



From the President

Dear Members,

It's been a busy month. The Fireworks ride is behind us now. I had a great time helping out and by all accounts it was a wonderful ride. The next horse camping trip for me is a short stay at Rancho Del Oso just north of Santa Cruz near Davenport. This will be my first time back at this horse camp since my very first horse camping trip ever in 1990. The first trip was an adventure we are still talking about. In mid-August we head to Jack Brooks Horse Camp for a few days. JB is my most favorite of all the horse camps, with beautiful trails and all the amenities.

If you can't tell by now, horse camping is my favorite summer past time. If you haven't tried it, I highly recommend it. There are many nice horse camps to choose from, including our very own campgrounds at Graham Hill. The road along the back has opened up some lovely shady spots to camp.

I hope I see you on the trails!

Karen

Local Horsewoman Wendy Towner and her husband Francisco were victims of the shooting at the Gilroy Garlic Festival. Wendy has given riding lessons to mountain kids over the years, and she is a mother, an animal lover, horsewoman, mentor to children, bee keeper and gardener, to name a few. Wendy and her husband are expected to survive, but could use help with medical expenses. Please consider a donation to help her family and animal menagerie keep the faith.

Mail donations to:

"Towners"

Mountain Bible Church

23946 Summit Rd.

Los Gatos, CA. 95033

Next Member Meeting:
August 20, 6:30 p.m at the
Clubhouse

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Karen and her mare at the beach.

Feature Articles

A Relationship-Based Horsemanship Journey

by Andrew A. Turnbull

*Management Consultant, Journalist, and Equine Advocate
SCCHA Member*

My own journey in Relationship-Based Horsemanship began even before I had a horse. Growing up during the 1960s and '70s in rural Livermore, California, I was always fascinated by horses. When I earned my Horsemanship merit badge in Scouts at fourteen, I fell in love with these spectacular animals. Though my life's focus turned to education and my career, I was consistently drawn to these magnificent animals.

During the late '90s, I was single and enjoyed country dancing. At the Saddle Rack in San Jose, I met two young ladies who showed up wearing the same horse logo on their shirts. When I asked them how a tire company and horses went together, they laughed and then enthusiastically told me about Parelli Natural Horsemanship. The ladies were Sandi Parker and Cezanne DeCristoforo who, influenced by Pat and Linda Parelli, have gone on to become highly praised and sought after west coast clinicians.

In 1999, I bought my first horse, Dutch Boy. Eighteen months later, at the June 2000 Horse Expo, I learned why my dance partners were so excited about Parelli. As the upbeat music started, Pat and Linda Parelli, their horses, and their large "savvy team" made a grand entrance into the arena. Several horses and humans played together to the blaring tunes. It was amazing!

"Dutch Boy is going to love this!" I said to my mom, who was along for the ride that day. Immediately after the demonstration, I made a beeline to find Sandi Parker and convinced her to let me join her already-in-progress Level 1 series the very next morning!

Fast forward two decades, and now my wife René and I share our passion for horses and our Relationship-Based Horsemanship journey. We are members and, in some cases, contributing leaders of several horse organizations. I bought René her first horse in 2004 when we were dating long-distance, and we now have four horses. We have friendships with relationship-based clinicians and like-minded horse enthusiasts around the world.

In 2017, René and Astro, and Sunny and I were honored to be invited "contestants" in Pat Parelli's Saturday night "Can You" Savvy Challenge show at Western States Horse Expo. We did manage to meet each of the three challenges and received supportive applause from the large crowd.

Just as our "Can You" challenge finished, 5-star Parelli Professional David Lichman announced over the event loudspeakers that René and I would be married later that year! Then, Pat Parelli proudly told the Horse Expo crowd that René and Astro, and Sunny and I had tied for the California State Horsemen's Association Trail Trials State Championship in the Advanced Division, back in 2015. Pat Parelli correctly reminded the crowd that our Natural Horsemanship foundation is what enabled us to get to the pinnacle of our Relationship-Based open trail equine sport. Best of all, René and I are enjoying the journey together.

René and I now have four grandchildren, and so far, we know that one has the horse gene! Our six-year-old granddaughter has already ridden in several parades on René's leadline riding Grandma's horse. At the age of four, our granddaughter began private Relationship-Based Horsemanship lessons with Laureen "Bo" Mann of Livermore. Watching your forty-pound grandchild learn how to play confidently with a half-ton bunny rabbit on a string is ecstatically heartwarming!



Andrew riding Sonny and carrying the CSHA flag in a local parade (parade photos by Forefront Photography <https://forefrontphotography.com>)



Renee leading Astro with six-year-old granddaughter up, waving to the crowds..



Andrew and Sonny, and Rene and Astro successfully meet the "Can You" challenges at the Western States Horse Expo.

At the beginning of 2019, I learned that natural horsemanship instructor Farrah Green of Wyoming—who René and I became friends with when we met her in Pagosa Springs, CO at least a decade ago—was leading a start-up, non-profit organization called the International Horsemanship Association. "Relationship-Based Horsemanship Everywhere," is the 501c3's mission and the firm seeks to unite and support like-minded horse owners and clinicians worldwide using powerful web-based tools leveraging online video technology, a powerful online learning management system, and building a worldwide community online.

I am now providing my management consulting services to the International Horsemanship Association, and CEO Farrah Green has assembled a talented, passionate, and hardworking team from across the US and Canada that meets regularly in webinars to guide the non-profit company. To learn more about the IHA, visit www.internationalhorsemanship.org.

Meanwhile, I now lead the Bay Area Savvy Players (BASP) natural horsemanship club (www.bayareasavvyplayer.org), which is a Member Club of the California State Horsemen's Association in Region 6. Our club started in 1999 when some of Sandi Parker's students began conducting like-minded Play Days and group study. My wife René has also served as BASP President.

The Parelli's, and several west coast Parelli Professionals including Sandi and Cezanne gave our club its Parelli roots, and our twenty-year-old club now also embraces the influences of Jonathan Field, Amie Brimhall McCord, Linda Tellington Jones, and other Relationship-Based clinicians and influencers. BASP members continue our club's tradition of hosting and participating in Relationship-Based Horsemanship events in the Bay Area, and one of our flagship events is our annual BASP Instructional Camp that is now held annually at SCCHA's Graham Hill Showgrounds and Henry Cowell State Park.

Our online BASP Learning Teleconferences now offer anyone anywhere with an internet connection the opportunity to share in the education. We are very excited to regularly welcome horse enthusiasts across the continent to our BASP Learning teleconferences to learn along with us.

On behalf of the horse, the people that love them, and recreation for both, René and I are pleased to be members of the SCCHA. René serves on the board of the Equestrian Center of Walnut Creek (www.ecwc.org), and I continue my work with both the Bay Area Savvy Players (www.bayareasavvyplayers.org) and the International Horsemanship Association (www.internationalhorsemanship.org) to bring together Relationship-Based horse lovers both locally and worldwide.

Watch future issues of your newsletter for more articles from our SCCHA members in Sunol, the Turnbull family!

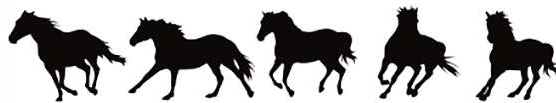


Mark Your Calendars!

Aug 31 & September 1, 2019
(Labor Day Weekend)

2-Day Obstacle Challenge
at the SCCHA Showgrounds

Questions? Call Heather: 408 348 9512



Fireworks 2019: 36 Years Old and Counting

by Debbie Boscoe

SCCHA Vice President, Fireworks Ride Manager

July 13th, just before 6am. Cool with fog. Fifty-seven horse-and-rider teams mill around the start line, waiting for the word "Go." Then it is time, and one designated rider leads the others off on what is known as a controlled start: all horses walk single file, through the opening single-track trail and creek crossing, up about a mile where they are released. The endurance racers move out, and the endurance riders pick up a relaxed trot. Forty-nine more miles to go before they get back to camp.

Endurance has morphed into two different sports: The first is a race, where finishing in the top ten is the goal, and Best Condition is the ultimate prize. The second is a more relaxed ride, where the American Endurance Ride Conference's slogan "To finish is to win" is the guiding principle. There's room for both in any given ride, happily.

When the 50-mile horses have been gone an hour, the 34 horse-and-rider teams riding the 30-mile course set out with their own controlled start. They head out through the Henry Cowell redwoods, past the observation deck, and down to the San Lorenzo River, where they face their first big challenge. The faster horses will have already crossed the river, but the slower 50-mile horses begin to merge with the 30-mile horses as they wait their turn to cross. For many riders, crossing the San Lorenzo is what kept them up at night, and has taken on grand proportions. And for most riders it is a nice surprise to find a clear, sandy channel for crossing, which takes about seven seconds to complete.

The majority of horse and riders cross with little fanfare, although their expressions show determination and nervous excitement. Some horses however make a bigger splash! Note that this horse and rider were wet but fine, aside from a few bumps. Every year we've had the ride, and therefore the river crossing, we get a few "swimmers." And in no year has there ever been more than lots of excitement, a few bruises, and the occasional cut.

So much about our ride is the same as it has been for 36 years, and yet so much has changed. First of all, we now do it in conjunction with the Quicksilver Endurance Club. They are all endurance riders and have been a huge help in staffing, helping figure things out, and running the vet check. Kudos to Quicksilver!



Horse and rider teams waiting in the fog for the 2019 Fireworks Ride to start.



The water crossing challenge with little fanfare, but a determined expression. (Photo courtesy of Lynne Glazer.)



The water crossing challenge with a bigger splash!



Base camp corrals near the clubhouse..

Next, our base camp is waaaaay nicer with the clubhouse, toilets and showers, 45 stalls, and lots of room for big rigs to park.

A long time ago we camped at the Dimeo landfill on the coast and, even after we moved to the current location, we had a vet check out there, having the riders pass the dump at least once in the ride. We have also had a vet check on the UCSC campus, and one along the west side of the river. Today we have one vet check just inside Twin Gates in a big field. The course for both distances is out and back, camp to the vet check, then different loops in Wilder Ranch and on some private property bordering Wilder.

As the heavy winters pass and the number of bikes increases, Wilder trails have gotten hard packed and rutted. Horses do better with softer, less rocky footing, and so we continually look for those kinds of trails. We've been so lucky to have a couple landowners share their trails with us; and not just share but get out and clear, and then set up water for the horses and hang out with snacks to greet the riders. Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz (MBOSC) have also been benefactors by improving the trails in Wilder: this year our horses used the new Engelman's trail, which is just exquisite.

Speaking of bikes, in years past we had a running battle with the mountain bikers. Many hated horses on the trail and moved our markings so that horses were redirected or completely lost. We tried various kinds of marking in Wilder but whatever we came up with, they could sabotage. This finally led to a concerted effort from both the horse and bike community to learn how to play nicely together. Today they are some of our best friends: we still can't mark in Wilder, so we use spotters at the critical turns and the spotters are, you guessed it, mountain bikers. We now work closely together on trail planning and building, and help each other on our various activities.

As the horses move through the course, they have to pass specific criteria at the vet checks. In general the pulse has to come to 60 beats per second within 30 minutes, after which a 45 minute hold begins. During that hold the vets examine the horses pulse again, check hydration, gut sounds, soundness, and general deportment. Horses that fail the check get a nice trailer ride back to camp. Riders can also decide they want to stop for their own reasons (fatigue, injuries, or deciding that their horses have had enough) and opt to trailer back to camp.

This year we had about an 78% completion. It is a tough course, and those who complete are in a special class. We have another distinction: we get a lot of first-time riders and juniors. We take special care of them and applaud them whether they finish or not: this is an extreme sport and just getting to the place where you and your horse can start is a real accomplishment.

All the horses that completed the course did so on time, which is not always the case. 30-milers get 7 hours, 15 minutes and 50-milers get 12 hours; they have to finish on time and reach criteria within 30 minutes for a completion. And then the partying begins!

For appetizers, we had super-fresh ceviche (the fish was caught by the cook three days earlier) and amazing tacos with fresh guac and salsas for dinner, and cakes for dessert.



Horses and riders at the vet check.



The Fireworks Ride Dinner.



Fireworks Ride awards: To finish is to win!



Fireworks Ride Managers: Kudos to Debbie and Jill!

Junior's Corner



Santa Cruz County Pony Club **Middle California Region** **63rd Annual Camp, July 19-21, 2019**

By Jan Jensen

Throughout the 63-year history of the Santa Cruz County Pony Club (SCCPC), the club has been calling Graham Hill Show Grounds "home," as well as meeting at other locations. The Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association was a sponsor of SCCPC in 1957. In July of that year, the highlight was the first two-day camp out at the Show Grounds. A smaller camp was put on in 1956 at a private residence. From the late 1950's to mid 1970's the camp was for local club members only. In the late 1970's, the camp was opened up to clubs throughout California and Hawaii. Members from Hawaii would be lent horses and equipment to use. We also hosted visiting Pony Club instructors from all over the United States who would teach riding and horse management during camp.

The schedule (from club history files) for the 1957 camp is worth noting. Keep in mind, Pony Club was started with help from current or retired military personnel.

Activities: Care of horse and tack, riding lessons, trail rides, grooming competition, tree identification, tack cleaning competition, treasure hunt, mess and sanitation duty.

Officer of the Day: Inspection with Col. Kitson, take full notes and transmit all corrections and see that corrections are made immediately. Carry out any assignments given by Col. Kitson.

Night Patrol: Ride down to gate with visitors, stand guard at gate until all have left, secure gate.

Move ahead 62 years, and a few things have changed but the original concept of having members have a safe and enjoyable camping trip with horses is still the main goal.



2019 SCCPC participants

Activities: Care of horse and tack, riding lessons (dressage and jumping), games, ride in the open/trail, arts and crafts (horse shoe decorating and baling twine key chains), movie night, horse jeopardy, skits, learn new horse management skills (grooming, bandaging, conformation, care of horse/pony).

Thanks to the volunteers who continue to keep the tradition alive and enjoy seeing the members' excitement of camping with their horse/pony for the first time. Without them, this opportunity would not be possible. We are hopeful that future generations will be able to have the same enjoyment and fun.



Pony Club camping under the oaks and redwoods.



Camp riding lesson in the arena.



A Pony Club member masters the mounted games.



Horse and rider navigating the bridge on the obstacle course.



Pony Club members take a trail ride from the showgrounds.

Trading Post

For Sale: Great Horse Truck and Camper For Sale. 2005 Ford F 350 Powerstroke diesel 4x4 truck with only 29,000 miles on it! It has a built-in trailer brake tow/haul mode and has running boards. Comes with a great pop-up Northstar Camper complete with 2 burner stove, refrigerator, sink up graded solar panel, outdoor shower, queen size bed and more. Great set up, love this pair but need to sell because my hubby wants a bigger camping rig. It pulls my Sundowner 2-horse trailer like a champ. Asking only \$24,000 for both. I have kept them both in excellent condition. Only serious buyers please. I can send photos on request. Contact Patricia Anderson at: ridinrdh@sbcglobal.net or 831-684-0952

For Sale: 8 year old Arabian gelding. AERC registered, professionally trained, for endurance rides, needs intermediate middle-weight rider. 15H, easy keeper, \$5,500 OBO. Call Jeffrey Lutemauer: 831-476-1407.

For Sale: 10 year old Rocky Mountain mare, 14.3H, gentle, very good with kids, sure-footed on trails and creeks. Easy trailering, natural healthy foot trim, never had shoes. Has been to three Linda Tellington clinics (her favorite mare for demo). Likes camping, has been to Jack Brooks, Roaring Camp. Very sound, UTD on all shots and dental. Looking for special home with room to roam. Text Shahla for video and pictures: 831-535-8070.

August 2019 Events

August 6	Redwood Riders Board Meeting	Kathy Rodoni 831-246-0441
August 10	Ray Berta Horsemanship Clinic	Sheri Rath 831-359-0917
August 20	SCCHA Member Meeting	BLM speaker, Bring a friend!
August 24-25	Redwood Riders/Big Arena	Kathy Rodoni 831-246-0441
August 30-9/2	TriCities Campout	tricityshrsmn@yahoo.com
August 31-9/1	CSHA Obstacle Challenge	Heather 408-348-9512

★ For more details and a complete list of 2019 events, see SCCHA website.

Ideas? Suggestions? Stories? Photos? Want to advertise?

Please contact us:

santacruzhorsemens@yahoo.com

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