, and cereal grains. Each category of hay has its own nutritional characteristics. Legumes (for example alfalfa and clover) are generally higher in energy, protein, calcium, potassium, and vitamin A than other hays. Cereal grains (for example oat and barley) can be quite high in carbohydrate energy since they may be harvested at a stage when the seed has a high starch content (the stalk may be more fibrous). The cereal grains often have a narrow or even inverted calcium to phosphorous ratio. The grasses (for example orchard grass and timothy) are quite variable but generally fall between legumes and cereal grain hays in most characteristics. But remember, these are just general parameters. When feeding your horse, keep in mind that the maturity of the plant, soil conditions, and the timing and environment at time of harvest can all have a greater effect on nutritional components than the variety of hay. I have tested early cut rye and orchard grasses and found them higher in protein than a full bloom alfalfa.

So which hay is best for your horse? The optimal diet depends on many factors, including age, weight, workload, metabolic issues, other dietary components, teeth, and more! If your hay is good quality, e.g. free of mold, mycotoxins, endophytes, or foreign bodies, then there really is no "bad" hay. Each type of hay will have its strong points and its short comings; owners sim-

ply need to be educated and compensate appropriately. The best way to know what is in your hay is to test it. With today's technology, testing is fast and inexpensive. Your local Extension Agency should be able to provide a list of locally accredited labs. One example is Equi-Analytical (www.equi-analytical.com), a subsidiary of Dairy One Forage Laboratory which caters to equines. When you test, make sure to get a representative sample—most labs have detailed directions on their websites. If you are in the position of buying one or two bales at a time, look for a dealer that is willing to supply a test. Dairies do not buy hay without a test on it. You can bet that dairy hay dealers complained about testing in the beginning, but got used to it. Now it's standard practice. Be persistent, it's the least we can do for our horses. Meanwhile, Dairy One has a library of feeds you can check for info. Notice the column marked "range" to get an idea of how much the nutrient content can vary, but at least you'll have a ballpark value.

Do you need to supplement? I always maximize intake from forage and only supplement with what is not provided by the hay. Unfortunately, no combination of western hay will provide all the nutrients a mature horse needs, even those just performing light work, so around here, supplementation is necessary for optimal nutrition. Even so, a little knowledge will make it easier and guide judicious and healthful choices. My favorite source for nutritional/mineral requirements is the National Research Council's book, Nutrient Requirements of Horses. You can get it through the National Academies Press, Washington, DC (www.nap.edu). Next determine what you need to supplement by testing your forage, and reading the supplement labels to fill in the gaps. You can also ask a trained professional Equine Nutritionist to do an analysis for you. Remember that supplementation can provide not only missing nutrients, but also higher energy for work, weight gain, growth, and recovery.

Hay is for horses. We are lucky to have many choices from which to choose our feed. Some basic knowledge about types of hay, local nutrient content, and prudent supplementation can help you insure that your equine is well-fed and happy. U

Hay! That's a myth!

1 - Grass hay is low-carb. No, the carbohydrate content of grass hay varies, and is determined by the environmental conditions at harvest and the length of time and conditions of curing.

2 - Never feed alfalfa. This is so silly. Alfalfa can be a great feed. It shouldn't be 100% of forage because this creates and unbalanced ration (and the risk of enteroliths), but the right amount can be a wonderful addition. Alfalfa is probably the best protein, lysine, calcium supplement I can think of. And it's horse-friendly—they get to chew fiber, produce lots of saliva (high in sodium bicarbonate) which is an often forgotten part of the buffering and digestive system. The healthy bacteria in the large intestine grow well on alfalfa fiber components and that's important because these bugs make the B and C vitamins your horse needs.

3 - My horse has a shiny coat so he doesn't need anything else. This only means he has enough fatty acids in his diet. Many-a-shiny-coated horse has had a diet with an inverse calcium to phosphorous ratio.

4 - I'm feeding orchard grass so I need a high calcium supplement. Maybe. Orchard grass minerals vary widely. Some are high in calcium, some low. Get yours tested.

5 - Labs that cater to the dairy industry are not good for horses. For most nutrients that's not accurate. Only formula-based energy components (that focus on digestibility) will give different numbers between species. If the hay has 1% calcium in it, it has that much whether you feed it to a cow or a horse.

Sheri Brodsky has been testing hay and forages in Sonoma and Marin Counties for over two decades. Sheri is an independent consultant who began her business after recognizing the need for unbiased scientific information in the equine industry. Her clients include individual horse owners, stable groups, feed mills, and hay companies. She is a member in good standing with the American Registry of Professional Animal Scientists. Sheri meets with clients individually or in clinics, and can be reached at mspsb@sbcglobal.net.

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The Vet's Office

Column editor Michelle Beko, DVM

Choke

Emergency calls are part of life for horse owners and equine veterinarians. In addition to colic and wounds, "choke" is a fairly common emergency situation.

What is "choke?"

A horse can sometimes get feed stuck in his esophagus, a condition commonly known as "choke." The esophagus is the tube in the throat that connects the mouth to the stomach (versus the trachea which connects the mouth or nasal passages to the lungs). When we say a person is choking we are referring to them getting something stuck in their trachea and therefore being unable to breathe. A choked horse has something stuck in his esophagus, so he can breathe but is unable to swallow.

How do I know if my horse is choked?

If you are present when your horse initially chokes you will see an abrupt onset of symptoms that usually includes gagging, coughing, and copious amounts of feed and saliva coming out of his nostrils and/or mouth. Your horse may appear to be a bit panicky or distressed. If you are not there when your horse initially chokes you may find him somewhat depressed with saliva dripping from his nostrils. If he attempts to eat, you will see the feed come out his mouth or nose when he attempts to swallow.

What do I do?

The first thing you should do is to prevent your horse from having any access to food, even if she seems uninterested in eating. Next, call your veterinarian. Your veterinarian will exam your horse to confirm that she is choked and will likely sedate her. Your vet might administer other medications to reduce inflammation or relax the esophagus before passing a stomach tube (through your horse's nose) to attempt to gently flush the obstruction in or out.

Will my horse be okay?

Most horses will recover uneventfully from an episode of choke. Some may even recover before your vet arrives. Occasionally we need to send a choked patient to a referral hospital where they may be examined with an endoscope and possibly put under general anesthesia to relieve the obstruction. Also, if a horse's esophagus is badly damaged, it may lead to scarring which predisposes them to choking again. Lastly, if the horse inadvertently inhales any feed while it's choked, it could get a secondary case of pneumonia. Many vets will opt to put a horse on antibiotics if

they think this is likely.

How do I prevent choke?

You can minimize your horse's chance of choking by having regular dental care and avoiding excessively coarse feed. Some things such as corn husks or large pieces of watermelon rind should be avoided altogether. Large apples or carrots can be cut or broken into smaller pieces. Beet pulp should be mixed with water and soaked for at least five minutes. If you have a greedy horse that tends to bolt his food you can spread the food out a little so he can't take such big mouthfuls, especially if you are feeding him pelleted feed. Old horses that are missing teeth can still get the treats that they no doubt deserve but should have them cut into very small pieces. I sometimes give grated carrots or small pieces of softer fruits such as pears or bananas to my elderly horse (Splash).

Conclusion

Choke is a relatively common condition among horses. Fortunately most horses recover without lasting effects. As with many equine emergencies, owners can take steps to avoid choke. Prevention, prompt recognition, and timely veterinary care will help your horse stay healthy and happy. U

Michelle Beko, DVM is an equine veterinarian, and has been practicing at Empire Equine in Sonoma County since 1992. Her family includes her horses Splash and Ty. You can reach her with questions, comments, or ideas for future articles at (707) 545-3909.

Wild Horses: Wild Innocence

A Report on Government Mismanagement of America's Wild Mustangs and Burros and the Grassroots Campaign to Restore Them to Their Original Habitat & Ecological Niche

By Jyoti Annette Germain

Chapters include:

The Forgotten History of the Mustang
The Protection That Was Lost
Excess Wild Horses?
Mass Euthanasia, Who Wants to Shoot Them
Traumatic Effects of Gatherings (Roundups)
The Dark History of the Department of the Interior
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Readers Write

Written by Jyoti Germain

Wild Horses: The Hidden Reality

In states across the west, the Bureau of Land Management has begun the implementation of roundups that will capture more than 14,000 wild horses and burros, an enormous increase over last year. These animals are slated to be permanently removed from our public lands in the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, 2009. Wildlife ecologists and wild horse advocates believe this could well lead to the demise of the wild horse in America, and are calling for a moratorium on round-ups. In 1971, the Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act was unanimously passed, charging the BLM with protection of wild horses in their legal herd areas. However, in subsequent years, various amendments pushed by special interest groups indifferent to the survival of wild horses and burros, have significantly weakened the protection offered by the 1971 act.


Nevada, which has the largest wild horse population, leads the round-up list with the removal of greater than 7,000 horses and burros, followed by California with greater than 2,000. Wyoming, Oregon, and Utah make up the remainder. The reality is bitter for these wild animals. The BLM employs helicopters to chase the horses over many terrifying miles. They are forced into crowded corrals where they are separated from their families, trucked to holding facilities, held inside pens for indefinite periods, and given forced veterinarian services such as shots and castration. Many are injured or killed, and others are left depressed and disturbed from the experience. This animal abuse costs taxpayers \$2,600 to \$3,000 per horse. The BLM insists that the roundups are necessary due to a shortage of forage and water, but fails to mention that the bulk of forage and water resources have been allocated to cattle and sheep ranchers. Ranchers pay **less than \$2.00 per animal per month** for grazing on those same public lands.

This year, increasing pressure from the animal rights community has forced discussion and disclosure regarding the fate and well-being of wild equines. One major concern is that the BLM has filled its long and short term holding facilities with more than 30,000 captured wild horses. No space exists for the thousands it plans to roundup and remove from the range in the months ahead. Many fear that these animals are destined for slaughter. Reports suggest that some BLM managers assert that destruction of wild horses is easier (and cheaper) than finding sanctuary, and that planning meetings regarding killing and disposal strategies went on for several weeks in 2008. These meetings culminated with the sixty-eight page document entitled, "Alternative Management Options."

Why are so many wild horses being captured and removed from their legal herd areas? In a nutshell, previous administrations have catered to private industry (e.g. ranchers) who want use of public lands. They want the horses out, even if it violates the law. As a

solution, the BLM generated the claim of an "excess wild horse problem." The BLM claims that removing the horses is necessary to maintain a "thriving ecological balance" on public lands. Most who are familiar with the situation know it is a false excuse.

The horse originated and evolved on North America over five million years. Scientists believe they disappeared around 10,000 years ago soon after man appeared on this continent. By that time they had already migrated across the Bering land bridge to other continents. Horses repopulated this continent with the help of Spaniards in the 1500's and were quickly integrated into the Native American tribes of the western plains. Approximately two million wild horses were spread across the western US on open rangelands in the mid-eighteenth century. Much of the nineteenth century was filled with abuse, slaughter, and exploitation, including the capture of over one million horses for use on the front lines of WWI. By the time government protection was enacted in 1971, wild horse numbers had slid to just tens of thousands. The fight has now begun to protect the last 30,000 in order to maintain numbers sufficient for genetic viability. The BLM took over their management of the wild horses after passage of the Wild Free-Roaming Horses and Burros Act of 1971, when private intervention and capture of these horses became illegal. The tragedy for the horses is that the BLM is steeped in loyalty to the commercial grazing industry. Millions of acres of protected herd areas have been "zeroed out," and many thousands of horses have been removed. If they could talk, these animals could very well be screaming, "They are taking our homes and destroying our lives!"

Many compassionate Americans care deeply about the welfare of these animals. New proposed legislation (Restore Our American Mustangs Act or ROAM) would open the door for public-private partnerships and other actions which would allow the creation of sanctuaries for these herds. Leading the charge is Madeleine Pickens, an animal rights advocate who is proposing a wild horse eco-sanctuary. However, the sanctuaries do not prevent traumatic roundups and potentially dangerous displacement to unfamiliar terrain. Many advocates simply demand that the original 1971 law be enforced. Nature provides her own checks and balances that control herd numbers in the forms of predators, natural competition, and natural selection. Just as any members of our wildlife community, horses and burros deserve their place in the complex natural world. 

Jyoti-Annette Germain is a writer and a long time animal and horse lover. She is best known for her book entitled Wild Horses, Wild Innocence, which documents the history and plight of wild horses in America. Jyoti lives in Kenwood. To find out more about wild horses and burros, or to order her book, contact Jyoti at Equindeliverance@aol.com.



Photo: Elyse Gardner



Photo: Elyse Gardner

Wild Horse and Burro Update: A Call to Action! The Equine Welfare Alliance and The Cloud Foundation, along with several international wild horse advocacy organizations, have issued a unified call for an immediate moratorium on wild horse and burro roundups. In a letter to President Obama, Congress, and the Department of the Interior, the advocates call for a humane, fiscally responsible plan for preserving and protecting the iconic, free-roaming wild horses and burros of the American West. The letter also demands restored protections included in the 1971 Wild Free-Roaming Horse and Burro Act, restored and protected grazing lands, and Congressional hearings regarding the BLM mismanagement of the wild herds. The letters and petitions have been signed by hundreds of national and international organizations. For more information, or to add your name to the list of supporters, visit www.equinewelfarealliance.org/moratorium.



Trails and Open Spaces

Column editor Sarah Reid

Equestrian Efforts to Save Our Local State Parks

Annadel State Park will remain open. Jack London and Sugarloaf Ridge will experience partial closures only. Local equestrians most likely made a difference in the statewide efforts that averted total closures of the parks.

The Mounted Assistance Unit

On Sunday, August 23, 2009, members of the CA State Parks Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) participated in an organized "Special Patrol Day" as part of Save Our State Parks (SOS) weekend. In addition to patrolling, the uniformed MAU volunteers hung banners to which visitors taped green hearts with handwritten messages about keeping the parks open. At noon hikers, cyclists, equestrians, park staff, and the local press gathered at Lake Ilnango to discuss the issue: the possible closure of Annadel State Park. The Special Patrol Day and lakeside discussion were led by MAU President, JoDean Nicolette. At the end of the day, the banners, filled with hundreds of messages on green hearts, were sent to Governor Schwarzenegger. The Annadel banners were the first of many sent from other SOS weekend events around the state.

The MAU includes about sixty active men and women who patrol on horseback in Annadel, Sugarloaf Ridge, and Jack London. In addition, a new Bicycle Assistance Unit (BAU) was formed this year, with about fifteen members so far. Both units serve primarily to educate and inform, but are often called upon as search teams or first responders in the case of accidents or illness. The MAU accumulated 6,000 volunteer hours in 2008 serving these three parks.

Potential park closure, especially Annadel State Park, raises many concerns. Paramount are concerns for preservation and safety in and around the properties. Annadel has more than a dozen entry points, only one of which is gated. "Closing" the park would be unrealistic. Concerns include marijuana farms, homeless encampments, fires, wood collection, poaching, and vandalism. Currently the rangers and the volunteer units contribute to limiting such activities.

Additional efforts

On September 18th and 19th equestrian Sarah Reid and cyclist/trail runner husband, Ken, set up a demonstration table in Annadel to raise awareness and continue discussion. Alarmed by headlines announcing closure of the parks, the Reids spoke with 500+ park visitors, prompting many to contact local officials and sign petitions. Sarah and Ken noted that many visitors were unaware of the impact of using the park without paying park fees. Most users said they would donate or pay a fee if they knew that the money would stay in Annadel, rather than disappearing in to the state's General Fund.

Safe from closure?

Thanks to local and statewide efforts, including involvement by local high profile equestrian, Henry Trione, the local parks remain largely open. However, the problems of budget have not disappeared. The Governor wants \$14.2 million cut from parks, which will result in fewer services. Cuts include seasonal closure of campgrounds, weekday closures of parks, restroom closures, and



MAU members starting patrol next to an SOS banner

shifting paid staff to other locations.

Next steps

One popular proposal involves a \$18 fee on auto registrations, which would go to a state park trust. If this fee were implemented, state park entrance would be free to all Californians. For info on this proposal, called the "California State Parks and Wildlife Conservation Trust Fund Act of 2010," visit www.calparks.org/take-action. Locally, individuals and agencies are beginning to explore ideas to raise funds for our local parks, to keep the services up and running.

But it is the responsibility of all of us who enjoy our green hillsides and the opportunity to ride on public lands, to make sure these lands are protected now and in the future.

Just as the saying goes that "it takes a village to raise a child," it takes a community to protect and save our state parks. Thanks to all who have helped to make a difference. U

Open Spaces Update

Tolay Lake Regional Park – Tolay opened to permit holders (only) on September 18, 2009. This one-of-a-kind parkland offers unforested spectacular views of the bay area and Petaluma River Basin. To obtain a permit, visit the Sonoma County Regional Parks website (www.sonoma-county.org/parks) and sign up for one of the hour-long orientations. Tolay is open Saturdays and Sundays, October through March. Equestrian parking is excellent. The Backcountry Horsemen-North Bay Unit (BCHC-NBU) built a manure bunker, hitching rails, and a water trough.

Taylor Mountain (future Regional Park) – The permit process for Taylor Mountain will be similar to Willow Creek and Tolay. Watch the LandPaths website for orientation dates and times (www.landpaths.org). Equestrians will have access to a trail up the face of the mountain, which is steep and may be slippery. By late spring 2010 equestrians should have expanded access on the west trail.

Annadel State Park – Still open, but at risk. Contact Valley of the Moon Natural History Association (VOMNHA) at Jack London State Historic Park (707-938-5216) for information on how to donate directly to efforts to support Annadel. Recent work by the Trails Council has greatly improved Spring Creek Trail.

Jack London State Historic Park – Now closed Thursdays and Fridays. A crew from BCHC-NBU recently cleared fallen trees on the Vineyard Trail, the Fern Lake Trail and the Ridge Trail.

Sugarloaf Ridge State Park – Slated to be closed Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. Winter trail closures now in effect.

To volunteer for trail crews, please contact Sonoma County Trails Council at www.sonomatrails.org, or BCHC-NBU at www.northbayunit.com.

Facilities Focus

Column editor Debby Bailey

The Wild Oak Saddle Club

The Wild Oak Saddle Club in Oakmont, is really something. At the risk of sounding like an "Old Geezer," I would like to share a story with you that spans many years. Anyway, here it goes...

About ten years ago, when I was on State Mounted Assistance Unit (MAU) patrol at Annadel, I saw some riders coming across a field toward the Warren Richardson Trail from east of Two Quarry Trail. As an MAU rider, I was concerned about the off-trail riders, so I reported the incident to Ranger Robert Birkland (Ranger Bob). He told me the riders were probably using an access from the Wild Oak Saddle Club. I had never even heard of the Wild Oak Saddle Club, and so I just put the information into a carefully labeled spot in my memory bank.

I retold the story to one of my friends who suggested that we ride down to see it. I'm always ready for something new, so off we went. I could hardly believe what I saw when we reached the Saddle Club. We came upon the large paddocks, galloping horses, and polo field on a bright autumn day. A bronze sculpture marked the clubhouse. The clubhouse veranda overlooked the polo field. A kind gentleman who was practicing with his polo ponies on the field, invited my "cowgirl buddies" and I to ride on the fields. I had never ridden on a polo field before. It felt like we were prancing on springs, and I'm sure my horse loved it as much as I did. We walked, we gaited, and we galloped. I even pretended for a moment, leaning over with a pretend polo stick, swinging at a pretend polo ball.



Bronze statue previously marking the Wild Oak Clubhouse

At that point I knew that polo players needed to be a wee bit younger than I was! We took pictures, and today we still laugh and recall fond memories of that day. At the time, we never dreamed we would have the opportunity to go back and use the facility again.

About five years ago, one of my friends married a long time member of the Wild Oak Saddle Club. He raved about all the good times he had there. My friend, now a member, asked if I would like to accompany her on rides into Annadel from the Saddle Club. We would lunch be-

fore or after the rides. The meals are extraordinary. The best part: the establishment does not seem to mind if your hair is a little messy, or that you smell a little "horsey." You, too, can partake in all of this and I will explain how, but first I want to share a little of the history of the saddle club with you.

The Wild Oak Saddle Club sits on property that was originally owned by Joe Coney and then Henry Trione (Henry Trione is responsible for the Wild Oak Subdivision in Oakmont). The existing clubhouse was part of the original farmhouse on the Coney

Ranch. In the 1970's about 100 men, many of whom belonged to the Trail Blazers, got together and decided to form the Wild Oak Saddle Club. In 1975, they purchased the land, the old Coney farmhouse, and the adjoining structures from Henry Trione. Each member paid \$100 to cover the cost. Interestingly, members were not required to own or ride horses. They just liked the camaraderie. Lunches consisted of a hamburger patty which you would have to cook, yourself. Members were on their own for chips or salad. Henry Trione was the first president, followed by Ed Hochli, and then Ben Heck. The first employee of the club was a cook named Peggy Gunn. It seems that everyone has fond memories of Peggy. Until 1980, the club allowed only male members. Since then women have been welcome. Jack Taylor, who helped with the history of this article, said it was certainly a change for the better! When the women arrived, carpets and curtains were installed, and the lunch menus improved!

The club house has expanded considerably since its purchase. Members can enjoy gourmet food, an eighty-person dining room, a lounge, card/domino rooms, a bar, and a recreation room. Guests use a well-maintained horse trailer park and day-use horse corrals. The club chefs serve lunches for members and guests Mondays through Fridays, and a weekly Sunday brunch from 11:00am to 2:00pm. Dinner is served every Friday from 5:30 to 8:00pm, and several theme dinners and dinner dances are offered each month. Other social activities at the club include swimming, tennis, and horseshoes. A heated deck overlooks the Trione Polo Field. It is a perfect place to enjoy the beauty of the Valley of the Moon. The Wild Oak Saddle Club limits membership to 200. Each applicant must be sponsored by two current members, recommended by a Membership Committee, and approved by the Board of Directors. Only proprietary memberships are available and cost \$5,000. Monthly dues are \$165/month. If you are interested in becoming a member, please contact the Wild Oak Saddle Club manager, Dusty Millar, at 539-8629. U

Do you know of a Sonoma County facility or event that you'd like to read about in the Horse Journal? Contact Debby Bailey (Equus Hall of Fame-2009 at facilities@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org).

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*A Horseman's View*

Column editor, Julie Cross

Taking the Leap

Guest written by Holly Peterson

It might be fun to jump—so let's do it! Gaining confidence when learning to jump is a struggle shared by many. Just like anything, *take the time that it takes* to learn each step and progress when you are ready. All horses can jump small obstacles well; they just might not know it. In this article we'll address the steps you and your horse can take to learn confidence together. Start by setting him up for success, next ask for what is possible, then be consistent, ride with a solid rhythm, and follow through.

*Holly and Decanter at LA National***Set your horse up for success**

Start on the ground. First, lounge your horse at a trot over solid objects such as barrels until your horse has a rhythm and sorts out his footing. Make large circles over the barrels in each direction. Do this from time to time when working with your horse, so it remains fun and not boring. For example, lounge over barrels for ten minutes three times a week for a few weeks. As your horse gains grace and consistency, he will show you when to move on to the next step. Next, lounge your horse at the canter both directions, then add the barrels. Ask for a consistent pace and tempo, as if the barrels weren't there. Do this for several weeks and mix in some trot circles from time to time, until he is really relaxed and confident. If he bobbles, ignore it, it just doesn't matter what his form is at first. He needs confidence and natural rhythm. *Repetition is the mother of skill.* Let him jump barrels in his lounge circle until he is calm and lounges as if the barrels weren't there. Exhale and ask for a slower pace if he is scrambling and nervous. Remember to end on a good note. When in doubt, less is more. It is better to end on one small effort well done than immediately rushing to the next step. Let your horse absorb your praise and how fun and easy that was. Soon, he'll believe he can do anything you ask him to do.

Ask for the possible

Gaining your horse's trust is important, and there is no short cut; we earn it. Reward each success, and soon confidence and trust

will hop on your horse with you. Riding a horse to set him up for success to jump is quite different from a pleasure ride. Getting the right pace is important. One of my favorite exercises is to trot ground poles. I use four or five poles a few paces apart. If your horse steps on them, it's not a big deal. The point is for you to help your horse get the "right" pace. Steady him or nudge him as you need to. When you don't hear any knocking or rubs on the poles, reward your horse and consider the job well done. As with the lounging circles, mix this exercise into your other work to keep things interesting and fun. Next, try a canter, starting with three poles. Repeat this exercise until it is easy in both directions. Never add more than one pole at a time, and let your horse get a rhythm and pace without rushing. He should start to feel like a metronome.

Be consistent

Successful jumping is built on your pace and consistency, as well as your horse's. Body position and leg position are important. First build your own strength so that you ride more smoothly, and interfere less with your horse. Next, focus on your hand position. Hands can inflict fear, pain, and pull confidence from a horse in a hurry when used abruptly or inappropriately. Be fully aware of your hands and practice "quiet" hands, that don't float up to your belly button or tug at your horse's mouth. Practice riding calmly while changing your pace; ask for a lengthening of stride, then a shortening of stride, while maintaining your position. When you feel like you are consistently in rhythm with your horse, you should start to feel like a metronome.

Be a metronome—now that's rhythm!

Anyone who has played the piano has surely suffered through the relentless "tic, tic, tic, tic, tic, tic, tic, tic..." of the metronome. Believe it or not, it actually helps our hand cadence. We want to do the same thing on the back of a horse to regulate pace. Dressage riders practice their pace and cadence to the rhythm of music—which really, is just a pretty sounding metronome. It is fun, and you can change your pace by changing the music. This is an excellent practice; I encourage you to try it. Don't take yourself too seriously, just have fun, exhale, and play with it a bit. Try not to force your horse, but instead relax into the music and see what happens. Let your horse find the music, too. If you need a different song, get one. Mix it up, and start to become one with your horse.

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Follow through: YES with a smile

As your workouts with your horse have gradually become more like play sessions, you'll find that you have both have gained grace, fluidity, consistency, confidence, and trust. Now you are ready to jump. You are the pilot—guide your horse well. Set him up for success by getting the correct pace and rhythm, and head on over to your jump. Check your position heading toward the jump: eyes (up, never down at the fence), head (looking straight forward), leg (solid support to hold your position), and body (shoulders over hips over heels). Check your position over the jump: eyes (up), head (looking forward then to your turn), leg (solid, has not moved over the jump), and body (heels down, butt slightly out of saddle, closing your hip angle a little, shoulder slightly forward, hands up the mane, and resting on the neck so as not to "bump" your horse in the mouth). Repeat!

As you know by now, your horse can jump those little barrels at a stand still. Heck, so can you. So once you decide to jump, then jump! Make this deal with yourself: there is no backing out, no turning your horse away and no pulling back on the reins if he happens to stop and look at it. Whatever he gives you, ride it, every time. He can jump it at a standstill, or he can listen to you and trot right over it. He'll soon figure out it is much easier for him to just listen to you. If he does bobble, chances are, you leaned forward, or looked down at the barrels in stead of keeping your eyes up, so don't worry. Just smile, say YES (that will make you smile), eyes up and nudge him over. Then loop right back around making sure your have set him up for success with the right pace and rhythm, and try it again.

Once you have this down, who knows where you might go? It's up to you. U



Holly Peterson is an avid equestrian and Show Jumper. She has developed a naturally organic and complete electrolyte & sea salt formulation for horses called Horsea Salt. Holly is an expert in salt supplementation and its benefits. She lives in Calistoga, and owns a Friesian/Rugged Lark cross named Cocoa. For questions or comments about jumping, sea salt supplementation, or any horse issue, email her at holly@foodandwinedynamics.com.



Local Author Demonstrates Affection for Arabians in New Book

Readers of the book Flight Without Wings: The Arabian Horse and the Show World, by local author Patti Schofler, agree that it is packed with important, detailed information, and a clear expression the author's affection for the breed.

The book opens with a description of the breed's complexity and versatility. Arabians have a regal, lively, fiery spirit, yet also a gentle, docile soul. They are intelligent and vital, yet willing to please. Arabians are the stuff of fairy tales, bred for exquisite beauty, quality, and refinement, and yet coveted for their soundness, stamina, and endurance. Though Arabians are known for endurance, they excel at all disciplines, including Reining, English or Western Pleasure, and Dressage. Schofler explains that the unique Arabian versatility has a practical origin in his ancient history.

Dating back 3500 years, the Arabian is the oldest, the purest, and the first man-manipulated breed. Perhaps no other breed has been so engaged in the romance and history of the world, be it the Middle and Near East, North Africa, Europe, or the US. Today virtually every light horse breed, from Appaloosa to Welsh, has Arabian blood coursing through its veins."

Perhaps the most significant testimony to this book is written in the Foreword by USEF horse show judge Pete Cameron who has long been touted at the "judge's judge." Cameron writes, "I feel {this book} is the ideal tool for success, providing an in-depth picture of the Arabian horse and his show world in a solid, friendly, intelligent and readable way...It also will serve Arabian owners and fans of the breed who wonder what Reining is like, or whether their horse's future be in the Working Cow division, or as a show hack or in Dressage."

Flight Without Wings is also an invaluable book for those wanting an introduction to Arabians, show spectators, and future horse owners. The writing is lively, clear, and filled with valuable information. Flight Without Wings: The Arabian Horse and the Show World is available at tack stores, bookstores, Amazon.com, and from the author at darkhorsezin@hughes.net.

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Horse Husbandry-The Occasionally True Tales of a Local Horse Husband

Is your Horse a Liar?

Column editor Mark Krug

Are horses capable of deceit? Does your horse lie to you? I don't have the answer and I'm not pretending to (that would be deceitful!). I do think it's a fascinating question. And in the end, maybe it is as much a question about language and the meaning of words such as "deceit" and "lying" as anything else.

Let's turn to explore some real life horse behavior. I'll start with my wife Cheryl's gelding Rush-on, the most ironically named horse ever. He has never rushed into anything. Ever. To say he's laidback is like saying President Obama is pretty good at public speaking.

Anyway, mellow Rushie (pronounced "roo-shee," by the way, to avoid generating any misleading expectations about his energy level) has many eccentric little behaviors, and for the most part these simply add to his likable nature. A fairly new one is his faux pee. Often when at work, Rushie will stop, spread his legs into the pee position and just stand there... And not pee... For what seems like an eternity. When he is at liberty in the paddock and not "at work", you'll never see this behavior. It is impossible to observe this behavior and not conclude that Rushie has learned that striking the pee position will allow him to stand there and avoid work.

Is that deceit? Sure seems like it. Although, truly, it is equally descriptive—and most likely more accurate—to say that we accidentally trained Rushie to do this. Whenever he'd stop to get ready to pee, the kind-hearted humans with him would cease asking him to work and so we trained him to do this no differently than how we'd train him to say, leg yield. Remove pressure to reward a behavior. Hmmm ... maybe not deceit after all.

Another example, familiar to all, is what I have coined "monster-shopping." You probably already guessed the definition: when a horse appears to be actively looking for an "excuse" to spook. Some days every fidgety quail and half-buried log is seemingly mistaken for a hungry pride of lions. The next day, in same place, during the same conditions—as far as we can tell—all is calm and safe with the world. Are our horses, on occasion, "shopping" for a reason to act like a two-year old Thoroughbred on a diet of grain and alfalfa, on his first outing after a week of winter rain confinement? That is, is the behavior "faked" as it appears many times?

The "monster-shopping" might just be another variation on Rushie's faux pee. Maybe we unintentionally teach this stuff to our horses. It's been said that every minute we spend with our horses we are training them. Note that this concept isn't about intentionally shaping a behavior, just that our interactions with our horses constantly communicate messages, and therefore influence behaviors, whether we want them to or not. We're anthropomorphizing when we assign the term "deceit," and maybe missing the big picture.

In her book, *Animals in Translation*, Temple Grandin discusses how animals, especially prey animals, often hide their pain so as to avoid



Mark and Mojo

signaling their vulnerability to predators. This concealment can be interpreted as deceit, and it is a fundamental survival skill. Nature is full of this kind of deceit. Many species have tricks to appear larger than they are when feeling threatened. Maybe this explains why so many of us buy giant SUV's, I'm not sure. Other species have different deceptions to fool predators. I once saw a nature show where a lizard's huge, over-sized tail came off when attacked by a predator and the giant tailed flopped around while the lizard stood still. The predator wasn't sure which to eat, but the ani-

imated tail likely appeared like a more convincing prey. Amazing to observe, a bit creepy, and quite the life-saving ruse.

So maybe "monster-shopping" is really all about the horse's prey animal instincts on a given day. Perhaps for reasons we don't comprehend, things *are* different today compared to yesterday. Maybe it's the smells in the air, or the barometric pressure—heck, I don't know. But we clearly don't perceive the world in the same way as our horses. Our senses are wired completely differently than are our equine pal's, so who are we to say that "monster-shopping" is fake, and that there's nothing to be afraid of? It wouldn't be the first time we've missed something.

Let me just say regarding most of the "lies" our horses tell us; we probably taught them the behavior with no intent whatsoever. It is humorous, and at times aggravating, to deal with the faux pee or the monster-shopping. It's probably harmless to ascribe values such as "deceit" and "lies" to these quirks. But I think in our hearts we know our horses don't truly have agendas, like humans too often do, and for the most part, they live in the moment and tolerate us in admirable fashion. And the more we look at our horses, the deeper the mystery becomes on just how they see and experience the domesticated world we've subjected them to. U

Mark lives near Graton with his impeccably honest wife, Cheryl, Rush-on, several other generally truthful horses, two dubious cats, and Cowboy, the Aussie dog whose character is beyond reproach. To reach Mark about deceitful horses, or horse husbandry in general, email him at husbandry@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org.

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Horse Tales

A Chance Encounter

Written by JoDean Nicolette



Photo: Steve Henry

The squatters: Larry, Curly, and Lucky

I called them the squatters. I'm not sure when they moved in and set up shop. Perhaps it was when I took my annual month-long backpacking trip, and I wasn't around to observe my environment. I just know that one day in June, I noticed they had assembled their ramshackle abode in a space I considered clearly my domain—my trailer.

I walked in, looked up, and it was there: A nest. A perfectly round, symmetrical semi-circle

occupying the front right corner of my Circle J Outback. It was clearly thrown together from stolen materials. The owners had scavenged hay and twigs, pillaged horse hair and bits of fabric, and cemented their shanty solidly with the abundant adobe from our pasture. The nest was positioned about arm's length over my head, so I couldn't see if it was occupied with eggs. *There's no way they're actually living there*, I thought to myself.

It turns out they did actually live there. A whole family. I determined this with absolute certainty one day when I returned to my trailer after a ride at Lake Sonoma, and saw three tiny beaks reaching expectantly out of the nest. I'd had the trailer away from the barn for several hours, and I realized the babies must be starving. *Oh geez!* I rushed back, and was greeted by two furious, screeching parents who dive-bombed into the trailer before I could even park. I trail ride so often I was worried that the three hatchlings were unlikely to survive to independence without divine intervention.

He really should have been called "Angel"...And not just because he looks the part. My gentle giant, Chance, is a huge, soft-eyed, palomino Paint horse with a full, rich, flaxen mane and tail. Despite his size and strength, he treads lightly and kindly on this planet; he has an old soul. From his first days, Chance was destined to be a special horse. He was christened "Frosty's Last Chance" as a colt when his mother, "Miss Frosty's Music," stepped into a cow grate and broke three legs. If she knew him, I'm sure she'd be proud.

Chance has always been an intuitive horse. I call him my "think-left-go-left" boy. I tell my friends who ride him to quiet their minds, or else hold on, because if you think canter and you aren't ready, you'll find yourself on the ground watching his substantial Quarter Horse hindquarters thunder away. Despite his sensitivity and vital-

ity, Chance is a conscientious caretaker. He carries my novice (but game!) husband on our weekly trail rides, and he is ginger around children. I once watched with shock (then awe) as my friend's four year old untied Chance's lead rope and proceeded to walk him to his stall. Chance moved five feet away, and took baby steps next to the child, never taking his two eyes off him.



Chance's ample dimple

When we trailer, Chance knows the drill. I untie the lead rope, open the divider, and he backs himself out. Imagine my surprise when one day at Annadel he refused to take a step. I jiggled the halter a little and asked, but he just stared at me and planted all four. I was concerned that he was injured so I examined his legs, puzzled. Finally he sighed and craned his neck around, looking at his hindquarters. One of the fledglings had fallen out of the nest and landed in the dimple between his robust gluteus maximi. *Chance, there's a bird on your butt!* The gray, featherless, fuzzy thing was just nestled in the divot, quivering and helpless.

Chance stood like a statue, looking expectantly at me. I hurriedly closed the divider, remembering my cousin warning me never to get my "smell" on baby birds or their mommies would abandon them. *Was that true? I better not risk it!* I rummaged in my tack room for something to scoop up the bird. I returned with a plastic grain cup and gently lifted the helpless fuzzy thing out of Chance's dimple. I led Chance out, then walked back in, reached up, and replaced the baby in the nest. When I stepped out of the trailer, Chance was facing me with the lead rope resting over his withers, waiting patiently with his hind leg cocked.

For the rest of the summer I watched the three chicks grow. Feathers and bird droppings soon littered the back corner of the trailer, but aside from an occasional snort, my horses didn't seem to mind the company. I took progressively shorter trail rides, and convinced myself that it was merely daycare when I trailered out, liberating the parents for part of the day. By mid August, I would walk into my trailer and find the fledglings perched precariously on the edge of the nest. As the end of August approached, I grew increasingly concerned because I had a four-day camping trip planned, but knew I couldn't leave with the youngsters ready to fly. I started to leave my trailer door open to encourage their exodus. Luckily for us all, one Monday morning I walked into my trailer and three rockets flew out at me, knocking me backwards and onto the ground. The newly liberated fliers landed in the small oak just next to my parking spot. They visited the trailer occasionally after that, but clearly didn't view the old nest as their primary pad.

Last week, as I watched Chance grazing, I saw a barn swallow resting on his rump. I wondered if this was Chance's special feathered

(continued p. 20)





A Chance Encounter (continued from p. 19)

friend saying thank you. I imagined them catching up on how the last few months had gone, discussing their plans for the winter. Flying south? As I walked over, halter in hand, the bird hopped a few times around Chance's rump. Then he spread his wings, and Chance watched him as he flew away.

JoDean Nicolette is a family physician and editor of the Horse Journal. She is an avid trail rider, and president of the Mounted Assistance Unit for the California State Parks, Diablo Vista District. JoDean has three horses—Jimmie, Chance, and Bear. To contact JoDean about writing for the Horse Journal, email her at editor@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org.

Got a Horse Tale? Whether it's sad, happy, or just plain funny, we want to share it. Send your stories to editor@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org.



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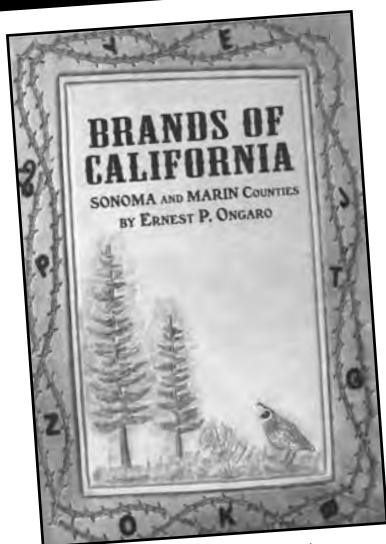
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Readers Write Trail Ride

Written by Virginia Vovchuk



Shena (left), Shalako, and Virginia

Shena your dark eyes captivate me
As you stand, tentative, half ready, half wild before we ride
Your supple coat seems to flicker as I brush it, with lights the
color of cocoa
and oily espresso beans
I sweep aside your lovely mane, heavy tangled flaxen, as I place
the saddle
on your broad and willing back.

The August air was thick like syrup and humid
Your perfect feet so sure as you flew up the trail
For a few moments you seemed to float,
swiftly rounding each turn in the forest
A carpet of golden madrone leaves lined our path as if spread
there
by some elfin creature
The sunlight seemed masked as if we were dreaming
Perfectly natural you met the fragrant rush of bay and sycamore,
flowing in waves of heat past us.

Steep, steep trail to the summit and back
Shena like a woman experienced
You toss your head in disdain or in pleasure
Hard for me to tell if you mourn the filly you left up north
Or if you're truly happy with your palomino friend Shalako,
Prancing up and down the trails near home with us.

Long-time resident of Petaluma, Virginia Vovchuk is the proud owner of two Morgan mares from Washington state, Diamond H Shena and Diamond H Shalako. When she isn't working for AAA as director of brand strategy, she enjoys discovering new places to ride in Sonoma and neighboring counties with her husband and the two "girls," who naturally enjoy the trail and have taught her to enjoy the changing seasons in this beautiful area.



Colts and Fillies

Column editor Kelly Henson

Slip-n-Slide

Winter brought buckets of rain and the horses, tired of crowding under the trees, made sarcastic comments about building an ark. Their pasture playground had turned to sticky mud and brown water, and the grass was submerged. The air felt cool and moist on their coats.



Toby watches the big slip and slide.

squish right on Jimmie's forehead.

"Eeewww!" squealed Jimmie, striking out with his front hoof and jiggling. Tobi laughed and planted his hind quarters in the mud, sliding across the pasture. He rammed right into a group of ducks, who went quacking up and away. He was not nearly as graceful as Gizmo as he bounced and weaved along the pasture fence. Tobi slid to a stop, landing on his back. He rolled back and forth until he was covered. "That was the most fun I have ever had in the mud! Come on everyone, let's do it together!" he called excitedly, shaking the muddy

water from his white mane and forelock.

The herd slipped and slid through the muddy pasture. Jimmie stayed under the trees and trotted gingerly back and forth next to the group. Molly lost control of her skid, and ran into him. She and Jimmie flew into a puddle, legs flying. Jimmie jumped up and shook like a dog, starting with the tip of his nose and moving back toward the tip of his long black and white tail. As he looked back to see his sparkling white spots all brown and wet he sighed, "I guess it's too late to worry about being clean now." Jimmie slowly pranced in the puddles, then slid head first in the slippery mud. He nickered and giggled with excitement.

Finally exhausted, the horses stood in the rain, letting the cool clean water wash over their bodies. The muddy water slowly dripped off their backs and down their legs, revealing their shiny coats underneath.

Gizmo looked at her new friends and said, "Rain doesn't mean that you can't play and have fun. Every season brings new and exciting experiences. You just have to use your imagination."

Jimmie was tired as he nickered, "I can't wait to play again tomorrow." U

Kelly Henson is a Sonoma State student and creative writer. Kelly and her National Show Horse, Tobi, like to ride in the rain. If you would like to contact Kelly about a story, email her at kids@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org.



"I'm bored in the rain—dumb rain!" grumbled Molly as she watched the crystal clear rain pour down all around them.

"Yeah," said Jimmie, "I don't like the rain. It's muddy and dirty; I don't like being dirty. He lifted his mud-caked hooves in disgust. "Yuck!" snorted Jimmie as he looked over at Tobi who was covered in mud. Jimmie squealed at him in disgust.

Suddenly a truck and trailer rumbled up the road. Mud splashed everywhere as the truck came to a stop at the entrance of the barn.

"That's not my mom's truck and trailer," said Tobi.

"I have never seen that one before," nickered Molly

The doors flew open and a beautiful Tennessee Walking Horse stuck her head out. Her flaxen mane shimmered even though the sun was hidden behind the dark gray clouds. She ducked to make it under the trailer door, jumped to the ground, and trotted effortlessly along the muddy, mushy ground. She scanned the barn and whinnied hello to the horses staring at her.

"I'm Gizmo," she said as her owner removed her halter at the entrance to the pasture. "So who wants to play with me?"

"Play with you?! We can't play in this weather—it's filthy!" neighed Jimmie. "Besides the adobe sticks to my mane and coat and takes forever to rinse out." His hooves made a squishing sound in the mud soaked pasture as he took several steps away from Gizmo.

Without a word, Gizmo tucked under her hind end and took off, mud flying in every direction behind her. The other horses watched in disbelief from under the protection of the trees. Gizmo reached the fence, rolled back, and galloped as fast as she could back toward them.

"I can't believe she is getting her sparkling clean coat all muddy," squealed Molly.

Suddenly Gizmo planted her hind quarters in the mud and slid like a dog, on her rump with her front feet leading the way. She turned the slippery mud and grass into her very own slip-n-slide.

"Wahoo!" nickered Gizmo, with a big horsey grin on her face. She came to a stop just before running into the herd of shocked horses, spraying them with water and mud. All ears were focused on Gizmo.

Finally Tobi took off at a gallop and called back over his shoulder, "Wow, that was the coolest thing I have ever seen, I have to try that!!" Mud flung out from under his hooves and landed with a

*Colt and Fillies—Kid's Corner***Jesse David Massey—The Barn Manager**

Time to feed!



Jesse and Rem



Roanie says hi



Saddle up, cowboy!

Jesse turned six years old in July. He started riding when he was four on his Thoroughbred, Jack. Now he rides his own Quarter Horse named Remington ("Rem" for short). He rides Western and is learning how to rope; he especially likes to watch Cutting. Jesse takes care of all the animals at his house, especially his thirty year old Quarter Horse, Roanie. He and his sister feed and care for three horses and three dogs together. When Jesse isn't riding or taking care of his animals, he likes to hunt bear and varmints with his father. Jesse is in first grade at Wilson Elementary School in Petaluma, and he likes Phys Ed the best—he is an A+ student. His favorite book is The X-Men. His best friend (besides Rem) is named Gabe. Jesse lives in Petaluma with his mom and dad, Alicia and Jason, and his sister, Jordan. When he grows up, Jesse wants to be a horse trainer and an "animal cop" (animal welfare advocate).

Petaluma Riding and Driving Club Junior Riders: A Great Chance to Ride

Written by Brandy Carrier, Junior Counselor

The PRDC Junior Riding Club (PRDC Jrs) is located on Skillman Lane in Petaluma. The club, founded in 1947, is one of the oldest junior riding clubs in the state. The PRDC Jrs promote camaraderie and fun, and provide an opportunity to generate those childhood memories we all cherish.

The PRDC Jrs offer many "horsing around" opportunities for young riders, including grooming, leading, tossing a rope around, walking cones, and even loping obstacles. Some youngsters are happy as clams just sitting in the arena and watching other riders compare tail lengths, groom, or ride. More advanced riders participate in gymkhanas, Cutting, and Penning. The Jr Drill Team performs their precision routine at local fairs, benefits, rodeos, and competitions. Becoming a member of the PRDC Jr Riders is a great step for young equestrians to develop their horsemanship while forming relationships with other horse loving enthusiasts. For more information about the PRDC Jrs, visit www.petalumaridingclub.com/juniors, or call Bonnie Dolcini at 707-763-9785.





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No Water – A Race to the Bottom

Imagine owning a ranch with livestock, farmland, and a home, and having no water. It happened to me in 1996 when my well went dry. It was the end of summer and I had just eaten breakfast. I stopped at the kitchen sink for a quick drink of water, the tap was dry...nothing but a gurgling sound and a few drops of muddy water. Four days passed before I found a suitable drilling company with a reasonable price per foot. The contract guaranteed nothing but a hole in the ground—no one knew how deep would be deep enough. The driller explained that finding water in these times posed a challenge. They further explained that water found at deeper depths may not be suitable for human consumption. There are oil and gas deposits in this area, located North of Petaluma near Penngrove. Petroleum deposits can ruin water supplies. Two weeks passed before the new 386-foot deep well was completed. Not a drop of water had been available for cooking or bathing; over 100 head of livestock had been moved off the ranch the day the well went dry. The cost of "new" water was \$20,000—and I was lucky. Since then neighboring ranches have also drilled new wells, some over 600 feet deep! It's a race to the bottom. Rohnert Park admitted their static well

field levels have dropped 150 feet over the past twenty-five years and we now know the valley floor is dropping a ½ inch per year as a result of too much pumping.

Future solutions for Sonoma County, based on historical case law, will include terminating exports of six billion gallons per year to Marin, and building more dams and reservoirs. Wastewater will have to be treated at a much higher level if water supplies are to remain sustainable. Clean, safe, water supplies are not without limits—it's time to wake up.

Your wonderful farmer friends, sitting atop the "water bowl", are the "canaries in the coal mine." They need your help! I'm cognizant of all the issues of our day and will be a common sense problem solver for all of them.



Signed,
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Mr. Pony

Breed: Welsh Pony

Age: 23

Height: 13.2 hands

Sex: Gelding

Disposition: Great attitude. This little guy has a sweet disposition and is perfectly behaved. He would not hurt a fly!

Training: His training is excellent. Mr. Pony competed in the Pony Club up until two years ago. He is only suitable for children to ride.

Likes: Attention and he has a zest for life!

Dislikes: Not a big fan of needles...

Health: He is sound and healthy, and has the x-rays of a three year old.

Rider skill level: A great first horse for a child.

Cost: Completion of CHANGE adoption questionnaire and application, \$150 adoption fee

Comments: Mr. Pony was relinquished into the custody of the Animal Control Department earlier this year. He was then given to the CHANGE Program for rehabilitation. He is now completely healthy and ready for a loving home!

Interested? Visit: www.sonomachangeprogram.com.



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BASIC FIRST AID / CPR – Saturday January 30, 2010

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- Adult, Infant, Child CPR, and AED
- Injury & Illness Assessment
- Vital Signs, shock, eye injuries
- Diabetes, asthma, seizures
- Drug/alcohol emergencies
- Lifting and moving
- When to call for help
- What to include in your first aid kit

WILDERNESS FIRST AID – Sunday January 31, 2010

Must have completed Basic First Aid / CPR or equivalent

- Sprained ankle
- Properly splint a broken bone
- Use of available materials
- Camp fire burn
- Rattlesnake bites
- When to immobilize the victim
- Who to call from remote locations
- How to assist 1st responders

8:00am - Noon at SCDRC Club House • Bring your family & friends!
Each class \$30 members, \$50 non-members • Become a member and save \$\$.

More details & registration form:
www.northbayunit.com or Nadine Lavell 707-217-6715

From the Horse's Mouth

Nadine Lavell, Bruce Mandel, and Barbara Walker, Contributors

Local Barrel Riders Race to Victory at NBHA Event

This fall fifteen local riders and their families loaded up their horses and headed south for four days of Barrel Racing, fun, and friendship at the National Barrel Horse Association (NBHA) California State Finals in Tulare. Our local NBHA District 7 members competed against the fastest barrel racers on the West Coast. Local riders brought home buckles, prizes, and cash. On Sunday, six year old Marissa Rosenberg of Santa Rosa ran a smoking 17.5 seconds to win her first saddle, placing 1st in the 1D average for the PeeWee Division. Other local buckle average winners included Tiffany Hannan of Fulton and Samantha McCarley of Middletown. Both Jordan Gutsch and Jordan Wathen ran some very impressive consistent times in the Youth race. In the 4D Poles event, David Lawson and Tiffany Hannan placed well, as did Stacie Martinelli in the District Director's race. When the riders were not racing, it was all about the shopping! For complete State Finals race results, visit www.fastenter.com. To check out what's happening in NBHA District 7 visit www.nbhaca07.com.



Marissa and her smokin' saddle

Photo: Barbara Walker

Local Equestrians Form Marketing and Communications Company

Sonoma County horsewoman and writer Patti Schofler, and former Sonoma County equestrian businesswoman Nan Meek have pooled thirty-plus years of media and promotion experience to form Dark Horse Media Biz, a comprehensive communications and marketing company for equestrian businesses. Patti and Nan develop media kits and releases, newsletters, magazines, public relations, advertising, and marketing plans, writing and placement of articles, web and editorial content, special events, social networking and much more. They also work with associations and organizations. "We connect our clients with the horse world we know and love on a personal and professional level," says Schofler. For more info, or to contact Patti or Nan, visit www.darkhorsemedia.biz.

Backcountry Horsemen Unit Offers First Aid/Wilderness Medicine Training

Would you know what to do if your riding buddy was injured during a trail ride in your favorite park? What if you encountered an injured person while on a ride? Are the correct emergency numbers in your cell phone? The Back Country Horsemen's North Bay Unit (BCHC-NBU) wants you to feel confident in your first aid skills whether you are riding close to home or deep in the wilderness. So gather your riding friends and join the fun, hands-on classes being offered in January 2010. BCHC-NBU is sponsoring two four

hour classes, and participants can register for one or both. The first is Basic First-Aid & CPR, after which you will receive a two year certification. The second is Wilderness First-Aid, in which you'll learn to recognize the severity of an injury, stabilize a victim until help arrives, effectively interact with first responders, and more. Eric Peterson of Mill Creek Safety will instruct both classes. For more details, fees, and registration information, please visit the BCHC-NBU website at www.northbayunit.com, or call Nadine Lavell (707) 217-6715.



SCDRC Collaborates with Novato Horsemen's Association for Rush Creek Ride

On October 18th the Sonoma County Driving and Riding Club (SCDRC) met up with the Novato Horsemen's Association for a fun and successful ride at Rush Creek. Twenty-two members of SCDRC, thirteen Novato Horsemen, and four guests enjoyed the half-day ride through the hills bordering the tidal flats in Novato. SCDRC vice president, Josette Brault, led the group, which consisted of equestrians from all disciplines, including trail riders, endurance champs, and arena aficionados. After the tour of the Novato countryside, the riders enjoyed a hearty lunch at the clubhouse. The Rush Creek Ride was one of the monthly well-planned events offered by the SCDRC. In addition to public lands, the club members are privileged to ride on many of the spectacular private properties in the area. SCDRC, founded in 1937, also offers campouts in the summer months, play days, holiday events, and a well-known Junior Auxiliary Club. The Juniors recently took first place in the Mounted Divisions of both the Rose and Apple Blossom parades. For more information about SCDRC, contact President Bruce Mandel at 707-545-4964.



Marine Horse Council Cautions Equestrians to Manage Manure in Public Places

Sonoma County equestrians enjoy access to all of our county and state parks. In order to ensure future access to public lands, Sandy Greenblat of the Marin Horse Council urges attention to low impact practice. In his collaborative work with state and national parks, as well as other open spaces, Greenblat has encountered complaints from visitors regarding manure, especially in parking areas. According to Greenblat, manure piles are "not an acceptable signature." In addition to cleaning up after your own horses, Greenblat recommends the following: 1) placement and use of manure bunkers in parking areas, 2) trailering out manure if no bunkers exist, and 3) clean up of manure left by previous users. Fortunately, most of the equestrian parking areas in SoCo have manure bunkers, thanks to Backcountry Horsemen. The bunkers are promoted to local horticulturists as free sources of fertilizer. For more information about manure management in public areas, contact Sandy at sandygreenblat@comcast.net.

Do you have news to share? Write to us at news@sonomacounty-horsecouncil.org, so we can spread the word.



AD SPECIFICATIONS AND RATES

The Sonoma County Horse Journal is a quarterly publication designed to reach Sonoma County's estimated 30,000 equestrians through direct mail to SCHC Members, individuals, organizations, 35 local horse clubs, and distribution at local feed stores and equestrian businesses.

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Write for the Sonoma County Horse Journal

Would you like to see your name in print? Got something to say? The Horse Journal belongs to all of us in Sonoma County, so let us know if you would like to write. Articles are usually 500 to 1000 words and, of course, horse-related. If you are interested, contact any of the editors at the addresses listed on page one, or JoDean Nicolette, Editor-in-Chief, at editor@sonomacountyhorsecouncil.org. You can also write to us at Editor-SCHJ, P.O. Box 7157, Santa Rosa, CA 95407. We'd love to hear from you!



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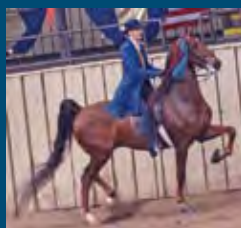
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