SCCHA Newsletter March2023

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

To: lindsayao@yahoo.com

Date: Monday, March 6, 2023 at 02:56 PM PST

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

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President's message:

So, we wanted rain. We got it. But snow? This past month has certainly been different for us Californians, and I'm over it. But we do have lots of great fun planned for when the sun shines again.

First, we had to cancel the Fireworks 30/50 Endurance Ride this year. (Our river crossing no longer exists.) So instead we're going to have a Poker Ride on July 8. It will be open to members and non-members. Details will come later, but be sure to add it to your calendar now.

SCCHA has joined forces with several other horse clubs to promote horsemanship, fellowship, and relevance in our communities. This first year, we are going to hold a Progressive Open House. On September 9, other club members and the public will be invited to the SCCHA Showgrounds. We are tentatively planning some exhibition horse events, like vaulting and Vaquero riding. We also will have horses there for kids to brush and groom. Karen Bish has even offered up her white horses to be painted! Of course, riders can use the obstacle course, ride in Henry Cowell, and camp.

We really want our non-horsey neighbors and community to come and get to know us and our horses. We want to instill that we are community, instead of having an "us" and "them" separation. We will be invited to open houses with the San Martin, Los Altos and Santa Clara horse clubs. I expect that other clubs will join up, too. I will let you know dates of the other Open Houses as soon as we have them.

After more than a year of research and demonstrations, the SCCHA board is moving forward with a new dust control treatment for the small arena and upper round pen/turnout. It's called Arena Kleen. The best way I can describe it is as a kind of wax that will be applied and worked into the sand. It's received rave reviews from the people who use it. No dust. No watering. Lasts at least a year, and uses less product each time it's reapplied.

There were lots of factors that went into our choice. It's environmentally superior to the salt-based product commonly used. We won't use water to control dust in that arena (arena watering is our highest use of water.) It's healthier for our horses and us to not breath dust. Yeah! We have to wait for a stretch of dry days to apply the product. Hopefully in May. We plan to see how the well it works, and then consider doing the large arena next year.

Please bring a shovel and gloves for our Memorial Tree Planting workday on Saturday, March 25. We'll plant trees from 9 to noon, have a short dedication of the Memorial tree for Kenneth Coale, and then we'll eat! Oh, and the SCCHA Board election ends at noon. You can vote until noon, if you haven't voted online.

How's that for a lot of news?

Be well and happy trails,

- Robin Musitelli

After a recent cold night, the Shupe's horses left their snow-covered barn (photo above) to explore the white stuff in their pasture, while Heather and Steve removed icebergs from water troughs.







3/18 Obstacle Clinic

3/18 Obstacle Challenge

3/19 SCCHA Board Election: Voting begins

3/25 Memorial Grove Work/Party Voting ends

3/31 Membership fees are due

4/8 Rain date for Memorial Grove Work/Party

4/18 Member Meeting/TackSwap

5/13 Jec Ballou Clinic

7/8 Poker Ride

7/22 Equestrian Trail Sports

8/26 Endurance Ride Clinic

9/9 Progressive Open House

Check the SCCHA website and FB page to be sure that the Showgrounds are dry and usable before you go. Also check the Open/Closed sign near the entrance for updated info.



For more info, click the links below:

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

and our FB page: $\underline{https://www.facebook.com/people/Santa-Cruz-County-Horsemens/100057818433171/}$

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Don't forget to vote for the 2023-2024 SCCHA Board of Directors

3/19 Online voting opens on the 19th at noon and remains open until the 25th at noon

Members will receive an email with a link to the voting poll. After logging in with their email and password, they can vote. To view the list of candidates and their statements, click on the links below:



Dear Friends,

We are excited to announce the creation of a memorial grove, a beautiful and natural tribute to honor those who have passed away. The first tree planted will be in honor of Kenneth Coale, a highly respected horseman in Santa Cruz County, and a dedicated member of our Association for many years.

This memorial grove will provide a peaceful and serene space for reflection and remembrance. The towering redwoods symbolize strength, resilience, and the eternal cycle of life.

By planting a tree in the honor of a loved one—human, equine, canine, etc.—we can keep their memory alive and connect them with the beauty and wonder of nature.

If you would like to participate in this meaningful project we encourage you to consider planting a tree in honor of someone special.

We welcome anyone who would like to help. If you are interested in purchasing a tree in honor of someone, the cost is \$200, which includes a beautiful engraved gold or silver plaque.

—Shannon Halblieb, SCCHA Board Director,
Tree Committee

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To renew your membership:

https://sccha.wildapricot.org/Renew-Membership

For the list of Board Candidates:

https://sccha.wildapricot.org/SCCHA-Board-Candidates-2023

For Candidate statements:

https://sccha.wildapricot.org/page-18233

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Riding between the raindrops: a group of equestrians from Moon Valley Ranch recently enjoyed a break in the weather and rode the dunes at Marina State Beach.

The Equine Vet Shortage

this page.

The shortage of equine vets, especially in rural areas, is reaching a crisis point. Veterinarians, vet schools, and equine-health organizations like the American Association for Equine Practitioners (AAEP) have been sounding the alarm for years.

AB233 — What a "Poop-y" Idea!

Should riders be forced to carry a shovel and bag, and to dismount and remount everytime their horse leaves manure on a public trail? If California State Assembly Bill AB233 is made into law, local jurisdictions will have to enforce this impractical, unrealistic, and unsafe regulation. What can you do?

AB233 has been referred to committee, so it's the perfect time to write your representative and ask that this bill be given the gate. For a sample letter, click the link at the bottom of

As senior equine vets continue to retire, there aren't enough graduating vets to take their places. Of those who graduate, only a small percentage end up working as equine practitioners, and nearly half of them are not working with horses five years after graduating.

Many factors influence a vet's decision to not work with horses. Often cited are:

- ► Lack of work/life balance
- ► Frequent on-call time
- ► High stress
- ► Low pay



The more rural the service area, the more pressing these issues are likely to be. Practices in urban areas or in small animal medicine offer better pay with less demands on a vet's time and patience.

There are multiple programs and incentives to try to encourage more equine vets to practice, especially in more rural areas. But increasing the number of these vets is only half the battle. Job stress remains the main reason equine vets don't join or stay in practice.

For horse owners to help keep equine vets practicing, it's important to keep our expectations realistic. Vets aren't always able to respond instantly, especially when they're dealing with multiple clients and overwhelming caseloads. It is critical that we allow them adequate time to respond. Understanding and compassion are ways we can show practicing vets that we care.

Horse owners, veterinarians, and equine organizations must work together to address burnout in equine vets. If we don't, it's the horses that will end up suffering.

From an article by Sarah E. Coleman, *Horse Illustrated* magazine





For a sample letter in protest of AB233:

https://sccha.wildapricot.org/AB

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When They Know

It was during a visit to my equine chiropractor, when a cowboy from a nearby ranch pulled into her yard with his loaded trailer.

We chatted amicably for a while about the price of hay, yearlings and all the ice underfoot. He then said that I might want to stick around, to observe one of his ranch horses that he'd brought in for treatment. I am in such admiration for those crusty old souls who are now realizing that their trusted partners, these horses who help earn their living and keep them safe, are deserving of body work and all the care in the world.

You know, before it's too late.

Uncomfortable memory reminds me that in our family, it was not always this way. Too many excellent working horses went to their early graves without ever having had a saddle fitting, a chiropractic work up, a deworming, or a dental visit. Yes, that shadow reaches across my memories, though forty, fifty years ago and more, we just didn't know there were kinder ways.

I can only vow to do better with what I'm learning on my journey. Anyway, back to this man we'll call Joe, and his horse.

"It's the damedest thing. I can do anything with him, rope and tie off on any cow. But no matter how many years I've known and ridden him, every single time I pick up a saddle blanket, it's as though he's never been touched by the human hand. He's a stranger to me. We work through it, I think it's better and we go off and do our day job. The next time, you'd never know it. Every single day is day one. Is he just quirky, or what?"

Well, that perked my interest and after seeing to my own horses, I followed Joe and his Quarter Horse into the barn.

This was a solid and proud middle-aged gelding. Brave, wise, high-mileage, he gave absolutely no clue as to what his owner had just told us. He was obviously well-handled and trusted his man implicitly. There was no outward evidence of poor saddle fit. There was no sign of trouble at all, really, until the chiropractor reached up to put a little cloth on the horse's back for some routine massage.

Suddenly, the doe-eyed gelding threw his head in the air and all four feet left the ground. No matter how much he was allowed to see and sniff the little blanket, he would not allow it onto his back. Watching, I could see that the horse was not afraid of the object. No, he was afraid of allowing anything to touch him from above. Worse, somehow, was seeing his shame and upset at not being able to be 'good' for Joe.

A few minutes later, we learned of the likely reason why. "I've seen this before," said the chiropractor. "Come and feel with the ends of your fingers underneath his coat, all along his back." We had to really concentrate and work our fingers as close to the horse's skin as we could and then, the answer was revealed



There were ridges, about three or four inches apart, scarring this horse all the way from mid-neck, to his loins. Over and over again, we could feel something like faint claw marks in

parallel lines, running from front to back

Cougars, or mountain lions, are plentiful along the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains, the place where so many ranch horses run out and call home. The chiropractor, who specializes in these hard-working horses, has seen a surprising number with similar 'behavioural issues' and tracks along their backs. She went so far as to surmise that this is why the northwest part of the continent is known for producing these 'broncy' horses. That whether or not the attack was first hand experience, as Joe's horse had survived, this fear of predatory cats is now built in to their very DNA.

We have owned a few such horses, looking back. Even now, there will be mornings I'll go out to do chores and the whole herd is pulsating with fight or flight. They'll almost run to stand on top of me, the air is so electric. Big cats are a fact of life here, living as we do in these hills along quiet, tree-lined creeks. Most times, we'll go our separate ways but every now and then, our worlds collide.

"What am I going to do with him, then?" asked Joe. A practical man, he just wanted to know if this could be worked around, or if his partner was always going to have to relive this trauma upon every saddling. He was advised to simply let the horse know that he was understood, that this had been a bad thing to happen but that it didn't mean he was a 'bad' or stupid horse. Basically, Joe had only to honor this horse's story and say that he understood. He would simply stand and hold space—that is, just wait—until the horse was ready.

The older cowboy and I exchanged glances, for that seemed altogether too woo-woo. How could a lifelong quirk be made better by simply telling a horse that you believed his story?

A few months later, I ran into Joe in town. "How's your horse doing?" I asked. "Is he any better to saddle, or...?" Joe interrupted me with a smile.

"He was wide-eyed and worried when I went to ride him next time. So, I figured, what the hell? I told him I knew that a lion had tried to get him but that we'd be okay. I said that I wouldn't school on him for being daft and by God, if he didn't put his head down and just let go a huge sigh. I did the same thing and then, we saddled up and went to work. I think if someone else tried, he'd go back to being jumpy but you know, it's amazing, what happens when they know that you know."

It's a powerful story of trust and rebuilding relationship that I've long thought I'd like to share with you. Horses or humans, we hold an incredible life force that allows us to rise again... if only we've been heard.

-Lee McLean, Keystone Equine

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SCCHA founded 1945 AD

SCCHA today 2023 AD



Keep the history alive! Renew your membership TODAY!

First Evidence for Horseback Riding Dates Back 5,000 Years

3,000 BC

by Christina Larson, The Associated Press, Washington

Archaeologists have found the earliest direct evidence for horseback riding—an innovation that would transform history—in 5,000 year old human skeletons in central Europe.

"When you get on a horse and ride it fast, it's a thrill—I'm sure ancient humans felt the same way," said David Anthony, a co-author of the study and Hartwick College archaeologist. "Horseback riding was the fastest a human could go before the railroads."

Researchers analyzed more than 200 Bronze Age skeletal remains in museum collections in Bulgaria, Poland, Romania, Hungary and the Czech Republic to look for signs of what co-author and University of Helsinki anthropologist Martin Trautmann calls "horse rider syndrome"—six tell-tale markers that indicate a person was likely riding an animal, including characteristic wear marks on the hip sockets, thigh bone and pelvis.

"You can read bones like biographies," said Trautmann, who has previously studied similar wear patterns in skeletons from later periods when horseback riding is well-established in the historical record.

The researchers focused on human skeletons—which are more readily preserved than horse bones in burial sites and museums—and identified five likely riders who lived around 4,500 to 5,000 years ago and belonged to a Bronze Age people called the Yamnaya.

"There is earlier evidence for harnessing and milking of horses, but this is the earliest direct evidence so far for horseback riding," said University of Exeter archaeologist Alan Outram, who was not involved in the research, but praised the approach.

The study was published Friday in the journal Science Advances. Domesticating wild horses on the plains of Eurasia was a process, not a single event, the researchers say.

Archaeologists have previously found evidence of people consuming horse milk in dental remains and indications of horses controlled by harnesses and bits dating back more than 5,000 years, but that does not necessarily indicate the horses were ridden.

The Yamnaya culture, known for its characteristic burial mounds, originated in what's now part of Ukraine and western Russia, an area called the Pontic Caspian steppe.

CYM

In Case You Missed It: The February Membership meeting presentation given by Mary Sullivan-White, Director of SCCEE, on Flood and Fire prevention is available for review! Click the link below.





No horse ever thought about reaching their potential. Horses live in the moment. Suppose horses have choices, suitable social interaction, an opportunity to move, appropriate food and calm, quiet handling and good welfare. In that case, I am pretty sure they are not leaning on the gate looking longingly at the horse box.

Don't feel guilty if someone says you are wasting your horse's potential. Instead, reassure them you are trying to reach your horse's potential for just being a horse.

https://www.facebook.com/benharthorsemanship

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To review last month's Flood and Fire presentation:

https://sccha.wildapricot.org/Prepare-for-Floos-and-Fire-SCCEE-2/21/23

To renew your membership:

 $\underline{https://sccha.wildapricot.org/Renew-Membership}$

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Rainy Day Ideas 🕏

Make Your Horse's Life Better With Enrichment

More rainy days ahead, so check out the Enriching Equines site for great ideas to keep horses from getting bored.

Encourage a range of natural behaviors with different types of slow feeders, treat toys, and puzzle feeders to keep them busy and thinking. Use different textures, sounds, and smells to provide vital sensory stimulation. Repurpose items and make your own horse-approved, safe boredom breakers.

For instructions and more ideas: https://enrichingequines.com/







\$10,000 Woodside Area/Equestrian Merit Scholarship

Do you know a senior who attends high school in San Mateo, Santa Clara, or San Francisco county, is involved in equestrian activities or community service, and has academic achievement but financial need for education? Have them apply for this scholarship by April 30:

www.whoa94062.org/merit-scholarship

In softness there is strength,
In stillness there is power,
In silence there is wisdom,
Learning how to listen is the key
that unlocks the connection
harts-horsemanship.thinkific.com

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. debbiebosco@gmail.com (Santa Cruz)

Experienced Rider Needed

I have recently dislocated my shoulder, which will either require surgery or a complete replacement, so I will be out for an extended period of time. I bought a really nice mare that was started very well but stood in a dry lot for 8 years. I started trail riding and horse camping with her. It was like riding a 4-year-old which is where she had been left off. Abby is a 16-hand, 14-year-old mare. She is by a Gai Ultimate colt (Huckleberry Bey, a Varian Stallion), and out of a quarter horse mare. She is unregistered but a class act. Beautiful, handy, very smart and well broke, but inexperienced. I am hoping someone with experience would take her on until I can ride again. I don't want any money, but I don't want to lose her either. I have talked with a few people whose horses are retiring or on the "lay off list," but not sure they want to make another investment at this time. I board horses in pastures in Newcastle, so if yours is retiring or in need of a lay-up, we could trade for a time. If anyone is interested, please contact me to discuss, Karyn Purmort at dakotaenterprise@yahoo.com or 530.823.8754 in Newcastle (Auburn) CA.

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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!

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Upcoming Events 2023

3/18 & 19	Obstacle Clinic & Challenge (rain dates 4/1 & 2)	Heather 408-348-9512
3/19	SCCHA BOD Election: Online voting begins	https://sccha.wildapricot.org
3/25	Memorial Grove Work/Party; BOD voting ends	Bring gloves & shovel (rain date 4/8)
3/31	Membership fees due	https://sccha.wildapricot.org/Renew-Membership
4/18	Membership meeting/Tack Swap	https://sccha.wildapricot.org/event-5196424
5/13	Jec Ballou clinic	jec@jecballou.com
7/8	Poker Ride	stay tuned for more info!

For more details, see SCCHA FB and website.

SCCHA News Submissions:

 $DEADLINE \ is \ the \ last \ Tuesday \ of \ each month \ for \ the \ following \ month's \ is sue.$

Stories and Articles

Members, please share your horse interests

**Business Ads:
**Must be "controlled"

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.

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

palmviewfarm@comcast.net



Snow diamonds in a spider's web at Redtail Ridge. Photo by Heather Shupe.

Thank You to our Board and all our Volunteers! \$\DERROR\ 2022-2023 Board of Directors

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Steve Shupe, Treasurer, Tractor Management	rebelsrider@yahoo.com
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