SCCHA Newsletter July2022

From: Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association (sccha@wildapricot.org)

To: lindsayao@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, July 7, 2022 at 09:33 PM PDT

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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

President's message:

I was privileged to take part in the Obstacle Fun Day at the Showgrounds recently, watching violet and green Swallow babies fledge and take flight over dozens of horses and riders under beautiful blue skies. I saw many friends, marveled at beautiful shiny horses, and experienced the connection between riders and their horse partners as they maneuvered through obstacles with smooth, soft cues (mostly). Fun obstacles, no pressure of competition, good horses and good people. Does life get any better than that? Thank you to the many volunteers, especially Heather Shupe, Bonnie Stoehn, and Peggy Hughes for making it happen.

This month we will have our premiere event, the Fireworks 30/50. Again, the Fireworks is known in endurance circles for its friendly volunteers, beautiful trails, and great facility for staging. SCCHA and Quicksilver Endurance join to put on this event, long and heavy in the planning and preparation.

Next month we will gather to remember the life of another friend, Jerry Dowdy. Jerry was a devoted member of SCCHA. He was a Lifetime member who gave outstanding contributions to our Club during his 15 years of continuous membership . Jerry certainly did that.

Many of us depended on Jerry and his blacksmith shop to fix our trailers and keep our horses safe. He could often be seen driving his carts and ponies at the Showgrounds. He even got married at the Showgrounds!

The memorial service will be Thursday, August 4 at 5 p.m. in the picnic grounds at the Showgrounds. It's a potluck so please bring something to share along with your memories.

Happy trails,

—Robin Musitelli

Above photo: Elisabet Hiatt and friends took a memorable camping trip to Pt. Reyes. To learn more about her adventure and about trail reports from other riders, keep reading!

Important Dates:

7/9: Fireworks Endurance

8/4: Memorial Service for Jerry Dowdy

9/17: Endurance Ride Clinic

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

Robin judging at the Obstacle Fun Day (photo by Heather Shupe). For more great photos of the event, click the link below:

To see June 4 Obstacle Fun photos (great job Mila!) click here:

https://sccha.wildapricot.org/page-18124

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/

Remembering Jerry

Please Join us in a celebration of the life of

Jerry Dowdy

Thursday
August 4
5:00 p.m.

Bring a dish to share, along with your memories

Lifetime SCCHA Member Jerry Dowdy made significant contributions to our Club as well as to many Clubmembers. Help us celebrate Jerry. We hope to see you on August 4.

He was fair, kind, honest and I never left his place without having learned something interesting. I will miss him very much
.—Elisabet Hiatt

Jerry was truly a jack-of-all-horse-trades. He fixed our saddles, he repaired and maintained our trailers, he trimmed the hooves of the old-timers, and he immediately came to the rescue when a horse was in trouble or there was a wildfire nearby. A longtime horseman himself, with reverence he would drive his small backhoe over to prepare the final resting place when our equine friends crossed over. Thank you, Jerry, for every time you said, "Well, I'm pretty busy right now," but then arrived a few minutes later to resolve some crisis. Rest in Peace. You were the most unassuming hero I have ever known.
—Barbara White

He kept my trailer in running order and changed the tires on the ATVs. Six weeks ago I found one of the horses standing by the steps leading to the front door. This was unusual. I went out to a horse choking to death. A horse cannot breathe through its mouth. Majic's nostrils were filled with a mucous discharge and he could not take in oxygen. I called Jerry. He was here four minutes later. He shoved that horse's chin up high. Massaged his throat and neck and forced the blockage down. That horse knew he was in trouble and he walked up the hill to my door to seek help. He found it with Jerry, not me. So farewell, Jerry, until we all meet again by that big corral in the sky.
—Julie Suhr

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Fireworks 2022

Great Events Rely on Great Sponsors

Thank Our Sponsors!

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★ Obstacle FUN Day! ★

With a middle name like "FUN," what else could you expect from an event at the Showgrounds that involved horses, their humans, and obstacles, but fun and lots of it?!!

Weather was perfect, judges were trained and ready, and the event easily filled days before the date. Equine-human pairs entered at their scheduled times and wandered around, through, and over eight obstacles in whatever order they chose, and at whatever level of difficulty they desired. Many decided to go twice. Some in-hand and others riding. Besides judges being serenaded throughout the day with continual comments like: "Okay honey, you can do this." "Oh, you are such a good boy!" and "Yes, best horse ever!" afterwards they couldn't stop commenting on how well all of the horses (and ponies) did at the obstacles. And talk about an opportunity to check out a variety of nice horses and all kinds of beautiful saddles and tack... along with the red, white, and blue theme, it was a horse watcher's dream come true. And people did line up along the perimeter to do just that.

Heather Shupe designed a course that included: Take out the Trash, Pinwheel, Beach Ball Maze, Fun with Noodles, Wagon Wheel, Pull/Drag, Walk'n on the Railroad and, last but not least, It's a Parade!

If you know anyone who participated, and you have 20 minutes or so to spare(!) ask them how their horse did. You know how we all love to talk about our horses and what they were thinking and how they figure things out, etc.

With a field full of permanent obstacles, Graham Hill Showgrounds is an obstacle lover's delight just waiting to welcome you and your horse to come have a go and get ready for the next event. Hope to see you out there with your "best horse ever"!

Bonnie Stoehn, SCCHA Director,
Recording Secretary

Utah Red Rock Ride 2022

A Bucket List Item!

Wonderful week-long rides are held each year in May, June, and September. Well-trained horses and mules are provided as well as lodging, and the finest food you could ever eat (and a lot of it!). Plus all the wine, beer, soda, and lunch supplies! Evening entertainment is provided every night around the campfire at the twenty-five beautiful ranch cabins.

Riders fly into Las Vegas and are picked up by ride staff on day one, ready to ride in Zion National Park and then get bused to the ranch after the ride. Day two is Bryce Canyon. Both are the most beautiful National Parks before we even get to the Grand Canyon. We also ride Thunder Mountain, Butch Cassidy trails, and the beautiful Slot Canyons at Grand Staircase Escalante. Most of these areas have been carved by years of water (especially the Slot Canyons), and are so smooth and narrow from years of rushing water. We ride mules for the Grand Canyon North Rim, and all the rides are breath taking!

Ride management and the wranglers are amazing and take great care of all your needs. They really want you to enjoy! Two families have been providing this ride for over 35 years. I hadn't ever been to Zion, Bryce or Grand Canyon, so I was amazed every day! I had a great horse and met so many nice people from all over the USA and Canada!

The usual Ride Schedule was breakfast at 7 am, on the bus with your lunch at 8am, and a fun ride to the trail of the day where the horses were waiting all saddled and ready to go. Rides were about 6 hours long, with a good lunch break. Rides start early to ride when it is coolest. When we arrive back at the bus, there are ice cold beers, soda, and water. We give our horses to the wranglers to load and take them home. We had about three wranglers per group ride each day, to lead and show us all the interesting stuff. At the end of our ride we were given a nice group photo, a photo of each of us with our horse for the week, and a beautiful "RedRock" jean jacket! A photo DVD is put together after we each submited our best photos!

It takes about a year to get into the ride, and it fills fast. Registration opens in March for the following year, so in March 2023 you can reserve for 2024. Cost is about $2,500, well worth it for all you receive. Website: www.RedRockRide.com and there is an Active Facebook page for RedRockRide. Phone is 435 679-8665. The ranch is in Tropic, Utah. We also visit Kanab for an overnight before we go to the Grand Canyon. A really great week! I'm happy to answer any questions: Carolynt@garlic,com

Ride report ubmitted by:
Carolyn Tucker, SCCHA Board Director

Transform Your Riding

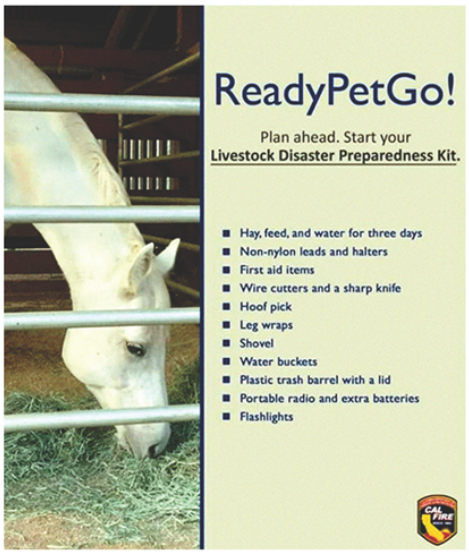
With Improved Core Strength and Flexibility!

Nationally certified personal trainer Ashley LaMorte is instructing training sessions for members of SCCHA. Each class is designed to include strength work, core, balance, flexibility and some agility/cardio. The goal is to enhance the riding ability of participants.

Lindsay O says *"I have really enjoyed the workouts with Ashley, it is great to improve my strength in the midst of such a fun and supportive group. I notice I'm stronger on my rides and more balanced in my everyday life."*

Karen B agrees and adds that she rode some tough 10 miles this past Friday and did great. Stronger arms have helped her in her other passion, pickleball!

We meet at the Showgrounds twice a week, Mondays at noon and Wednesdays at 11am. You can drop in for $25 or sign up for a month for $120. Questions? contact Ashley: lamortelift@gmail.com



Real Horsemanship…

A goodly amount of what we find key, or challenging, in our training and schooling is not actually on the horse's radar. He isn't all that interested that you're riding "inside leg to outside rein," or that you're fixing to graduate into using a set of $1,200 romals competently in one hand. He doesn't care that this year, he will need to canter down the centre line to the halt, or that at a particular height, the fences jumped will now have a spread. He doesn't wonder if his talent is being wasted when he carries you steadfastly over the mountain trails. He feels neither superior, nor lesser than, when his gift to us is turning barrels, or teaching children in lessons, or running races, or chasing cows.

He does his job, or doesn't, depending on the day and the thoroughness to which he has been prepared. He finds pleasure in making us happy, or sadly, wonders why he can never make us happy. I suspect that he mostly looks forward to enjoying his next meal and a good roll in the mud.

It is you and I who notice whether we are wearing breeches or blue jeans, who is being coached by whom, how much our horse, or truck, or trailer is worth, the names and preferences of particular judges, or who won what, where and how? You know that it is only us. These things that make each of us different are just the little sprinkles on top.

I have learned that truly sound horsemanship is aligned with the mind and long-term wellbeing of the horse, no matter his use or where we ride him… and when suddenly we understand this, nothing else matters.

Real horsemanship, however we might go about it, is all about the horse.

Lee McLean, https://keystoneequine.net/

Devil's Gulch Horse Camp — Point Reyes

Don't let the name discourage you... it's more like Paradise, as far as I'm concerned! Quicksilver member Alicia Stanton and I, as well as two guests, spent four marvelous days in Point Reyes. Probably one of the best camping trips I've done in a very, very long time.

The company was lovely, the food (potlucks and a night out) was great, the weather perfect, the trails open and groomed, and the adventure was unforgettable.

Devil's Gulch Horse Camp is part of the Samuel P. Taylor Park, located on Sir Francis Drake Blvd. This is about 15 minutes before you get to the Point Reyes Visitor Center. It's a fairly primitive facility, with 8 pipe corrals, 3 nice turnouts, and water for the horses. People get to stay in the adjacent campsite which boasts water, nice (clean!) pit toilets, a fire ring, BBQ grill, raccoon proof storage containers and plenty of space to park 4 two-horse rigs or 3 larger ones.

Reprinted from Quicksilver Quips with permission of the author and editor (and SCCHA member!), Elisabet Hiatt

There are some nice trails right off camp if you prefer not to travel. My favorite is "Bill's Trail" which is a lovely four-mile switchback trail that takes you up to the local fire lookout, which is at 1,400 feet. The views from there are amazing!! You can make a short loop back to camp for a total of 8 miles or take a longer one that is probably closer to 15.

As far as horse camping, there is also the Five Brooks Horse camp, if you prefer to be closer to the park, but you will have to listen to your neighbor's radio... something that won't happen at Devil's Gulch, since once you rent the horse camp, you are the only one there. There are two more small campsites about a block away down the road that are hardly ever used. Riding from the Point Reyes visitor center opens up miles and miles of some of the most picturesque trails I've seen. You have so many options, I'll just say that there is something for everyone, and the thrill of riding out from dense forests onto a bluff high above the ocean is hard to top!

I've been there almost every year over the past 30+ years, and there is ALWAYS something new to see! This year, it was the amazing Alamere Falls. I can't believe I'd never been there! It takes a bit of riding to get there from the visitor's center, but it's totally worth it. Once there, Alicia and I decided that the conditions were just perfect for a gallop on the beach, so the one mile from the trail that deposited us on the beach to the falls was quite thrilling!

Once we arrived, a few tourists there were happy to take our picture, and then we booked it back to the trailhead... what FUN!!! The horses were perfectly behaved and the sound of the wind in our ears mixed with the roar of the ocean was the best music I've heard in a long while!

I think we were breathing harder than the horses at the end! I shed a few tears of happiness for the privilege of experiencing such a thrilling moment. Every single thing lined up to make it a perfect moment I will never forget.

If you go: Make sure you go inside the visitor's center. It's really lovely and they have a great bookstore. There is also a Morgan horse ranch there to see, although there are only about 4-6 horses at the moment. The Miwok Indian village nearby is a fun place to visit.

Must see trails: Bear Valley trail is flat, all in the shade and absolutely beautiful. About an 8 mile round trip. If you keep going, you can access the beach from there and make a nice loop. If you want elevation, there are several ways to get to Sky Trail and from there the options are endless!

Every season has something special, but the late May wildflowers were icing on the cake!

Partners and Volunteers Day at Wilder Ranch State Park

Last month, Karen Bish and Lorraine Flores set up a booth at Wilder that provided a historical review of SCCHA with lots of photos. Bonnie Stoehn and Peggy Hughes brought their lovely mares, Batgirl and River to greet the public. Bonnie brought paper and colored pens so the children could "Draw the Horses" but the windy day was quite challenging. The youngsters as well as adults really enjoyed meeting the horses and learning about them...and the horses enjoyed all the petting and attention! Thanks to these cowgirls and equines for such a great public outreach!

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.

The "PERFECT WADE" Saddle, built by Len Brown

$3,100

16" padded seat, rounded skirts, 7.5" gullet, no-pinch twist

Extras:

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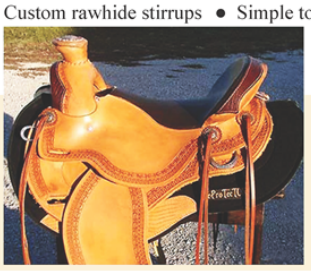
- Protector pad with shims
- Western Never-Tight cinch
- Rope strap
- Extra rings on cantle
- Engraved back cinch rings
- Simple tooling, 2-tone accents



Contact Heather: shrkshupe@gmail.com

"Horsemanship is the art of mastering our own movements, thoughts, emotions, and behavior. Not the horse's."
—Mark Rashid

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 can accommodate most diets
- Daily cleaning and shavings
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- 3 matted & lighted washing/tacking stalls. Farriers & Vets love it.
- An arena w/ mirrors and lights.

Our 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 2022

7/9	Fireworks 30/50 Endurance Ride	kate@matthewsconsulting.com
7/15-17	Pony Club Camp/20 paddocks reserved	sccha.wildapricot.org/event-4806482
7/30-31	Equine Trail Sports/some paddocks reserved	sccha.wildapricot.org/event-4718588
8/4	Remembering Jerry Dowdy	sccha.wildapricot.org/event-4884146
8/14	Quicksilver Club Camp Out/some p's reserved	sccha.wildapricot.org/event-4718590
8/27-29	Cowgirls 3-Day Get Away/check back	sandiparker@gmail.com
9/17-18	Endurance Riding Clinic/30 paddocks reserved	debbieboscoe@gmail.com
10/21-23	San Martin Horsemen's Camp Out/check back	sccha.wildapricot.org/event-4718592

For more details, see SCCHA FB and website.

Trading Post

Lance Camper. Squire Lite 9'10" for full size truck. Hardly used! Have all maintenance receipts. Onan generator, only used 44hrs. Electric jacks. Roof resealed 2019. Full refrigerator, serviced 2019. Microwave and gas stove/oven. Large pantry and clothes closet. Replaced vents and blinds 2019. JD Power Blu Book, $11,800.00. Asking $10,000 or Best Offer. Carolyn Tucker, 408.612.6846 cell.

RockyMountain Mare: 8 year old, 15 hands, gaited, trailers, ties, loves creeks, registered w famous Sire Snowman, Something Red as Dam, from Kentucky. Owner has had surgery and can't ride. Need forever home, up to date on all shots, can share vet check report, sound w excellent barefeet, text Sean for videos and pictures 831-535-8070.

Felton: 800 SF 2/1 cottage w/ corral/shelter option. Super easy access,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, electric range, refrigerator, full-size shower/tub, w/d hookups. Tile floors throughout, numerous windows, gas heater. 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 included in rent. Tenant pays PG&E/propane. Contact Jeannette: 831.818-8013 or 335-8133, jennamoretti18@gmail.com.

Looking for a reliable ride. My best ride ever just had to retire, and my 32 year old backup ride died, so I need a horse. I am barely 5 feet tall so I like a small horse. Most my horses have been Arab or part...I'm a trail rider now (age has developed me from a 3-day eventer to a trail trials contender). I have a trainer (my husband does not know why I'm not trained by now...) My horses live on acreage at home, and I have an arena. I have two horses the newcomer can herd with. At my age I do not want to be bucked off, so I would like a reliable mount, at least 9 years old. Thanks, Nannettebenedict@gmail.com 831.234.3832 for text(I don't answer calls I don't know).

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.

SCCHA News Submissions:
DEADLINE is the last Tuesday of eachmonth for the following month's issue.

Stories and Articles
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

Images:
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

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palmviewfarm@comcast.net

Thank You to our Board and all our Volunteers!

★ 2022-2023 Board of Directors

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