



# SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

# July



## Home of the Graham Hill S

*Promoting all forms of equitation, quality care, education, a*

### ***From the President***

Dear Members,

I just got back from a wonderful evening at the SCCHA club house. It was the grand finale for the Monterey Bay Equestrians poker ride event. They typically host this event at Lake San Antonio, but we were lucky they chose to have the event here at the show grounds. I was only able to join in the fun Saturday night for a hand of poker and dinner. Well, I'm no poker player as the cards showed, but the event was really good. I'm sure we will hear more about this really fun event.

I'm lucky enough to be headed to the Dru Barner horse camp. This will be our first time camping there, and we are all really looking forward to it. Just about 7 miles outside of Georgetown, CA and it's a beautiful night. I can't wait to check it out.

And don't forget the ***Fireworks Endurance ride is staging from our showgrounds on July 13th.*** This endurance ride is one of our traditions and features a 25-mile and 50-mile ride. The trails run through Henry Cowell and into Wilder, with some of the miles through private property. A really scenic ride with plenty of technical challenges. We are always looking for more volunteers for this one. It's so think about getting involved, YOU WILL LOVE IT.

Happy Trails,

*Karen*



*Karen and her gray Shagya mare, enjoying the trail with a friend.*



## *Feature Articles*

### **Gentling the Wild Ones**

**by Melany Moore**

*Past President, Summit Riders*

*Friends of Bear Creek Stables Ecological Chairperson*

*SCCHA Member*

I have loved horses my entire life, and was lucky enough to have parents who granted me my one wish: a horse of my own. When I was in middle school in the 1970's, I remember hearing about the Horses and their plight. Wild Horse Annie was doing her magic, gaining national attention for the Mustangs and wild burros of the American West. Decades later, I kept hearing about the Mustang brought to the Bay Area by the BLM (Bureau of Land Management). Back in 2003 I went to my first Mustang adoption, and made a leap of faith to adopt a yearling Mustang (wild). They had brought horses & adopted 30 of those; the remaining 30 horses returned to the BLM holding pens in Litchfield. I was so excited to liberate one beautiful buckskin gelding. Love at first sight, for certain.

Some of the best advice I got came from the BLM cowboy who delivered my young gelding. He said, "lady do you have any experience with horses?" I replied I had ridden as a kid and owned growing up. He replied, "Ok, this horse you adopted is not a mean horse, but he is scared. These horses can bite you, kick you and strike you [Oh my!!]. Get a long pole and attach a leather glove to it. Get your horse to where you can touch him all over with the glove. That way you stay safe." I would spend hours each day, trying to touch that horse, but it took weeks for him to trust me. Three days before he met me at the gate, and he allowed me to halter him the first time. Magic!

There is a certain instinct that kicks in when I am with a wild horse. I think most horse lovers would have that inside them also. I always leave a 'way out' for the horse. I might follow them and give them enough space to move. When the horse is really wild, they will go right over the top of things to escape a human. BLM requires a 6-foot fence for a new adopter/horse. ***The best thing you can do is time.*** I do start working with them right away, usually several hours/day, before work and after work. I find it very rewarding and therapeutic. I generally keep quiet and do not talk to them naturally though, so sometimes I sing to them. These days it's Cole Porter's, "He's delightful, he's delicious"... and I make up the words to the tune.

I start working with the pole and glove right away. Then I add the rope toss, where I take a long rope and toss it on the horse. They usually figure the rope out fast, and learn to stand still and let me work on their back, etc. I do a lot of repetitions every day. Both of these exercises can be done some distance away from the horse, which keeps us both safer. I start feeding the horse hay from a plastic bag. They start playing with the bag & learn the sound of plastic early on. I often will take a tarp and feed the horse on the tarp; that way they are teaching themselves things while I am at work.

It probably goes without saying, but I always try to use good judgment. ***If I think the horse may react in a certain way, I try to plan for a safe outcome before proceeding.*** Often times instinct guides when it comes to safety. "What is the worst thing that can happen, if I do this?" Sometimes thinking it through beforehand, I may choose a different tactic—just to stay safe. Always safe! Over fifteen years, I have studied many horse clinician/trainers, not necessarily ones that work with Mustangs. I have read a ton of articles on ground work, watched videos and kept an open mind.

Once the wild horse begins to trust and respect me, things go faster. So then it's fun to do the same exercises people do with their domestic horses. I try to emulate Buck Brannaman's flag technique, some of the ways he teaches to move a horse from the ground. I always do Buck's 'fence work' with a halter. This has been most beneficial and has kept me safer, plus there are a lot of rope games to play from the fence, as well. I have played some of the Parelli games, and it always amazes me how a wild horse will pick it up—just like a domestic horse. I have also admired Richard Winters, Clint and tons of others. I like to do a great variety of things from the ground, even more than riding.

I'd say the best teacher and the person who changed my life the most, in regards to horses, is my mentor Kristi Fredrickson, a local legend in my opinion! I had the pleasure of working with Kristi for months, when I was at a crossroads with my first Mustang, Logan. Kristi taught me so much, and was the most positive teacher—what a gift she has been to know. Watching her work a horse is a joy. As it turns out, just because one grows up riding horses, it does not mean one knows the best way to act around a horse. For that matter much less how to ride one! I have needed to re-learn good horsemanship still learning today. I still have a long way to go I know.

I am currently working with a gelding who spent his first three years a wild stud on the range. Nevada has been the most challenging of the six Mustangs I have gentled. My friends and I believe it's 'stallion' days, plus his reluctance to use both eyes on us, has been the reason for his 'late blooming.' I have been gaining his trust for almost a year and a half. He is finally getting there! Usually that takes a couple months or less to trust me, depending on how wild they are. It seems to me that the mares are much easier to gentle.

The easiest wild horse to gentle so far was Carina. Carina is a nine-year-old mare who was kept in a BLM holding pen for seven years, before two women fell in love and adopted her. She was a beautiful dapple gray. Lucky girl to have found such a wonderful home.

A really fun movie people might find rewarding is "Wild Horse, Wild Ride," which follows the struggles of several every day people (and a couple trainers) as they gentle their wild horse for the Challenge. I Love, Love, Love that movie—so very entertaining and enriching, and even makes grown men cry :)

I hope this helps get you started discussing the Mustangs, which desperately need our help.

***P.S. I have been honored to gentle six wild horses so far. I hope to do more; they are my most rewarding hobby.***



## Barefoot: More Than Pulling Shoes

by Tauna Grinager

*Member of Pacific Hoof Care Practitioners*

*United Horsemanship Certified Mentor Hoof Groom*

*SCCHA Member*

*KM: Knowledgeable and certified barefoot hoof care experts are too few and hard to find. Perhaps there isn't enough demand? Do you think too many horse owners are discouraged from allowing to go barefoot?*

I think the demand is there, and growing. The bigger problems: It's not easy work, physically and (at times) emotionally demanding. Success in barefoot also requires a lot of knowledge beyond just trim: Nutrition, lifestyle, hoof care protection, training and how to help horses feel comfortable with the process. Success also relies heavily on having clients who are also interested in pursuing the education on these topics. And then, historically, trimming without shoes was not where farriers made their money. When barefoot trimmers spend as much time with a horse as a farrier does with a they're shoeing, but then the owner expects to not compensate for that time and knowledge...that keeps people from wanting to do it for a living. Most of the people I've known who have tried trim living, and have since given it up, did so for these reasons. Taking a regular job with regular income seems better and easier. I don't trim full-time anymore...don't think my body could take it.

I don't find nearly as many owners being discouraged from barefoot as they used to be. In the early days, we were told we'd be leaving a wake of dead horses in our path. Many times a vet would me, "I believe barefoot works for some horses, but not laminitis/navicular/thin soles." Now, I haven't come across any negativity in a while from a vet. If that's what the owner wants, the vet is usually supportive. Although I think there are very few vets recommending it as a path to follow, I do get referrals from vets when the owner wants barefoot support. Some trainers are still holding firm, but more and more open to learning.

*KM: Back in 2002, what made you want to find a barefoot trimmer for your horses? Why do you think more horses should be barefoot? Should horse owners know more about their horses' hooves if keeping them picked out and having a farrier visit every six weeks or so?*

My aging Arab mare was found to have bone chips in her knee that were remodeling. Our vet at the time strongly suggested that I have front shoes put on her to "support" her knee. Without knowing the time, this was completely illogical to me! How would adding more weight, metal and concussion to her hoof "help" her arthritic knee? I asked my farrier; he didn't agree with the vet, but didn't else to say about it. I went to look for more education so I felt confident that going against the vet was right for us...and found there was a whole barefoot movement going on. I had already taken my Thoroughbred mare barefoot many years earlier (even after being told that TBs could not go bare). She proved them all wrong, with nothing special done—literally just pulled her shoes and got her every 6 weeks. She went from having thin, shelly walls and thin soles, to the most beautiful, strong hooves the rest of her life.

I think all horses can and should be barefoot (with temporary hoof protection as/if needed). But not all owners are suited to having barefoot horses; and that's okay, too. **Taking a horse barefoot complete lifestyle change, for the horse and the owner.** Dedicating oneself to having a barefoot horse is a very holistic experience. A lot of owners end up letting go of their preconceived notions of horse is, and what a horse is to humans in general. This isn't just about whether or not a horse has metal nailed onto their feet. I've witnessed these changes take place just as often with a horse that but kept in a very traditional way.

These changes can be one horse that was previously seemingly push-button, a non-complainer, suddenly having an opinion about what's being asked of him. Or another horse that was always flight and a lot to handle, becoming calm and tuned-in. I think that when people learn to see to their horse as the species and being they are, their horse feels more free to show their true selves. This is a process owners love, and some will never want to experience. **Goals can shift and change dramatically—all because you let your horses feel their feet.**

I do think, at a minimum, owners should know the early warning signs of laminitis and thrush—and how to recognize when the horse's hoof shape is or isn't working for them. I find that a lot of intuitively know a lot more than they think they know. They usually have a good sense when things aren't going in the right direction. The hardest part is trusting themselves to know more than the **one is a better expert on your horse than you!**

*KM: What made you decide to become a barefoot hoof care provider? How and where did you learn to trim? What should a horse owner do if they're interested in keeping their horse barefoot?*

Like many trimmers, I went to my first weekend clinic (with Debbie Dutra), looking to better understand hooves and see if I could trim my horses myself. I was hooked! I signed up for the next soon could find (with Martha Olivo), a few months later. I went back to learn from Martha as often as I could, and practiced on my own mares in between. We'd all three go in the round pen—I'd watch around me, and ask them come over to me for little tweaks here and there. When Martha offered her 10-day Hoof Groom course, I signed up immediately. We started each day by selecting a cadaver it, and then we'd dissect each one to see if how we trimmed would've been comfortable and healing for the horse. **There's no better way to learn than by dissection.** Since then, I've gone to learn from other trimming clinicians, although I've learned mostly from the horse, watching what helps, what doesn't, and what to change as the seasons change. I've also studied nutrition, with Sally Hugg and Dr. Kellon's work. And, of course, learning from Pete Ramey—his videos, articles and several clinics.

I do feel that **the trim is only one small part of the puzzle.** For sure a bad trim can cause harm, but I find that to be rare. Nutrition and lifestyle are far more important. If the horse has weak hoof terrible angles, the best trim is only going to make a marginal difference. What builds healthy hooves are the right foods and healthy movement. I don't trim horses that live in stalls (and I've recent that includes horses that live in little paddocks). Horses are designed to move most of the hours of the day, searching for low-sugar forage with their companions. I think it's vital that we try to recreate best we can in domesticity. So before taking the plunge, I think it would be best if owners take stock of how they're keeping their horse, and what they can do to improve these things.

**I do think barefoot is so much more than just pulling shoes.** And I think that's why there are some failures...people aren't offering their equines everything they need to be successful. These days pull shoes on a horse, I interview the owner and make sure they're fully dedicated. If there's any question about how the horse will fare, I've been having them start a proper diet weeks before we pull. Since I've done this, they're all far more sound immediately, and getting better each trim.



*May 31-June 2, 2019*

**Tetrathlon Rally at SCCHA**

**Santa Cruz County Pony Club**

**Middle California Region**

By Jan Jensen

Tetrathlon competitions are comprised of four phases: running, shooting, swimming, and riding. A competitor's combined scores in all four phases determines their overall placing in the competition.

The **running phase** challenges each competitor's physical stamina and endurance over cross-country terrain and may include negotiating obstacles such as hay bales, logs, and low fences.

The **shooting phase** tests a competitor's skill and accuracy in a standing position, using an air pistol on a 10-meter course of fire. Any type of CO2 air pistol that does not exceed the specifications the Tetrathlon Rulebook is permitted.

The **swimming phase** allows competitors to demonstrate their swimming skills over a course length in meters or yards.

The **riding phase** provides an opportunity for the rider and mount to demonstrate skills over a predefined, stadium jumping-type course. There are two gate components the riders need to complete course. One is a hand gate to open/close while mounted, the other is a sliding rail gate where they dismount and slide the top rail, lead their horse/pony over the bottom rail and then remount and do a jump course.

Competitors are also judged on their **Horse Management** skills, which includes care of horse, clean and safe barn work, tack room set up, and inspection of all tack and equipment.

The riding and running phases were held at the showgrounds; the swim was at San Lorenzo High School pool, and the shoot was at Cameron's Farm on Ocean Street Extension. Twelve competitor age from 9 to 19 plus one adult competed. Ten of the competitors qualified to compete at National Championships either at West/Colorado or East/North Carolina.

Pony Club encourages and promotes past competitors to come and assist with the event. There were four past competitors, and some had gone on to compete at the International Competition in Ireland. They were able to share their expertise and experiences with everyone.

Tetrathlon requires sound horsemanship and general athletic ability. Its goal is to encourage Pony Club members to broaden their interest in riding and multiple sports. The Tetrathlon is often used as a developmental discipline for athletes wishing to compete in Modern Pentathlon. The U.S. Modern Pentathlon and Olympic Committees often select candidates from Pony Club Tetrathletes. Both provide guidance and training programs for outstanding athletes who meet their requirements for skill and endurance.

Thank you to SCCHA caretaker Tricia and Bruce for your extra help during the competition, as well as the SCCHA members who were camping and encouraged and supported all our competitors. Thank you to Howard and crew for completing the arena work in time for the event!

If you are interested in the USPC/Santa Cruz County Club please contact Nichole Fisher: (831) 239-3067

## Junior's Corner



The theme for the June Juniors' meeting was Grooming, Boots, and Bandages. Thanks to Tricia (SCCHA caretaker) for bringing her horses!



**Santa Cruz County Pony Club D-Camp**

**will be open to our SCCHA Juniors this year!**

Please see the following information for registering. There will be "required" equipment that all campers will need to bring, along with items for your horse/pony. Once you register, you will receive information on what you will need to bring.

If you have questions, please email Jan at: [scchajuniors@yahoo.com](mailto:scchajuniors@yahoo.com)

## June Member Meeting

Last month's meeting featured a really informative presentation by Pam Perdue from PG&E Disaster Response. Some very vivid videos showed how PG&E deals with disasters like the natural gas leak in Bruno, as well as really useful tips if you are ever in a situation where natural gas may be present. That one is easy to sum up: If you smell gas, get the heck out of Dodge, and call 911 and call PG&E immediately! Seriously, it was amazing to learn how quickly and easily natural gas can ignite. Even a static electric spark can set it off immediately. It was also very interesting to see the dangers of downed power lines. The power of electricity is far beyond my imagination, that's for sure. We saw an example of a person accidentally ending up as an electrical ground, and I didn't know that even smoke can be a conductor for an electrical arc. And if power lines fall on or near your car, don't leave the car if you can help it. The lines can be hot whether they are jumping visibly arcing or not. There were very specific instructions on how to get clear of your car safely if you must exit before PG&E has declared the situation safe. I didn't realize that downed power lines even the ground around them unsafe for several feet. Bystanders should never approach the scene. If you observe downed lines, call 911 and PG&E. Never assume someone else called. In addition to the interesting presentation, we were treated to root beer floats. A great way to spend an evening.



8/3/2019

<https://sccha.wildapricot.org/resources/EmailTemplates/July2019Newsletter/index.html>

**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 Luternauer 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 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 pictures: 831-535-8070.





















# *July 2019 Events*



July 2	Redwood Riders Board Meeting
July 6	Ray Berta Clinic
July 11-14	<b>Fireworks Ride!</b>
July 17-18	Cotoni-Coast Nat'l Mon Access M
July 18	SCCHA Juniors' Meeting
July 19-20	Pony Club D-Camp
July 25-28	BASP Camp

★ *For more details and a complete list of 2019*

*Ideas? Suggesti*

*Please contact us:*

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