



May 2019

Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association



Home of the Graham Hill Showgrounds

Promoting all forms of equitation, quality care, education, and humane treatment of horses since 1945

From the President

Dear Members,

Finally it seems like the rain may be stopping. I think we are all really ready for the sunshine and some time to ride. There's a lot going on at the SCCHA show grounds. Once it's dry enough, the work will start on the arena. It should take about a month for all the work, so expect that **the big arena will be closed** just as the weather's really getting nice [*for most of May; watch for our Grand Opening Event to celebrate the reopening!*]. Sorry about that, but it will be worth it. Thanks to all who joined us on April 27 for the Work Day to help get the show grounds ready for the season. Contact any board member to see how you can get involved with club activities. There is always a lot to do, and it's fun meeting everybody.

For more fun events coming up, check out "Events" on the SCCHA website. I'm really looking forward to the Monterey Bay Equestrian poker ride in June. Should be really enjoyable. Horse camping is my favorite summer past time. I try to camp at least a couple of long weekends every summer. I hope you are also working on your horsey plans. The trails are drying out, and it won't be long before SCCHA will have one of the best arenas ever.

Happy Spring, and I hope to see you out on the trails.

Karen

*Next Member Meeting:
May 21, 6:30 p.m at the
Clubhouse*

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Karen and her Shagya mare, Sarah

Feature Article

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District and Equine Trail Access

by Laura Matthews

As a trail rider, I cherish the preservation of our land for equine use. I want to share with you some of the things I know about Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (AKA Midpen). The organization was created in 1972 with a purpose of creating a regional greenbelt of unspoiled public open space lands.

Currently Midpen has 21 preserves open for us to enjoy with our horses. Of the 220 miles of multi-use trails there are more than 150 miles open for equestrians.

Many of the preserves border County, State, and National parks, thus increasing the miles we can cover. Most the District's open space preserves are open to horses. Their maps are well documented and include designated trails for equestrians, parking, and water trough locations.

On the right are brief summaries of some of the preserves (for the full article, including a list of all the preserves open to horses, maps, things to remember, and guidelines, please visit the SCCHA website at <https://sccha.wildapricot.org/LM-Article/>):

I hope to give you a brief overview of the preserves that I visit regularly. My goal is to have visited all 21 preserves within two years. Midpen has a very informative and functional website. Check it out at www.openspace.org. I hope you get out to enjoy at least one of these wonderful places. Remember that as our State grows, these areas will be a greater gift to all who frequent them. So let's ride!

April Member Meeting

Great Soup, Lively Bingo, and How to Navigate the SCCHA Website



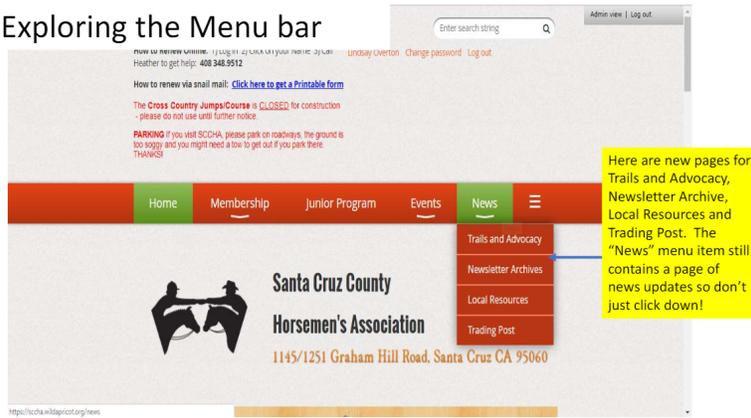
Laura and her Missouri Fox Trotter, Gunner

Rancho San Antonio, Monte Bello, Russian Ridge, Saratoga Gap, Skyline Ridge, and Long Ridge: All adjacent to one another, with corridors that connect them for equestrian use. Many miles of scenic ridge trails that stay dry in wet weather.

Sierra Azul: largest of the District's Preserves (18,000 acres). Four areas, two for equestrian use: Kennedy Limekiln and Mount Umunhum. Both have trails with a trough for your horse (not potable). Built for equine athletes of our community (lots of hills and steep declines). *The ridge trail from Los Gatos to Almaden has sweeping vistas that always take my breath away.*

Bear Creek Redwoods Preserve will be open for public access beginning June 8. Home to our friends at Bear Creek Stables, so horses are included in the long-term plan. Approximately 6 miles of new trail will be open for hikers and equestrians.

Exploring the Menu bar



Lindsay showcased the new features of the SCCHA website, including how to easily access vital links for equestrians. Be sure to go explore the Trail Riding Forum, Trading Post, Local Resources, and Trails and Advocacy.

Melanie Moore brought samples of wood products from Zanker Recycling that may have equine uses (for more information call 408-263-2384). If you would like to share something at the next member meeting, please contact a boardmember!



Melanie and her bagged samples.

Junior's Corner

Dr. Cori Phin, DVM, came to the April night meeting, and discussed the importance of and how to take TPR (Temperature / Pulse / Respiration). She talked about becoming a vet, along with her day-to-day experiences. She showed different tools used for diagnoses, and common ailments of horses, cats, and dogs.

Juniors came out on Work Day, and conquered painting one set of bleachers! Not only did they complete a job well done, time was spent learning about how a project comes to life. It takes a Supervisor, Workers, and a Quality Control Inspector. We discussed the best way to complete the job, the prep involved, where to start, and we made sure all sections were covered and painted evenly. Watch for the hand prints and horse shoes to come! The day



Dr. Phin and the Junior's meeting.

ended with a walk on the cross country course, and thinking about the vision ahead!

Work Day Recap

Spit shine, elbow grease, and dedication: Members made a dent in the formidable task of preparing the grounds for riding season. Tractor Engineer Steve Shupe began the reclamation of the cross country course, while parents of Juniors tackled Dave's Place, and the rest of us pushed brooms and washed windows. Hope we inspire more members to join us for the next Work Day!



Want to Know What We Do With Those Dues?

We're glad you asked! First, there is general ongoing maintenance of the showgrounds, including cleaning the facilities on a regular basis, tree removal, gopher and ground squirrel abatement, and keeping the electrical and watering systems working. Did you know that garbage collection alone is over \$400/month?

The biggest new project is, of course, the repair and rebuilding of the arena. But we are also putting up shade sails over the bleachers, refurbishing our cross country course, and working with the County on trail maintenance. The latter is close to our hearts, as we have such beautiful trails and they constantly need work, especially after a hard winter. Steve Richmond will shortly be leading a crew to clear out Rincon Rd for vehicles. It is so overgrown right now we couldn't get to you in an emergency, so we are going to be brushing it back.



Juniors setting a good example.



Steve and tractor reclaiming the course.



Washing windows at Dave's Place.



Cleanup crew at the clubhouse.

Welcome New Members!

New members for March/April :

Robert Mansfield & family
Lisa Sideman
Aiyana Wallace Menge
Celeste Gore & family

While you can renew at any time during the year, think about earlier rather than later so we keep these projects going!

Trading Post

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: 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.

Tamra Dunn Hamer & family
Anya Holmquist
Orianna Dwyer & family
George Hall
Cathleen Venn
Nicolas Sallembien & family
Maya Rosa, Junior
Scarett Ybarra, Junior
Craig Winter & family

2019 Fireworks Ride



Registration is now open for SCCHA's signature ride on June 13th. For more information on riding or volunteering, contact us:
santacruzhorsemen@yahoo.com

May 2019 Events

May 4-5	Ride for Relay	Mary 831-331-6227
May 7	Redwood Riders Board Meeting	Kathy Rodoni 831-246-0441
May 9-12	Western States Horse Expo	Murieta Equestrian Ctr
May 10-12	Despooking Clinic	Joan Williams 408-512-2890
May 18-19	Introduction to Endurance	Nick Warhol 510-537-2503
May 19	Folsom Lake Trail Trials	Ride Mgr 916-835-6067
May 21	SCCHA Members Meeting	bring a friend!
May 31	Pony Club Tetrathalon	Nicole Fisher 831-239-3067

★ 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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