

SCCHA Newsletter November2022

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

To: lindsayao@yahoo.com

Date: Saturday, November 5, 2022 at 04:33 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

November
2022

Cool air, no flies, good health, and a stylin' clip: Sheba expresses the season's spirit of joy and gratitude!



President's message:

As I write, we have just had our first good rain of the season. Yay! The trees are wearing shiny diamonds. The air is fresh and there's no need to water arenas.

Halloween was a hoppin' place around where I live. I didn't haul out any horse and rider costumes this year, but I thought I'd tell you about some of my favorites that I've made over the years.

My all-time favorite was Elvis and his pink Cadillac. Debra Means went as Elvis, with a black, hairy chest and all, and her horse was the pink Cadillac. The horse wore a shiny pink body blanket, wheels, and lots of white fringe. He even had a license plate. Another year Debra went as a jester dressed in red and purple with a matching horse.

The biggest "fail" I ever had was when I dressed my mare, Mist, as a dragon. She had wonderful stuffed green and purple spikes down her back and a long, swishy tail. I covered umbrella spokes for her wings, and they even opened and closed. She was not impressed. Not at all. She was in a hard heat and immediately turned into a snapping dragon. She also sprayed the costume to my young granddaughters' horror, who thought she was peeing on it. We abandoned the dragon idea. The princess who was going to ride her found a quieter, less dragon-like mount. The costume has been stuffed into the dress-up box.

My favorite horse costume this year was Lorraine Flores, dressed as Wonder Woman's grandmother, with her attired horse and dog as her partners for justice.

I hope you get a chance to sit by the new fire pit. It's a wonderful place to watch the sunset and gather with friends and have a drink. We're moving toward having the front of the clubhouse become a community gathering spot. The addition of trees in the front means that parking will be along the driveway instead of on the lawn. Camping will move to the sides. We are also planning to scatter some seed so we will have some grass—but not a lawn lawn. We don't want a fussy yard; we want to keep it casual. But we do envision a yard with no trucks on it.

I hope, too, that you will join us for the annual Holiday Party. As usual, Board members will bring the turkeys, mashed potatoes and gravy. Please bring a side dish or dessert and a beverage of your choice. It's a blessing and a curse that we have so many good cooks in this club. The desserts are always over-the-top delicious and beautiful. Look forward to seeing you all.

Happy trails,

~Robin Musitelli



Important Dates:

11/15: Member Meeting:
Stay Tuned for Details!

12/18: SCCHA Holiday Party

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



Who can forget Elvis and his
pink cadillac?

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/>



At last, we are starting to see a bit of rain at the Showgrounds! This is just a quick reminder to avoid muddy areas, especially with your truck and trailer.



Members are welcome to park alongside the driveway on both sides and along the tie rail near the arena, rather than risk getting stuck in the mud. If we are lucky enough to get lots of rain, we may need to close arenas, obstacles, or trotting tracks.

Please check the tall sign near the welcome kiosk for information on what is open (green) or closed (red).



Hurrah for SCCHA's very own Wonder Woman (with her equine and canine partners). You may have to wait until next Halloween to see her in costume, but you will likely see her year 'round, doing amazing things at the Showgrounds (like planting trees and hauling bricks for fire pits to name a few). If you happen to spot her, tell her thank you for all her Wonder-ful work!

Hope to see you at the:

Member Meeting
November 15
6:30 pm
at the Clubhouse

stay tuned for more info . . .

New! Propane Fire Pit



Steve Shupe has been a master of all fixes and repairs, as well as a creative engineer at the Showgrounds. He literally built the mechanics for the new outdoor propane fire pit. The SCCHA is so lucky to have Steve as a member!

It is functioning and useable by members. More landscaping will be done to make this the "go-to spot" in the future. There is plenty of room for members to bring their own chairs if desired.



Simple to operate:

- ▶ Open the valve on the tank so the gas will flow (no adjustment of regulator knobs needed).
- ▶ The control panel with the electric starter is recessed into the stones (follow the gas hose to find the panel).
- ▶ Just press the igniter button until the fire lights (it takes about 10 seconds of time before enough gas has flowed to ignite).
- ▶ *Please remember to close off the valve on the tank when you are done using the fire pit.*



Hello members.

My name is James “JD” Cooper. I am an SCCHA member, and a board member and instructor for the Western States Mounted Officers Association (WSMOA).

Our mission at WSMOA is to promote a close working relationship between mounted law enforcement units across the western states; ensuring standardized training; and keeping members informed regarding methods, tactics and legal issues confronting mounted law enforcement. We conduct all of the POST (Peace Officers Standards and Training) mounted training in the State of California and we offer this training to sworn officers and volunteers.

You may have noticed, between October 13th and the 16th we conducted training at SCCHA. We were fortunate to conduct our first mounted Search and Rescue class there. The classes included navigation, equine rescue and evacuation, emergency euthanasia, crime scene and equine containment systems. The class was attended by 25 mounted officers and volunteers whose mission or function within their agencies include SAR. Many of the student were from agencies with newer SAR units and were unsure what they would be getting exposed to. They were all encouraged to camp, or bring some method to camp, as if they were responding to an

SAR call out. They met the challenge and all of the students camped at the facility.

Most of the students paid for the class out of their personal funds and being that this is not a POST mandated class, the State of California does not reimburse them for their tuition. Our students traveled from as far as Ventura County to the south and Yolo County to the north. That being said, I would like to personally thank the SCCHA board for working with us in allowing the students, who had to travel these distances with their horses, to arrive a day early and stay an extra day to make the trip safer and better for them and their horses.

As well as the scheduled classes, the students worked on equitation exercises, the obstacle course, and enjoyed some ride time in Henry Cowell State Park.

I personally read the class evaluations written by the students, and everyone loved the class, the facilities, and the instructors. Many of them asked when another class would be offered and if we could use the SCCHA facility again. Several of the students even asked about membership, and I encouraged them to become members. Thank you again for all of your assistance in making this class a huge success.





How Does Your Horse's Brain

Really Work?

Recent equine neuroscience research is helping many professionals understand how the horse's brain really works. This new knowledge is changing horsemanship methods so we can work with our horse's true nature rather than against it.

The average adult horse brain weighs about 2.5 pounds, compared to 3 pounds for a human brain. The key difference is the relative size of the frontal lobe, which allows abstract thought, strategizing, and forecasting future events.

Horses have a small frontal lobe, so they simply can't think they way we do. They can't hold grudges, plot revenge, or enjoy making us mad. Their brains don't have the capacity for abstract thoughts like respect or disrespect. Instead, they are constantly asking, "Am I safe?"

A horse's brain is hardwired to move quickly in response to stimuli. His hypersensitivity to changes in his environment is what has kept his species alive for millennia. Anything a horse doesn't understand or recognize is perceived as a predatory threat to be feared. Sometimes horses feel vulnerable if they express fear, so they can make it hard for us to recognize. Too much internal stress can make some horses "freeze" or become detached or numb to training cues. This can create a ticking time bomb, even in a horse labeled as "bomb proof." Constant stress and pressure can actually decrease brain size and short-circuit learning.

Most of us know to release pressure when a horse does what we want. But few of us know how long to offer relief, or how to recognize the many ways a horse behaves when he asks "Am I safe?" Often a horse is thought to be devious or lazy or mean, when he is actually asking that question and his human doesn't hear or understand his voice.

All mammals protect themselves from danger with an autonomic nervous system (ANS) that rapidly sends messages from the brain to the body. Scientists originally thought that the ANS had only two main branches: the *sympathetic* or the "gas pedal" that prepared the body for

flight or fight, and the *parasympathetic* or the "brakes" that returned the animal to a relaxed state. Many trainers tried to either avoid a sympathetic response or to bring a horse back to a parasympathetic state as soon as possible. But the simple on-off theory didn't explain all the complex equine social behavior that was neither fully on nor off.

A new way of understanding how both horses and humans deal with stress is called Polyvagal Theory. The vagal nerve (the main nerve in the ANS) is now thought to be made up of three complexes: one sympathetic and two parasympathetic (dorsal and ventral). This theory explains the wide range of behavior between safety to danger, and emphasizes the importance of social dependence, which is vital to herd safety.

World-renowned horseman and clinician Warwick Schiller focuses primarily on relationship-building with his horses. Polyvagal Theory has provided the science behind his work. He believes relationships begin when horsemen can recognize and acknowledge the smallest changes in their horse's behavior, which in turn influence very subtle changes in cues from the trainer. This makes the horses feel listened to and safe and able to learn.

Psychotherapist and horseman Sarah Schlote also stresses the need for the horse to sense "being seen, being heard, feeling felt, and getting gotten." This leads to a degree of trust can't be earned with the old techniques of pressure on or off.

For more information:

<https://www.horsedeals.com.au/news/a-polyvagal-view-on-desensitising-with-warwick-schiller>

<https://horsehead.info/introducing-polyvagal-theory/>

<https://equusoma.com/the-ponyvagal-theory-updates-to-the-neuroception-curve/Psy>

<https://www.horseillustrated.com/your-horses-brain>

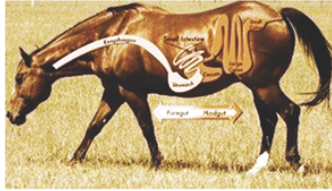
Equestrians at Glenwood

This past June I wrote an article about some changes to the equestrian trails at east Glenwood Preserve. After consulting with our grazer, we learned that the area we planned to open to solve the dangerous mud issue at the creek crossing is also mired in deep mud during the rainy season. We decide instead to let horses cross the Canham pasture bridge to connect to the equestrian area using the blue trail. We have built a new equestrian gate right next to the pedestrian gate at the first fence line. Hopefully this is safer for you and your horses. See you out there!

Carie Thompson – Land Trust Santa Cruz



Preventing Impaction Colic



Impaction is one of the most common causes of colic, especially in winter. Here are a few tips to keep your horse happy and healthy this season:

- **Encourage adequate water intake:**
Provide access to clean water at all times.
Feed 1-2 Tb of loose salt to increase drinking.
If needed, use heaters to keep water from freezing.
- **Avoid sudden changes in diet and exercise:**
Ideally, most of his diet should be hay.
Use slow feeders to keep fiber in his gut.
Ensure daily exercise to keep his gut moving.
- **Schedule annual dental exams.**
- **Prevent colic from sand or dirt ingestion:**
Feed from feeders or rubber mats.
Don't allow pastures to become overgrazed.
Add psyllium to feed to clear sand from gut.

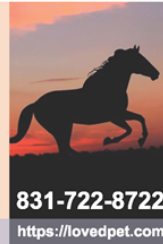
For more information:
<https://besthorsepractices.com/colic/>

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For more information contact:
Heidi Hart (831) 247-9410
myagentheidi@gmail.com

Don't Forget the Enrichment!



A few horse-safe branches (like beech, hawthorne, willow, or birch) delight the browser in your horse; bubbles encourage curiosity; safe scratching stations feel so good; and don't hand over treats—hide them in a puzzle box! MegaLast balls + a lead rope = a great treat hanger...and who doesn't love their mega ball?



For more great enrichment ideas: <https://enrichingequines.com/>
<https://www.facebook.com/enrichingequines/>

COAST ROAD STABLES Boarding Available.
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 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.

She needs a small studio or a place with her own bedroom and bath, but could share a kitchen. Julie plans to live in Santa Cruz full-time during the winter months, but only sporadically through 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 per month; prefer a location in SLV, but not critical. She has a very friendly and 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
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- 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 2022

11/15	SCCHA Member Meeting/stay tuned!	info@SCCHA.com
11/18	San Vicente Sneak Peek for Equestrians!	sccha.wildapricot.org/event-4965794
12/18	SCCHA Holiday Party	save the date and stay tuned!

For more details, see SCCHA FB and website.



Trading Post

Family horse looking for good home. Missy, 12-yr-old grade TB mare, 15.3 h. She neck reins, has had cow work experience (sorting and roping), is started on the barrel pattern, and is 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, an equine therapeutic riding program located in Los Altos Hills, CA seeks a Riding Instructor to join our team. The prospective candidate will have excellent horsemanship skills, strong leadership capabilities, and arena and trail experience. Position requires safe, fun, and creative instruction and training/working with volunteers. Classes meet Mondays and Fridays from 4-5 pm for three 10-week sessions. There is a 2-hour (Monday) 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. We would like a long-term lease on gentle, healthy horses to be used in our therapeutic riding program. Working in the easy pace of the therapy program 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 the horses in the program. Contact Deb at Westwindriding@gmail.com

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.

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 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

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