Is your newsletter too small to read easily on your computer? Try this:

Hold down the CTRL key (on a PC) or the CMD key (on a Mac) while you hit the + key until the pages are large enough. If you want to revert to the original size, hold down CTRL or CMD and hit zero.

You can also enlarge the newsletter in the website archives https://sccha.wildapricot.org/Newsletter-Archives



President's message:

manure is to gardeners!

As horse owners, I know that most of us spend an inordinate amount of time and interest dealing with horse manure. But now a state legislator has become interested and would like to require horse owners to collect and dispose of their horse's manure when deposited on public property.

This is a whole new level of dealing with horse poop! Assemblymember Lori Wilson, D-Fairfield, has introduced AB 233 dealing with horse poop. The bill would authorize local jurisdictions to adopt rules to "require the rider of a horse to collect and dispose of any waste deposited by a horse on a street, sidewalk or other public property."

Removing manure on paved surfaces makes some sense. As a matter of courtesy, most of us kick it to the side already. But on trails in Henry Cowell, Wilder, Fall Creek, Big Basin, etc.? Would we ride with a bucket and shovel?

We know that when a predator poops—such as with dog poop—wildlife will move their dens to avoid the predator. When horses poop, because they are prey animals, that doesn't happen. Instead, their nutrient-rich manure nourishes the soil. As it decomposes, the naturally digested vegetation benefits birds, insects, dragonflies, and moths. Horse manure decomposes in about two weeks and does not carry troubling toxins or pathogens. It's beneficial to the environment, earth, and wildlife to let it be. And we know how valuable horse

Of course, we also know that road apples on paved surfaces aren't popular with everyone. On shared paved trails, we should kick it off to the side and I think most of us do. (Sorry, short-horse riders—and the handful of folks who mount from the ground—this means you.) Horse parking lots already have signage regarding how to dispose of manure.

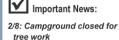
Besides the impractical aspects of riding with a shovel and bucket, there's another, more insidious, possible outcome of this proposed poop legislation. It's anti-horse. It would exacerbate conflicts on trails and place more enforcement demands on already overwhelmed park staff.

And, really? Do we need to enforce common sense, courtesy and horse poop?

SCCHA is taking a position against this proposed legislation (Stay out of our) and you can, too. Let Assemblymember Lori Wilson and your own Assemblymember know what you think of AB 233 by Feb 12, before it comes up for hearing.

United for horse manure,

— Rohin Musitelli



Arena & Trotting Track are open (check Open/Closed sign near entrance for updated info)

Upcoming Events at Graham Hill:

2/21: Member Meeting

2/25: FREE Fitness Class

3/18: Obstacle Clinic3/25: Spring Work/Party

For more info, click the link to the SCCHA website below:



Don't forget to check the SCCHA website for more events: https://sccha.wildapricot.org/

and our FB page: https://www.facebook.com/people/Santa-Cruz-County-Horsemens/100057818433171/

Trail Etiquette: WHAT TO DO WITH HORSE POO



Manure on trails is unavoidable. Non-equestrians find horse manure repulsive, and they usually prevail if arguments arise. *Do your part to keep trails open for horses!* Unless otherwise posted, follow these standards::

PARKING AREAS

Trailer manure: Take it home, do not toss, and definitely do not pile it around the base of trees.

Grass or dirt parking lot: If there is grass or soil beneath a tied horse, leave any manure but spread it out.

Gravel or paved parking lot: If there is gravel or a paved surface beneath a tied horse, take any manure home.

Manure bin provided: Use it! These bins are more common at equestrian campgrounds.

NATURAL TRAIL TREAD (equestrian or multi-use)

On the trail: Leave it. In about two weeks it will breakdown, benefitting wildlife.

At trailside rest stops: Scatter piles before remounting.

AT CAMP SITES

Authorized manure bin or bunker: Use it! Meticulously remove all the manure and uneaten hay.

No collection bin: Take it all home and add it to your own manure pile.

Back country (wilderness): Follow USDA/Forest Service guidelines and remove or scatter.

ON PAVED TRAILS

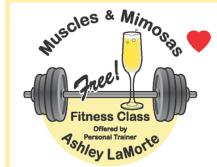
Dismount: Manure doesn't decompose well on paved surfaces; kick it off the trail.

Cannot re-mount from the ground: A fellow rider with the shortest horse or the most agility should assist.

Riding alone: If you can't re-mount from the ground, use use routes without paved trails.

Finding manure left behind: Kick it off the trail. Count this as a volunteer contribution.

https://www.americantrails.org/resources/trail-etiquette-w hat-to-do-with-horse-poo



February 25th, 9:30am Outdoors next to the Clubhouse at the Showgrounds

Is a personal training program for you? Come check out this free trial class. All fitness levels welcome. Aches/pains/injuries can be worked around (or improved!). You will finish the class feeling stronger and empowered.

Bring your mat if you have one. After class relax and enjoy a mimosa....or two.

Please RSVP by 2/20 to Ashley 408-209-9695

Become your best self for 2023!!!



What do you need in your go- bag? How do you find out which roads are open? What is the best kind of halter to use?

Get answers to these and more questions on:

Tuesday, Feb. 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Clubhouse.

Join us for soup, bread, and a presentation on emergency preparations by Santa Cruz County Equine Evac.

Equestrians: Brighten Your Image on Multi-Use Trails

Equestrians are often viewed as entitled, irresponsible users who leave trails dirty or damaged. Here are tips to improve our image:

Participate in Trail Maintenance Days

Equestrians need to work together with other users. Check out the many ways to support trails: https://santacruztrails.org/

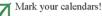
Practice good equestrian etiquette

Be a good steward of the trails and land we all enjoy. Clean up manure whenever possible, and learn to share trails with mountain bikers, hikers, and other users.

Participate in Educational Opportunities

The general public has either no or limited exposure to horses and needs education to understand. Friendliness goes a long way. Greet each person you pass, and show appreciation for any effort made to yield to horses on the trail.





Spring Work/Party

Saturday, March 25 9 to 12 at the Showgrounds

Our Spring Work Day will be dedicated to planting the first nine redwood trees for our Memorial Groves. We will have the holes dug and plenty of our horses' compost to add. Then we'll wash up and eat and celebrate our new campfire.

- ▶ Bring a shovel and gloves.
- Bring a dish to share.

The first tree of the Memorial Grove will be dedicated to Kenneth Coale, our beloved EquineEvac and HAM leader who passed away last July. The other trees will be offered for \$200 dedications . You can have a plaque engraved dedicating a tree to a person, horse, or other animal in the Memorial Grove.

Board of Directors Election March 21

To date, the slate of candidates for the SCCHA Board of Directors is as follows:

Incumbents
Robin Musitelli, running for president
Steve Shupe, running for treasurer
Bonnie Stoehn, running for secretary
Katy Bazurto, director
Karen Bish, director
Lorraine Flores, director
Shannon Halbleib, director
Peggy Hughes, director
Carol Kelley, director
Carolyn Tucker, director

New Candidates

Darren Hawks, director Patricia Davis, director Deb Means, director

There are ten incumbents, all existing Board members, who are offering to serve again. There are three new candidates. We are allowed to elect 12 to the Board.

You can throw your hat in the ring or nominate up until the election closes on March 21.

If you have ever complained that things should be done differently in the Club or at the Showgrounds, then omplain no more. Here's your chance to make a difference! Our Club needs new blood and new ideas to be it's best.

Please contact our election committee: Bonnie Stoehn, bonnies@cruzio.com or Peggy Hughes, peggy.mph@gmail.com with any questions, the nomination of someone you think would be great, or to get yourself on the ballot!



A Heartwarming Story of Two Survivors:

Mercury + Maxwell

Hi Y'all,

I wanted to share an experience my husband and I had in Ben Lomond during our recent storms. It was the evening of January 9th. They predicted as much as six inches of rain and winds up to 70 miles an hour. This level of rain is not overwhelming for our area.

My husband and I are retired Satellite Engineers, now just consulting. I worked in the development of the current weather Satellite GOES and its instrumentation, which provides us our weather forecasts. We felt prepared after the advisories, and after weathering the storms and droughts on our mountain.

This year, more severe storms started around New Year's Eve. For nine days, the rain and wind did not let up for more than a few hours at a time. On January 9th, we received the predicted six inches of rain in that one evening.

Our horses appeared exhausted. We normally lock one of our horses, Mercury, in his 12x24 covered paddock at night leaving the other, Maxwell, to roam in and out of his paddock. After seeing how exhausted Maxwell was, I suggested that my husband lock Max in and, hopefully, he'd get some rest.

At exactly 2:00 am on the morning of the 10th we awoke to horrific winds and rain sheeting across our skylight, buffeted by the loudest gale imaginable. I was sure it was going to rip the skylight right out, as paint started flaking off walls around it. We felt a horrible tremor when a huge gust hit the house, creating a loud thud in our second story bedroom

By this time, I had jumped out of bed. I ran downstairs and told my husband to do the same. With our dogs barking, he came downstairs and said he was going out. He realized the small light we keep on the horse corral was no longer visible. He believed a tree had fallen on the paddocks and went out to check the horses.

Moving closer in panic, I saw that he was letting Mercury out of his stall in the very back corner of his corral, the only part standing in the entire 24x24 area.



I said where's Max; he said in the corral. I did not understand. Was he really "in" the corral? How did he get in there? My mind racing, I ran into the corral, worried that Max must be injured.

There in the pitch black, with the wind whipping around us, the rain had stopped, and there was Max. He was just standing calmly next to Mercury. His herd was all around him. It was a miracle he was unharmed.

My husband and I have talked about what happened. Max must have panicked amd jumped over his gate as the winds and noise increased. He jumped his 4-foot gate in his 24-foot run!

Mercury followed Max into the corner of his own stall trying to be as near to his friend as possible. Miraculously, using their natural instincts, they both survived. We are blessed indeed. No harm came to either horse, and we know many in our area have experienced much worse through flooding and tree damages.

We lost nearly a dozen massive Ponderosa pines plus oaks, not only uprooted but snapped in half, indicative of extreme wind, on our 26 acres in a unique configuration. We had to have heavy equipment come in to deal with all our damage.

It was not a typical event. Some friends and family measured 100-mph winds on small weather stations, and a pressure drop indicating a tornado or microburst. Those of us who live in a very small area of Ben Lomond experienced a unique weather event. The National Weather Service radar was down so it could not be captured on record, however it came back up and a tornado was recorded later that morning in Northern California.

Our lesson is that your horse knows best; trust their instincts. Ours now have new nicknames: Mercury who survived in his stall is "Lucky," and Max is fast as a "Tornado," not to mention a good jumper, even in his blanket!

♥ by SCCHA Member Patricia Davis







The storm uprooted huge trees and brought down the horses' shelter, but the brave boys calmly survived it all.

Do You Care More Than Your Horse Can Bear?

We just love horses.

We are kind; we anticipate their needs.

We study and listen to experts who contradict other experts and try to sort it out. We half-drown in our own compassion for horses. Every detail matters and we insist on doing our absolute best every instant.

Horses are a grand passion that we thrive on. Seeing our horse nibbling at some hay is enough to bring tears to our eyes. We know that horses feel our emotions and we love that about them, too. Even as we flood them.

It's hard to not take ourselves too seriously, but love isn't the question. What if we thought more about how horses receive it?

Love is complicated, says anyone who has tried to hug a mare who thinks you're a sap. She's right. We do burn a little hot. A trainer I know calls it Aggressive Love. The mare has her own natural anxiety and now she's giving you the side eye.

Your horse stands by as you worry there is something in the woods. Your anxiety piles on top of his natural anxiety; now he wonders what you are concerned about, too.

As a trainer, I'm lucky. My clients are never cruel. No one wants to dominate horses, we train affirmatively. We are more prone to dominate with love. As I listen to all our excuses about wind and other externals, I see calming signals horses give to us because we love hard. Always with the best of intentions.

from an article by Anna Blake

And horses read our intentions in our body language. Can they sense if our anxiety is about them or the weather? Are they resisting what we ask or how we ask? Is our kindness served with a dollop of anxiety on top?

Horses will always be horses. We will always love hard. I hope this never changes. And I hope most of all that my love isn't a burden for my horse.

Sometimes horses mistake concern for doubt. Horses seek safety and sometimes that means protecting them from our good intentions. As much as we want to control all the things out of our control, including our horses, we are doomed to fail. But we can monitor our thoughts around horses.

I will dull the edge of my love and open the door to the positive possibility that is also ours to claim. Because I do care more than a horse can bear.

Trainer, clinician, and author Anna Blake writes "parables about horses and life" that offer "an affirmative and inspirational approach to understanding, respecting, and communicating with animals."

https://annablake.com/

With my herd, the training is the easy part... It's seeing how they'll accept it that's the challenge.

https://www.facebook.com/NahshonCookHorsemanship

If you love horses, why not learn their language, instead of expecting them to know yours?...They know they can talk, and they know we have never listened before.

Sharon Wilsie, Essential Horse Speak

We're accustomed to 'listening' being the purview of our ears, but as most people know, we can listen with other senses to increase awareness and feeling...The horse requires you to reach out in a spirit of receptivity; listen to him; and feel curiosity and wonder.

Beth Baumert, How Two Minds Meet

Your horse can never truly say "Yes!" until she knows she can say "No."

https://www.mustangmaddy.com/

The tiniest movements have a large mental association and, to better gauge how your horse is feeling on the inside, you must be keenly aware of what they are doing on the outside.

https://www.warwickschiller.com/

Horses, who are exquisitely tuned to nonverbal information, can help people learn to think and respond beyond the limitations of words...scientific evidence suggests horses reached out to our ancestors—befriending, empowering, and gentling people long before we were able to corral and control them.

Linda Kohanov, https://eponaguest.com/

The Language of Equus isn't a training style or method that you teach to the horses. It is the language they use to communicate naturally. It is their language, and it is far more comprehensive than most ever realize.

Anna Twinney, http://www.reachouttohorses.com



for Muddy Corrals

For more ideas, see https://www.horsesforcleanwater.com/

While there are many things that can be done in fall to prepare for mud, sometimes extreme weather patterns just get ahead of us. Here are some solutions that might help:

Move your horses to a high, well-drained area that is secure and safe. Use waterproof turnout blankets to keep them dry. Wet animals that can't fluff up their fur for insulation are at risk for hypothermia.

Use pea gravel in high traffic areas to slow the flow of rainwater, which causes erosion and mud. A load of gravel may be all you need to get the water to percolate back into the ground, and solve the drainage issue.

Use diversion techniques outside of corrals to intercept and redirect surface water. Divert directly into vegetation, never into an existing water body (wetland, creek, pond) which could cause flooding and pollution downstream.

Diversion techniques include:

Temporary shallow ditches—dug with either a shovel or backhoe, used to reroute the flow of water.

Dry wells—Pits dug into the ground and filled with large, round rocks. During heavy rain, rainwater fills the wells and slowly percolates back into the ground. Note: only useful with well-draining soils.

Water bars—"Speed bumps" to divert water toward less erosion-prone areas. Often used on backcountry trails. Lay a tree log, RR tie, or pole on the ground at an angle to the surface water's flow to intercept and redirect. Regularly picking up manure greatly decreases the amount of mud that develops on your property. Keep your manure pile covered or tarped in a high, well-drained area as far away as possible from streams, ditches, or wetlands.

Who Can Teach at the Graham Hill Showgrounds?

In order to protect the SCCHA and County Parks against liability, and provide a policy that supports members' use of trainers while maintaining a fair balance for all members, trainers who use the Graham Hill Showgrounds must follow the stipulations described on the SCCHA website:

https://sccha.wildapricot.org/Trainer-Policy

Trainers who intend to give lessons must meet these requirements before training at the Showgrounds. Questions or clarifications regarding this policy should be addressed with the SCCHA President or a Board Member. Any trainer who does not fulfill all of these requirements is at immediate risk of losing membership.

(Trainers who schedule and pay for a Clinic at the Showgrounds through the Calendar Secretary have different requirements.)

To date, trainers who meet these requirements include: Trainers who teach more than 2 hours per month: Ray Berta

Trainers who teach less than 2 hours per month:

Bonnie Stoehn

Sue Landaiche

Kristin Praly

Patti Kiersted

Nichole Fisher

Kelly Eynon

Tylinda Sotelo

If a trainer would like to be added to this list they should follow the procedure outlined on the website.

You don't have any control of a horse who is more worried or upset or out of control than with you— if they want to leave, they're leaving.

Nothing on God's green earth can stop a horse who's made up their mind to leave scared.

You can't love or bribe or beg or force your way into anyone's mind, horse or human.

The only thing you can do is control your own self.

Your own mind, your own body, your own life,
and lead by example.

Amy Skinner Horsemanship

Specialized Trailmaster Saddle for Sale



Lightweight performance-based trail saddle. 15lbs, with a 15" seat, and a wide tree. All black with a custom fleece seat cover over the leather seat. I'm including endurance stirrups and a Specialized girth. Billets are new but no leathers are included. Great condition. Just needs to be fitted to your horse. \$1399 plus shipping if necessary. debbieboscoe@gmail.com (Santa Cruz)



Family horse looking for good home. Missy, 12-yr-old grade TB mare, 15.3 h. Neck reins, has cow work exp. (sorting and roping), started on the barrel pattern, wonderful on trails. Missy will ride through rivers, to town, and is great on roads. She can be ridden without a bit, and is very willing to please. No medical issues, clean bill of health, clean legs, UTD on shots and feet. For photos and more info: katrina ramey@yahoo.com

Part-time riding instructor for children with disabilities needed. Westwind Riding Institute, a therapeutic riding program in Los Altos Hills seeks a Riding Instructor to join our team. The candidate will have excellent horsemanship skills, strong leadership capabilities, and arena/trail experience. Position requires safe, fun, creative instruction and training/working with volunteers. Classes meet Mon & Fri from 4-5 pm for three 10-week sessions. There is a 2-hour (Mon) summer evening session for 6 weeks. Experience working with children with disabilities is ideal. Please email, Westwindriding@gmail.com

Westwind Riding Institute is looking for a few good horses. Long-term lease wanted on gentle, healthy horses for our therapeutic riding program. The easy pace is the perfect second career for an older or outgrown horse, and a great way to make use of their life experiences. We have both pasture and stall boarding available in Los Altos Hills. We give excellent care and lots of love to our program horses. Contact Deb at Westwindriding@gmail.com

Felton: 800 SF 2/1 cottage w/ corral/shelter option. 10 min to Santa Cruz, 2 min to Felton. Meadow view, oaks, madrone, fruit surrounding, yet house gets plenty of light. 2 large decks, full kitchen, elec. range, fridge, full-size shower/tub, w/d hookups. Tile floors thruout, many windows, gas heat. Responsible for minimal upkeep for approx 1/2 acre fenced. Room for garden; horse corral/shelter avail at add. cost. Avail. 4/15. Dog(s) ok with refs. 2nd house on 6 acres, distanced from main house. Quiet, non-smoking. Rent: \$2,800. Sec/cleaning dep: \$2,800. Water/garbage incl. Tenant pays PG&E/propane. Contact Jeannette: 831.818-8013 or 335-8133, jennamoretti18@gmail.com.

Grade gelding for sale. Approx. 11 years old. Has been ridden English and western. Some working equitation and private lessons. In pasture since August. \$4,500 or best offer. Serious inquiries only. 831.818.6735, ask for Kim.

COAST ROAD STABLES Boarding Available. Choice of large paddocks with cover and storage. Several arenas and turnout areas, wash racks, trailer parking. Reliable cleaning and feeding available. Adjacent to Wilder Ranch State Park. Message Ben 831-247-0543 or Amy 707-477-4720.





SMALL RENTAL WANTED:

My good friend, Julie Carpenter, is a well-known local horseman and trainer who has been living up north and is now looking to find a place in Santa Cruz County.

Needed: small studio or a place with own bedroom and bath, can share a kitchen. Julie plans to live in Santa Cruz full-time during winter months, but only sporadically the rest of the year because she has a busy clinic schedule all over the West. She will happily pay rent here year-round as she would like to have a home base in Santa Cruz. Her price range is \$14-\$1600/month; prefer a location in SLV, but not critical. She has a very friendly, extremely well-trained dog.

I have known Julie well, both personally and professionally for several decades, and can strongly recommend her as a low-key, kind, and highly responsible person!

If you have any rental possibilities for Julie, please contact her directly via phone or text: 831-818-3129

Posted by Renee Shepherd, SCCHA Lifetime Member

TRAIL RIDER'S DREAM: ~ 4.5 miles above UCSC bordering Wilder Ranch. Over 100 acres, hours of trail riding PLUS, our access to Wilder may be the best in the area. Small, full-service stable that rarely has openings. We provide:

- 12'x12' matted stall w/a 12'x24' paddock.
- AM and PM feeding. We feed alfalfa, and an alfalfa-grass mix. We accommodate most diets.
- · Daily cleaning and shavings
- · Large turnouts (for an additional fee)
- · A heated and well-appointed tack room.
- 3 matted & lighted washing/tacking stalls.
 Farriers & Vets love it.
- An arena w/ mirrors and lights.
 Caretaker is communicative and conscientious, and can accommodate individual feed needs: grain, meds, etc. The Owner lives on-site, adding security, supervision and extra horse love. We charge \$550/month. Come see us! Please call 714-272-4618 or 831-426-7692 to inquire. Happy trails!

Upcoming Events 2023

2/8	Campground closed for tree work	Other parts of grounds may be open.
2/21	Equine Evac Presentation	6:30 pm at the Clubhouse
2/25	Free Fitness Class!	RSVP by 2/20: Ashley 408-209-9695
3/18	Obstacle Clinic & Challenge	Heather 408-348-9512
3/21	Board of Directors Election	Be sure to vote!
3/25	Memorial Grove Spring Work/Party	Bring gloves, shovel, & a dish to share!

For more details, see SCCHA FB and website.

SCCHA News Submissions:

DEADLINE is the last Tuesday of eachmonth for the following month's issue.

Members, please share your horse interests

and experiences with us!
Articles from other publications accepted with reprint permissions. Email copy to editor in these formats; doc, docx, pdf

jpg, png formats, 72 dpi minimum

Trading Post Ads:

Must be non-commercial and horse-related. Free to members; \$10 for non-members. Include item, price, name, and contact info. Renew by email each month ad is to be run.

Business Ads:

Must be "camera ready." Email images and/or copy to editor. Ads must be paid in advance to SCCHA. Send payment to: SCCHA, 1251 Graham Hill Rd, Santa Cruz, CA 95060

Business Ad Rates:

Business card \$20/mo \$50/3 months 1/4 page \$40/mo \$400/year 1/2 page \$80/mo \$800/year

EDITOR: Karen Morgan



Thank You to our Board and all our Volunteers! * 2022-2023 Board of Directors

Officers

- 33	
Robin Musitelli, President	manemom@gmail.com
Bonnie Stoehn, Director, Recording Secretary	bonnies@cruzio.com
Steve Shupe, Treasurer, Tractor Management	rebelsrider@yahoo.com
Karen Bish, Past President, Event Contracts, Camping Reservations	kbish@kanddbish.me

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Directors	
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Carolyn Tucker, Director	CarolynT55@icloud.com

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