



The E-venter

a publication of San Martin Horsemen's Association

Serving our community promoting horses and horsemanship

SMHA Events

General Meeting

Apr 1, 2009 12am midnight

Marcia and Greg's Place!

Guests welcome, bring sleeping-bag!
April fools!

Apr

- 15 Board Mtg
- 15 RSVP Lake San Antonio Camping

May

- 1-3 Lake San Antonio Camping
- 8th Gen Mtg
- 20th Board Mtg
- 28-31 Jack Brooks Camping

June

- 17th Board Mtg
- 27 Trail Trial & Poker Ride

Community Events

Apr

- 4 CSHA Show @ Thorson's Arena
- 4 Coe Wild Flower Ride
- 4,5 Grant Ranch Work Day
- 18 Coyote-Bear Work Day
- 18 Savannah Trail Opens
- 18 Open Space Patrol Orientation
- 24-25 Coe Backcountry

May

- 9 Open Space Blair Ranch
- 17 " " Palassou Ridge
- 16 Coe - Poker in the Park

Attn! '09 County Park Volunteers

If you have given time to the County parks in '09, please contact Sharon at 408 776 6878 or sharon1960@hughesnet. The County gives a credit toward Park use fees that the club must pay to hold the Poker Ride. Sharon will make sure your volunteer hours are credited toward the Club use fees. Thank You in Advance!

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April General Meeting

The real April General Meeting will not be held in an effort to help our members avoid Spring / Easter conflicts between family obligations and club fun. Not that family obligations aren't fun, but...you know what I mean. Now, go fix that dinner, will ya?

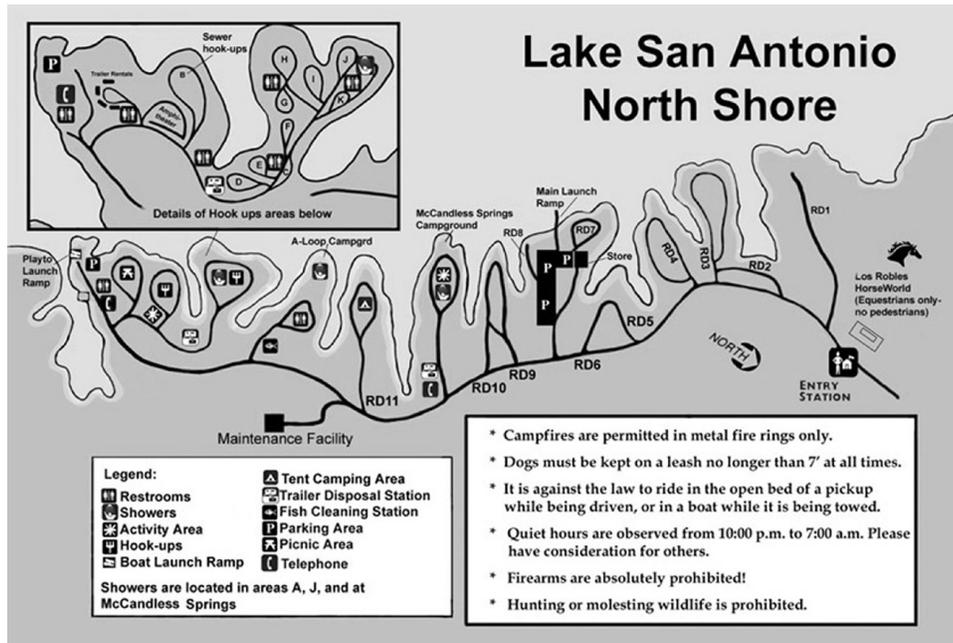
Next General Meeting May 8th, "Fun with Horses"

A panel of speakers covering fun activities you can do with your horse!

Geocaching with your horse. The benefits of playing mounted Tag. Books about mounted games. Trail riding games to help your horse be calm. Please come and meet the panel and share your ideas with them as well! Our panel will be Phil Atwood, Laura Trouard, and Christine Amber.

May 1-3, Camping with Horses, RSVP Apr 15

Lake San Antonio North Shore



- * Campfires are permitted in metal fire rings only.
- * Dogs must be kept on a leash no longer than 7' at all times.
- * It is against the law to ride in the open bed of a pickup while being driven, or in a boat while it is being towed.
- * Quiet hours are observed from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. Please have consideration for others.
- * Firearms are absolutely prohibited!
- * Hunting or molesting wildlife is prohibited.

SMHA members are invited to camp at **Lake San Antonio**, in southern Monterey County, over the first weekend of May. It is a popular park - the weather is usually mild at this time of year and the park will abound with a wide array of spring wildflowers as well as beautiful views of the lake. There is fresh-water fishing at the lake, hiking, camping and 14 miles of trails to enjoy. The park is home to eagles, heron, White Pelican, geese, quail, hawks, deer, coyote, bobcats and wild boar.

We will be dry camping as there is another group who reserved the main area of the horse camp. SMHA will be "housed" in the overflow camping area, providing plenty of space for us. We have 4 rigs signed up and will be limited to 15 rigs.

Bring portable corrals or be prepared to tie your horse to your trailer. Portable electric fences should be limited to no larger than 12x12 per horse. There are plenty of water spigots, but we are encouraged to bring a hose, splitter and shutoff valve. Each rig should bring food for the weekend – we would like to have group potlucks on Friday and Saturday evening.

Nice bathrooms with flush toilets and hot showers are available. The rangers are very responsive to our needs and will provide extra garbage cans and bar-b-que barrels if requested. As of this printing, cost will be \$25 per rig per night, payable at the kiosks. Additional vehicles are \$15. Day use is \$8 per day. Further information about the park and facilities can be located at www.co.monterey.ca.us/parks/sanantonio.html

This event is for Members Only due to insurance requirements. **Anyone may join at any time. RSVP to Mel 408.593.7872 or email smha.membership@gmail.com by APRIL 15.**

SMHA Membership

Benefits of being a current member include:

- SMHA newsletters
- price breaks at SMHA events such as our annual Poker Rides
- exciting club events like, campouts at Jack Brooks and Lake San Antonio.

New memberships and renewals accepted throughout the entire year. For further information or membership forms, contact Membership Chair, Melanie Headrick at 408-842-1332, smha.membership@gmail.com or download membership form at www.smhorse.com.

The Club Needs –

- Extra help for Trail Trials/Poker ride, plan to volunteer! Contact Sharon: 776-6878.
- Social Chair - this special person will arrive early at general meetings, set up for coffee, tea, and tableware, provided by the club. Call Greg 408.842.0777. The Board thanks Becky Dolan for her volunteerism and service performing this task. She performed a valuable service to the club before her resignation.
- Feature Writers! - Publish a story about your favorite horse/person in the SMHA *Eventer*!
- Photo Journalists! Please send any pics of SMHA activities to smha.news@gmail.com

SMHORSE.COM

Thanks so much to Phil Atwood who maintains the club website! It is now up-to-date after some trouble with the relocation of the site to a new server. [Why do these internet service provider (ISP) folks do that!!!]

There is a great calendar under Events, and all of our forms can be downloaded, as well. Send your horsie friends to our site! Everything is there to make it easy for them to join. Send Phil info or pics that you would like to see on the website!

SMHA Thanks PPSA for the March Meeting!

As guests of *Pacific Penning and Sorting Assoc.* (PPSA) www.ppsa-teampenning.com, we were a small but enthusiastic group. PPSA made us very welcome and the members graciously answered all questions. This is a great activity to do with your horse, you can see PPSA next at:

May 9th 2009, THORSON'S ARENA Watsonville Road, Morgan Hill, CA Sign up at 7:00am, Ride at 8:00am Event starts promptly at 8:00 am, beginning with Open Penning. For more information WWW.PPSA-TEAMPENNING.COM Email ppsa2000@yahoo.com

March Madness Ride at Salinas River State Beach!

The beach ride was exhilarating. Our lively group met at the usual place (for those of you unfamiliar with it that's the parking lot at Tenth and Chestnut behind Mickey D's) for the caravan to Salinas River State Beach. Marcia and Maureen had decided this was not the weather for a crack of dawn rendezvous, as you may recall there was a possibility of rain that day, so we decided that a nine a.m. meet was plenty early enough. Riding is great fun, but there's no sense in freezing to death in the near darkness!!!

Attendees included Mary and Phil Atwood, Marcia and Greg Linden, Pat Scharfe, Gayle Garabedian, and Maureen Olson. Greg and Mary were our tailgaters, staying with the rigs and playing cards while the rest of us rode. The trek north through the dunes was balmy, but the return to the trailers along the beach was icy. **Brrr...**



Here the group makes a mad dash back the trailer for food and warmth. (Actually, I know they are heading over the dune to the ocean, April Fools!)

Of course, we can't forget to mention our awesome horse friends who were there. Yes, most of you know them very well, too. There was serene Sierra (Phil's famous foxtrotter), legato Lady (Maureen's laid-back limo, Marcia's mount), attractive Ashley (motivated by Maureen), mellow Mariah (Pat's agile Arabian), and marvelous Magic (Gayle's great guy). These horses are all well seasoned and behaved wonderfully well. We won't say how old these guys and gals are (the horses, I mean!) because Lady and Sierra are beginning to get a little sensitive about getting up there in years.

Marcia Linden, who had a wonderful time, noted though, that we could call it a Geriatric Horse Ride. The oldest horse in the next picture is 26+ and going great. It proves how long our horses can be useful, which leads to them having a very good life!



As always, you can't have an SMHA event without food, so we lunched after the ride, had some great conversation, and talked about the next time we're going to ride together. In case you're wondering, that is the first weekend in May at Lake San Antonio. It will be a brand new ride and camping trip for our pleasure trails group. Come join us!



Mr. Kellen McDevitt in his audition for Lord of the Reins as SMHA Hobbit, a new full feature horse movie coming soon, to be filmed on the *Alquist Trail!*

SCC
Santa Clara County
SCC Parks Equestrian Use Survey

February 21, SMHA & the Alquist Trail Work Day /Coe Park.

The following pictures come from Kitty Swindle and Chere Bargar who were on the Alquist Trail work Day. These two ladies are instrumental in helping prepare the trails that we ride in the local parks. Volunteering is a priceless way to give to our community, and these ladies are priceless.



Chere Bargar slyly attempts to cut the leg off of Ted Tawshunski. with the help of Einar Anderson, who holds the saw. Meanwhile, Dave Prasad and Jody Keahey demonstrate feats of great strength, lifting a log with their bare hands. Kenny McDevitt looks on in wonderment. A scene from The Mysteries of The Alquist Trail, Henry Coe State Park, a Best Selling Novel due to print, April 1, 2009.

The Santa Clara County Parks Equestrian Use and Trends Report is now available online at the County Parks website: www.parkhere.org

The Use and Trends Report summarizes the first phase of the Equestrian Stables Location Feasibility Study, which in addition to the information gathered from the public survey of over 600 respondents, examined the current stables facility at Calero Ranch Stables, evaluated current and future equestrian needs in Santa Clara County, and researched current practices and trends in other regional park systems throughout the San Francisco Bay Area.

Based on the information gathered from this phase of the project, County Parks will develop an outline of services and facilities that may included in a future equestrian stabling facility and evaluate alternative locations on public parklands where such a facility might be located.

To access the report, please visit www.parkhere.org, click on the "New! Equestrian Stables Location Feasibility Study" link on the right and download the Report from the project's webpage.

If you have any questions, please contact

Elish Ryan
Park Planner
Santa Clara County Parks Department
298 Garden Hill Drive

Los Gatos, CA 95032 main line: (408)355-2200
direct line: (408)355-2236 fax: (408)355-2290
email: elish.ryan@prk.sccgov.org

Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch County Park Work Days

Help the park staff work on the trails that you like to use! Call 408-355-2254 to help out. Go to the County Park's website for more info: www.parkhere.org.

April 4th and 5th, / Grant Ranch County Park Fence Construction Project

Help installing 45 -6 x 6 x 8' posts along the roadway adjacent to the road in front of the horse camp, which will then have 4 rails of 2x6x16' on them.

We will be using screws instead of nails so people can bring a drill; post hole diggers to clean out the pre-dug holes; and a tamping bar if you have them will help.

Rails can be stained by those not wanting to do heavy manual labor.

Theresa (the great Grant Ranch Equestrian Advocate Ranger) will stain the posts before everyone comes to install the fence.

The day will start at 9 am and go until 3 or if everyone wants to work later that is ok too.

There will be plenty of room to camp, so bring your pets, aka horsies - if you bring any dogs remember they must remain on leash at all times.

RSVP REQUIRED especially if camping! - (408) 274-6121; theresa.nance@prk.sccgov.org

Santa Clara County Open Space Authority

Another wonderful benefit of the geographic location in which we live is the openspace lands. The website for the OSA is www.openspaceauthority.org. A few of their upcoming activities that you might find interesting are:

- May 9 Blair Ranch will be open for hikers and equestrians
- May 17 Palassou Ridge will be open for hikers
- April 18 Trail Patrol Training, contact MGardner@openspacesauthority.org 408.226.3175

Laura Hensley Trouard, started riding at the age of 6. She started teaching lessons to special needs kids in 2005, and is an instructor at Westwind 4-H handicapped riding program in Los Altos. She offers a training and lesson program at:

www.HensleyRanch.com
(408)-843-6382

-- a safe, dynamic environment perfect for horses of all types and people of all ages.

Contact her: laura@hensleyranch.com

California State

Henry Coe State Park Work Days

Want to enjoy a wonderful day of fun in the sun? Sign up with Chere Bargar 683-2247 or Kitty Swindle 842-6215. More information will be provided when you sign up.

2nd Annual Calif State Horsemen's Assoc Region 6

Youth Scholarship Benefit Horse Show *It's not too late to go!!! There are late entries*

April 4th 2009 - Rain or Shine

Thorson's Arena, San Martin

Bring your own Food-None provided on site.

72 Classes Starting at 8:00am sharp, warm-up open 6:30 am
Class List, download it here: (enter in your browser address bar as a single line):

http://csharegion6.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/2009_youth_show_class_list.4285954.pdf

Entry Forms, download them here:

http://csharegion6.org/yahoo_site_admin/assets/docs/2009_Youth_Scholarship_Entry_Form.4290020.pdf

Entries \$4.99 a class! Pre enter, save time.

Post Entries available.

Double Judged: Judges: Sable Myers & Lisa Shields

Show Manager: Jim Carraher (408)315-3387

West Coast Show Rules

Junior Birthdays!

April

12th - Jasmine Hallenbeck (7)

16th - Kenny McDevitt (15)

1st - Christine Amber (21)



CLASSIFIEDS:

Advertising policy:

Classified ads run on a space available basis, free for members only. Business card sized ads for members only cost \$5 per month, for a 4 month minimum (paid in advance). For more information on other advertising rates and requirements, contact your newsletter editor at SMHA.news@gmail.com



Jerry Tindell Natural Horsemanship Clinics in Gilroy

Sign up now for 2009 - April 16-19, June 4-7, July 30- Aug. 2, Oct. 1-4. For pricing and more information, contact Heike Stabenow, 408-838-5401, heike_stabenow@yahoo.com or visit www.jerrytindell.com.

Reliable Care for your plants and animals while you are away, 20 years of experience you can rely on! Call Chere 408-683-2287

Come Ride with Us! -- weekday and/or on the weekend -- Pacheco State Park (Dinosaur Point), Salinas River Beach, Harvey Bear, Calero, Mt. Madonna (Sprig Lake). I have a gelding, Munchie, 13 years old, who gets along well with others. We generally walk, and occasionally trot or gallop up a hill. Two hours works for us. Call Gail, 831-636-0248

Pet Portraits by artist Elaine Hickman.

Rattlesnake Weather



Be aware, we found our first rattlesnake of the season. On a very cold and blustery day, the little snake had crawled between some aluminum roof panels that were stacked in the

sunshine. I believe it was a Northern Pacific Rattlesnake, like the picture from this website <http://www.wildherps.com/species/C.oreganus.html>. I've seen big ones when riding during the spring on a road through some very tall grass. Sprawled out on the dirt road, sunning itself was a rattler about six feet long and about seven inches around. Luckily for me, my horse just kept trotting and we sailed over him without an incident. Some rattlers, are not aggressive, but when cornered or surprised they will strike. The smaller snakes are more dangerous because they do not control the amount of venom they inject while biting.



Once at Calero park, my husband and I saw two large rattlers in a territorial dispute. It was a remarkable feat of strength and balance. We were trotting along and he called to me,

“Be careful, there’s a big snake here”. We stopped to watch it on the path, when to our amazement, we saw the second snake that was being pursued by the first. The snakes twisted their bodies around each other and rose into the air about a foot and a half. Then slammed back down to the ground. This ritual was repeated several times, and then the snakes crawled away in opposite

directions. You can go to this website to see more pictures like what we saw: arboretum.ag.arizona.edu/whatsnew/snakedance.html.

I’ve seen horses that have been rattlesnake bit on the face. A curious horse will follow the moving slithering stick and be bitten. The horse I saw had the lower half of it’s head all swollen, distorted in an elephant sort of way. The vet was called and gave the horse antivenin and the horse was fine. I do have some friends who lost a draft horse mare. The mare was autopsied and so much necrotic, black tissue was found on her hindquarters that the vet suspected it had to be rattlesnake bites, and more than one. My friends had to hand raise the young Clydesdale colt that was orphaned when this happened. The colt is now a beautiful 18h stallion, but the loss of the mare was quite traumatic.

**Isn't Shopping Fun?
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donates a percentage of sales to the Club whenever you enter the care code: **SMHA**



New Member Feature Jim and Edie Atkins of Express Hay

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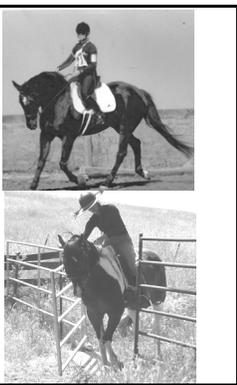
Editorial Notes:

Big thanks to Mary Atwood for all her effort and guidance in the Newsletter. Kudo's to Jackie Mason for licking all the stamps...I bet she just likes the glue! April Fools!

Newsletter deadline - 5 days after the Board Mtg or the 20th of the month. Send articles, classified, pictures, and stories of interest to: SMHA.news@gmail.com.

Did You Know?

Have a tidbit you'd like to share about a member? Email SMHA.news@gmail.com

<p><i>EquestrianTraining.com</i> Training, lessons and clinics for horses and people of all skills and ages. English and Western.</p> <p>Equestrian Consulting, Research, Free-lance writing, and Web consulting.</p> <p>Christine Amber, 408 888 8703.</p>	
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**SAN MARTIN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION
Board Meeting Summary
March 18, 2009**

Present: Sharon Hensley, Phil Atwood, Mary Atwood, Melanie Headrick, Greg Linden, Christine Amber, Kitty Swindle, Maureen Olson, Dera Oldofredi, Chere Bargar, and Pat Scharfe

PRESIDENT: Social Chair resigned. There will be no general meeting in April due to Easter / Spring break conflicts.

Bob Tapia submitted an invoice to SMHA listing several items. The invoice will be reimbursed for the most expensive jacket on the invoice (plus embossing and shipping) for former president, Bill Schwerm, service to SMHA.

NEWSLETTER:

Christine will send Newsletter to the printer two days after submitting it to the board for editorial review. Jackie Mason will be notified to pick up copies for mailing. Labels are printed by Mary and given to Melanie. Mary and Melanie are available to assist Jackie with the mailing. For the first two months, we require 150-170 copies. March we will need only 125 copies a month. Kitty volunteered to put extra copies of Newsletter at Feed Barn.

Trail work day February 21 for the Alquist Trail in Coe. Kitty and Chere took pictures

Melanie suggested "meet your Board" and that each Board member write a "bio".

PLEASURE RIDES:

Salinas Pleasure Ride.

Lake San Antonio Fees for camping will be \$25 per rig per night, maybe less if there are more folks.

Mt Madonna Ride. The Redwood Grove picnic area is confirmed for Saturday, July 11. We will ride out at 11:00 a.m. and begin the BBQ/pot luck at 2:00p.m.

POKER RIDE/TRAIL TRIALS:

Sharon presented a draft of the flyer for the ride for review. still checking into the Porta Potty situation. John Goldworthy informed Sharon that volunteer hours in lieu of fees is permitted. Christine will put a notice in the Newsletter to this effect. Documentation should be sent to Sharon.

Insurance certificate has been received.

WEBSITE:

Phil reported that the server problem has been solved and the website is up and running. Thank you Phil.

TREASURER:

Karen was absent due to illness. Mary distributed her monthly report. Taxes for 2009 have been filed.

Mary gave a binder of information from other organizations for Christine for display at the general meetings and inclusion in the Newsletter if pertinent. She also gave an updated membership list to Kitty for phone tree purposes.

MEMBERSHIP:

Current membership includes 55 Families, 33 Individuals, 12 Lifetime

OTHER:

Motion was made and passed to allow use of needed material from SMHA for the Coe Backcountry Weekend and for the NATRC ride in September at Bear Ranch.

Bear Ranch The Savannah trail is opening April 18.

Open Space Got newsletter and dates of events.



Hey, I can't reach, can you get that for me?