SCCHA Newsletter November2021

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

To: lindsayao@yahoo.com

Date: Saturday, November 6, 2021, 08:49 AM PDT

SANTA CRUZ COUNTY HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

November 2021

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

President's message:

Hi Members,

It was great to see our first real rain. Although why it has to come in buckets and not just a couple of inches at a time is a mystery to me. It's not fun taking care of horses in the mud. I'm just glad we haven't gotten the really bad mudslides they were predicting. The showgrounds held up pretty well with a few exceptions: One tree went down in the campgrounds. Our shade sails and the covered wagon were damaged. Thanks to Steve and Heather Shupe, they will be repaired and, once the rainy season is over, will be re-installed. The big ditch obstacle more than survived; it turned into a really deep-water obstacle that had to be drained since it presented a big hazard. Now, we are all watching to see if any of that grass seed pops. Only time will tell.

In October we had some fun events. The Sandi Parker cattle clinic was well attended and, by all report, folks learned a lot and had a good time. Very cool to see cattle on the showgrounds again. Unfortunately, the Eric Dahlstrom cattle clinic had to be cancelled because of the rain.

For a few days the arenas and the trail course had to be closed because of the mud. In fact, a word of warning is probably appropriate here. Please expect that after any significant rain the arenas and the obstacle course will likely be closed. What we observed is that the new dirt in some of the obstacles (like the big tires and the 3-step) becomes too soft and the horse's hooves sink significantly on that newly packed dirt. It's likely additional fill will be needed. As time goes by, the dirt will compact more and hold up better after a rain. Meanwhile, please be cautious and don't plan a day on the obstacles immediately following a rainy day.

On the 16th, we are planning an in-person Member Meeting and Tack Swap/Sale. Come bring your extra stuff for sale or trade. Your Board of Directors will be providing a yummy soup feast. So come enjoy the camaraderie and some hot soup. The mask mandate has been lifted, but if you are more comfortable masked, please feel free. And the Clubhouse is large and airy.We can visit some and stay spread out.

By January we need to have a roster of potential board members ready for the vote in March. If you want to get involved, this is the perfect way. If you'd just like to sit in on some meetings in advance and check it out just contact any Board member.

Meanwhile you can help us by letting your Board of Directors know what equine or trail causes you may want to see SCCHA support, or a fun event or activity you'd like to see happen. Just click the link below.

Stay safe, healthy and have fun .

—Karen Bish

Great Horses
Great Friends
Great Trails

Join Us

Member Meeting/
Tack Swap/Sale
Soup Feast

November 16
Setup: 6 p.m.
Soup: 7 p.m.

Send suggestions to santacruzhorsemens@yahoo.com

For more info, visit the SCCHA website: https://sccha.wildapricot.org/events

And our FB page: https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100057818433171

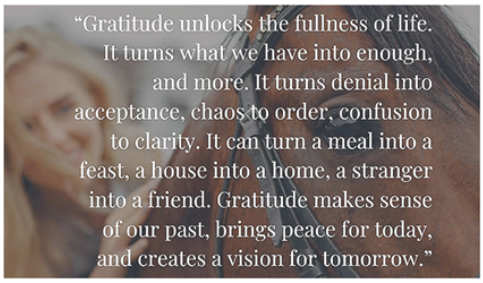
Five Reasons to be *Thankful for Your Horse*

Take the time this holiday season to reflect on how amazingly lucky you are to own and ride horses. Thanksgiving is a time to be extra thankful! If you're like most riders, your horse is near the top of your list of what you're thankful for. Here's why they're so special!

1. **Unconditional love**: Your horse is one of your biggest fans. Horses listen when you need a shoulder to cry on. They forgive even when they shouldn't. Horses don't judge; their love is there if you ask for it.
2. **Always teaching:** Each horse you meet seems to have a lesson to teach. The stubborn mare demands your respect and encourages you to be a team player. The out-of-control youngster consistently asks for your patience. The gentle gelding shows you how to be confident.
3. **Connections:** Whether you had a show mom or a dad who always drove you to the barn, horses bring families together. Wives look for husband-safe horses or bomb-proof ponies for their children. Cowboys and cowgirls connect at rodeos. Barn friends turn into family. People bonding seems to be a regular occurrence around horses.
4. **Stress relief:** It doesn't matter if your job is hard or your teacher is demanding, horses can make you forget all of your worries. They're therapeutic for young and old. There's something tranquil about spending undemanding time with your horse.
5. **Young forever:** Maybe it's the work involved or the demands of riding, but horses keep a person young forever. You'll see people riding into their 80s! There's no going back once you become a cowgirl (or cowboy!).

What are you thankful for? Take some time to reflect and appreciate all that horses do for you.

by Emily Fought, *Cowgirl Magazine*



Miller Gives Thanks!

Oh, DUDE!!
And I thought MY Mom doesn't feed me enough!!!

★ Tack Swap/Sale ★

Don't Miss This! Clean out Your Tack Room, & Join Us!

Tuesday, November 16
6 pm setup / 7 pm soup
at the Clubhouse

This is our first in-person membership meeting since you-know-what. We're really excited!

Soup and bread will be served. Bring your own bowl and spoon.

For more info contact Robin: manemom@gmail.com

Encore Equestrian Valuters

In case you missed it: Encore Equestrian Valuters turned out in their spooktacular costumes for the Halloween Fest Vaulting Competition on a foggy October morning at the Showgrounds. Thanks to Lindsay for being there to capture the event. More pix on the SCCHA FB page.

Coast Road Stables Quarantine is Over!

by Elise Levinson

In late September, two wonderful horses boarded together at Coast Road Stables became sick with high fevers. After only a few hours of veterinary care, they were taken to Steinbeck Equine Hospital. One horse died in a short time; the other was treated for several days and recovered. What was the mysterious illness?

After many tests, Steinbeck identified an equine corona virus (not Covid-19, and not transmissible to humans), an illness only reported in the literature since about 2010. It is transmitted by infected feces and is not airborne or carried by flies. A third horse in the same paddock was not sick.

Steinbeck advised that we immediately begin protocols for biohazards. All horses were to be monitored in their stalls for fever over 101 degrees. We needed to sanitize the paddocks, arenas, and all common areas. Boarders bleached all surfaces, removed all manure, and bleached all equipment and boots before and after cleaning their stalls. No turnouts, no horses leaving the property, no arena riding. Horses outside of their stalls needed to social distance.

Fortunately, only five other horses showed symptoms. They were not in close proximity of each other or the first two sick horses. None of these horses were very sick, and they all recovered in a couple of days. We were advised to follow the quarantine protocol until the last symptomatic horse was cleared of symptoms by 14 days. Finally the quarantine was lifted on October 21.

Where did this come from, and what caused these random cases? Vets have seen many horses with slight fevers or off their feed for a few days every Fall. Steinbeck has not identified and treated this disease at their hospital. We might not ever know.

The Coast Road Ranch community came together and learned a lot of veterinary protocols. We hope we are past this, and we looked forward to a celebration and a Halloween Parade and party.

Thank you to our owner Amy Alden-Rinaldi, Barn Manager Ben Detimeter, the vets and staff at Steinbeck Equine Hospital, and all of our wonderful boarders.

Ideas to help you address

Gate Anxiety

by ***Heather Shupe,***
Field Committee Chair, Event Contracts

Did you know that horses are naturally claustrophobic? When one of your chief survival skills is to run away, anything that might limit movement can be something horses want to avoid. This can create issues when going through a gate. Some horses may rush, others refuse, still others jig and fuss, but get it done in the end. Ideally, we want our horses to go through any gate safely, with no anxiety and no bother. Whether you are an arena rider, trail rider, or hot walk race horses, gates are a fact of life. So, how does your horse feel about going through gates?

My horses love it when the pasture gate is open, so they can meander through the orchard and back into the barn as they please. They are pretty good about stepping through the "gate" on the back of the horse trailer, though with rather less enthusiasm than zooming into the pasture. If following other horses, navigating through a gate is easy. Getting it closed when others are walking away… now that can be challenging!

The SCCHA Trail Course has several gates: a small metal one; the tire gate; the wheel gate; and a pair of jump standards positioned for a rope gate. While each gate is a different size and material, they all offer a great opportunity to build teamwork and confidence.

What Do the Experts Do?

Here's how Buck Brannaman handled a gate issue at a clinic: Buck rode up to the fence and cued for a halt. The horse hesitated then got all bothered and started moving away. Buck did not force the horse back into position. Instead, he trotted the horse in a large circle, and cued for a halt near the fence by relaxing his body. It took the horse a few circles to figure it out: rest at the fence or work away from it. Rest periods got longer the closer they stood to the fence. Buck let the horse move when he had to, but directed his feet to keep the focus on Buck, not on the fence. They worked it out together, so the fence (or gate) was just incidental: moving/resting together was the important thing.

Leslie Desmond had a different approach while leading an anxious colt: just breathe. At a clinic in Half Moon Bay her colt got nervous approaching an open gate. Leslie let him stop well away, then she looked past the gate (not at the fussy colt), let out a big sigh and let her whole body relax. The horse calmed a little, and they strolled away together. Later she brought him back, and let him rest closer to the gate. Once Leslie offered him several opportunities to relax, the colt decided the gate was a nice calm place to hang out with Leslie, and the "gate issue" was over.

If your horse has anxiety around gates, consider using approach & retreat, just as the two trainers did, to help your horse understand he can trust you, even when there's something that makes him nervous or claustrophobic. Another key take-away is to stay relaxed yourself, so your emotions don't compound the issue. Your horse is always listening. He hears your heartbeat, feels your emotions from your hands, legs and seat, and he always knows where you're looking. One of the easiest ways to mute anxiety is to stay relaxed, let him move when he has to, and know when to reward your horse for being even a little bit brave.

Anxiety-busters

1. Leave the Gate Open!

Standing quietly next to an open gate is a great way to start overcoming gate anxiety. Secure the gate open, so it doesn't swing or move. Let your horse see the gate area with both eyes. This is important so he can see not only the gate but everything around it with both sides of his brain. Ask him to stand quietly nearby. This next part is important: Walk away once he is quiet for a bit. Walking away is his reward for giving up the anxiety. If you push him to get closer to the

gate right away, he just learned that his reward for relaxing is more intensity, re-igniting anxiety. Let him build his confidence by succeeding a little bit at a time, as the horses did for Buck and Leslie.

Once your horse will rest easily at various places near the gate, ask him to rest inside the opening. Plan to rest in the center of the opening, with equal space for your legs on both sides. He can rest with just his head through the gate, head & shoulders, or all but his hind through the gate. The goal here is to practice not being rushed, so he feels safe in any position. Eventually, you should be able to go through the gate one step at a time: step/stop….step/stop…. I usually end this exercise by letting my horse jog through the gate too, so he is comfortable at any pace. Have you ever been told to "shake it loose" in an exercise class? Jogging does the same thing for your horse, he gets to shake off any tense muscles and mental anxiety by moving out a bit.

2. Back & Forth

Another exercise is to practice backing through gates. I personally need to know I can throw it into reverse and stay safe by being very precise about our position as we move backwards down a narrow trail. Similarly, how important it is for your horse to back calmly out of the horse trailer? Learning to back through a gate can build your horse's confidence about backing out of the trailer, too. Think about it: we're asking them to back into their blind spot, without being able to see what's outside. Isn't it amazing how often they do just that? To build this skill I suggest you begin by leading your horse through a wide-open gate several times. Ok to go with energy, and also to walk slow, so your horse learns to match your pace without crowding you. Next, go part way through then stop. Once he stands quietly, exit forward. Next pass, go part way through, back up a step or two, then exit forward and walk away (release). Continue going back and forth until your horse is willing to stop and go either backwards or forwards any distance through the gate while staying relaxed. Look where you want him to go, not at the horse. As he gets more comfortable, work on staying exactly in the middle of the gate. Many horses tend to drift when backing, which can end with your leg getting smashed on the gate. Teach him to back straight on the ground, and you'll have him ready to back straight once you're mounted. Ok to let him jog it out between passes, and to build his confidence over several training days.

These exercises can be done at SCCHA, at your home paddock, or both! Try lots of gates: big ones; small ones; rusty ones; round ones; even that big gate on the back of your horse trailer. Good Luck and Happy Trails.

Next month: 8 or more ways to go through a gate!

Book Review: *Gallant: Call of the Trail*

by Liz Riehl, SCCHA Lifetime Member

A new book, just released by author Claire Eckard, features a story of a young girl and her journey with an Arabian horse. The road they travel, separately and together, is filled with trials and tribulations as they learn the challenging sport of endurance riding.

Claire collaborated on this book with our local endurance legend, Julie Suhr, and it features our famous Fireworks 50 Endurance Ride and other local places in our Santa Cruz mountain area.

The book is geared towards 'young adult fiction', but since we are all young at heart, adults will enjoy it too.

A portion of the proceeds from this series (a trilogy ending with the Tevis Ride) are being donated to the Western States Trail Museum in Auburn (www.Facebook.com/wstmuseum) to help fund and support a museum dedicated to preserving the legacy of the Western States Trail, home of the iconic Tevis Cup 100 Mile One Day Ride.

Order the book from Claire's website: claireeckardauthor.com, Amazon, or other book ordering sites.

Hurry!
Spaces Still Available for the

Fall Endurance Riding Clinic

Nov 20, 2021
9:00 – 4:30
SCCHA Showgrounds
Sponsored by SCCHA
& Quicksilver Endurance Riders

Fun and educational, this full-day clinic will be taught by very experienced instructors who can help you get started or step up your game. Learn everything from tack to conditioning, and fitness to pacing a ride, and setting goals to AERC rules. Clinic fee includes lunch and one night of camping for you and your horse. Auditing of lecture and demo also available. For more info or to register, click the link below!

Listen to an interview with Claire Eckard on the 'Horses in the Morning' podcast from September 14th. (www.horseradionetwork.com/?s=Claire+eckard)

To register for the Fall Endurance Clinic: https://sccha.wildapricot.org/event-4515550

Divine Equine Assisted Therapy Center

is a local nonprofit that helps facilitate connection between horse and human to promote confidence, belonging, and independence beyond the diagnosis. We are dedicated to creating an equitable, diverse and inclusively safe space for the purpose of making a positive impact on the cognitive, physical, emotional and social well-being of individuals with functional diversity. We offer therapeutic riding lessons, both on and off the horse.

We are constantly striving to make sure our herd is well taken care of, as their work may not be physically taxing, it can at times be mentally taxing. All four of our horses get routine vet and farrier care as well as monthly chiropractic visits. They are taken off property to have leisure rides on the beach, Henry Cowell, Wilder Ranch, etc. We are currently putting together a schooling program to keep them tuned up and their bodies healthy. To make sure the horses are getting consistency with their horse leaders, we offer horse leader training regardless of horse experience so that everyone is on the same page when it comes to working with our horses in a lesson. We have a strict no touching of the horses head (except by students), so to allow the horses some space from the multitude of people they see each week.

Working with functionally diverse (special needs) students can present some challenges, as we sometimes do not know what to expect from them. To help the horse feel comfortable and supported, we do multiple mock lessons prior to them entering the program. This helps to desensitize them to various different situations that could happen. For example we may have a student who is loud and moves their arms a lot. We have a fake student rider emulate this behavior while riding to show the horse that this is okay and they are safe. During a lesson, games are played with our students to help teach riding skills. We work with desensitizing the horses to lots of objects like balls, ribbons, stuffed animals, blocks, etc. Desensitizing is an ongoing practice as we are constantly getting new students with different diagnoses, coming up with different games, and as our horses age they may change their relationship to the work. We want to make sure our horses, as well as our students and volunteers, are safe in their environment.

All our program horses are leased to us by their owners, who keep ownership and we pay for food, farrier, and basic vet care. The horse gets loved on and worked with daily, so it's a win-win. We currently have a horse named Pepper *[photo above right]*. She came to us via Carol Kelley *[SCCHA Board Director]*. She has been in and out of the program for the past four years, and the students absolutely love her. She is gentle and kind and able to show up for her students in the way they need her. For example, we had a student last year who came to us selectively mute. She and Pepper became fast friends. When her student would arrive, Pepper would perk up and be very excited to see her. While grooming she would nuzzle her little friend and watch her like a hawk. Pepper would listen and do whatever the student asked. Through the process of working with Pepper, this student began to speak more, to the point where the instructor would have to ask her to stop talking briefly so she could execute what she had been asked to do. It was powerful to watch this team in action and to witness the power of horse healing.

Divine Equine could not exist without its many volunteers. Some come muck and feed in the morning and evening as well as help in lessons. Two people volunteer in each lesson: a sidewalker and a horse leader. Sidewalkers are an important element to making sure the student feels safe and can execute what the instructor has asked. The horse leader works directly with the horse. They help warm the horse up, stand with the horse during grooming and tacking up by the instructor and student, and then lead the horse around for the student. Both of these positions are integral to a safe and fun lesson.

It takes a village to keep Divine Equine running. We are in deep gratitude for everyone who has supported the Center.

If you would like to join the Divine Equine team, please contact:
kristy@divineequinetherapy.org

November 2021 Events

11/16	Member Meeting: Tack Swap & Soup Fest	manemom@gmail.com
11/20	Endurance Riding Clinic	debbieboscoe@gmail.com
1/23	Placeholder/Holiday Party	Stay tuned!

For more details, see SCCHA FB and website.

OBSTACLES: Slippery When Wet

Please stay off the obstacles at the Showgrounds until the field has dried out. Riders are leaving huge divots in the wet ground. Please assume the obstcles are closed if:

a. **the arena is closed,**
b. **you can't park off the driveway without getting stuck, and**
c. **you see standing water anywhere.**

When you park, don't forget to display your pass!

Trading Post

Horse friends, I am looking to do a **full or partial lease on a quiet arena horse** with no spook. The horse would be used during the week with my current students doing flat work, dressage and small cross rails. Your horse would be boarded at ZCEC in Felton. I have been doing partial and full leases of 5 horses for many years now. One of those lease horses is 35 years old. All their owners, my vet and farrier will give me excellent references. If you are only able to ride a few days a week, this would be a perfect opportunity to keep your horse exercised and would help you cover expenses. I would consider a full lease, if you chose that option. Please contact me with questions you may have. Thanks Patti Kiersted 831 345 8266

Synergist Original Maker Endurance Saddle. This is an awesome saddle but I don't need two of them! 15.5" seat, great shape, lightweight. I paid $2300 for it new. I will take **$900** now. Call Patricia at 831-818-7545.

ISO PASTURE SPACE
for a 9 year old Arabian gelding, who is ridden often. He is extremely herd savvy, has been raised in pasture his whole life. Shod up front, bare behind can be bare all around if needed. I am a very experienced horsewoman who simply wants her horse to live a natural lifestyle in a pasture with a herd. Message me at 408-858-3704 or kirstin-morris@comcast.net

Monthly Quiz: Horse Gaits

by Larry De Young

Questions:

1. A singer in a synagogue.
2. A Standardbred gait, generally not a riding gait.
3. If you're from MO or a friend of Arthur Murray, show us this gait.
4. You might find horses known for this gait at Coast Road Stables.
5. Eadweard Muybridge is famous for photographing this gait in 1878 at Stanford.

Answers:

1. Kantor = *Canter.*
2. *Pace.*
3. *Foxtrot.*
4. Icelandic horses do the *Tolt.*
5. Muybridge proved that all four feet were off the ground at the *Gallop.*

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.

TRAIL RIDER'S DREAM: ~ 4.5 miles above UCSC bordering Wilder Ranch. Over 100 acres providing 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
- 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.

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!

HORSE BOARDING AVAILABLE 9/1/21 Montara, CA 94037

Ride to this View at McNee Ranch State Park in Montara California

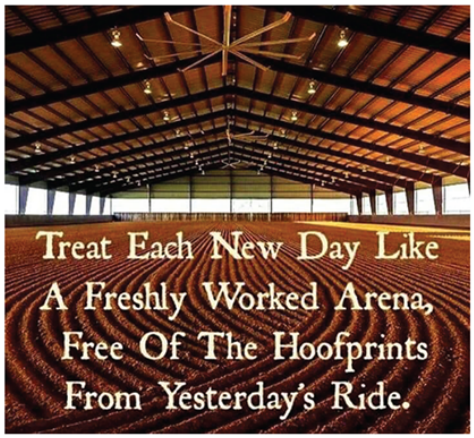
Large 62 x 32' Paddock with 12 x 12' Run In shelter

Description: Large Paddock on private Ranch with 2 other horses. Roundpen on property. Miles of trails can be accessed without trailering. 90% of surface is covered in mats so no mud in Winter. Owners live on property.

Includes: Feeding 3 times per day up to 4 flakes of grass alfalfa hay. Cleaning daily. Automatic waterers.

Requirements: Experienced trail rider with a healthy horse able to supply 2 references.

Price: $550/Month
Contact: Larry De Young, larrydeyo@gmail.com, 650-224-2579



SCCHA News Submissions

DEADLINE is the last Tuesday of each month 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

EDITOR: Karen Morgan
palmviewfarm@gmail.com

Thank You **to this year's Board and all our Volunteers!**

★ *2021-2022 Board of Directors*

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