

SCCHA Newsletter September2023

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

To: lindsayao@yahoo.com

Date: Thursday, September 7, 2023 at 11:15 PM PDT

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

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



President's message:

First, the good news. Actually, it's all good news.

Our first-ever Open House

Saturday, September 9 from 10 to 4

has come together nicely. We're going to show off our Club and our horses! Please tell your non-horsey friends about it, and please come yourself. Equestrian vaulting, horseback archery, fitness exercises for you and your horse, gymkhana, about 30 different breeds of horses. It's a great Big Deal. If you're hauling in, please try to get there by 9ish.

Good news continues... State Parks has heard us. A planner from the Reimagining Big Basin group reached out to me earlier this week and wants to meet with a few of us about equestrian needs in Big Basin State Park. This won't be about trails; the conversation will be limited to facilities equestrians need—like parking. Your voices were heard. Thank you for filling out those surveys. Finally, we at least have a voice at the table.

Thank you also for your feedback regarding our monthly membership meetings. One strong take-away: It seems clear that Tuesday evening meetings are at a rough time. We're either feeding horses and/or children, getting home from work, or all of the above. Plus nobody wants to sit in traffic. Nowadays, many of our members don't live nearby. Rather than continue to drag this horse to water, the Board is looking at ways to cut down the number of in-person meetings and make them easier to attend.

Back in the olden days when the Club was formed, it was a requirement that the Board hold a monthly membership meeting. That's still a requirement that we struggle to fulfill.

Ring the bell at last month's Working Equitation Playday.
(photo by Darren Hawks)



Important Dates:

9/9 Progressive Open House
9/16 WE Playday
9/23 WE Clinic—Ali Kermeen

For more info, click the links below:

A lot of information that used to be presented at monthly meetings is now in our newsletter, on social media, and on the Club website. We can go to our website to look at the Club's finances, upcoming events and pictures of past events. The days of having to go to a monthly meeting to share information is a distant memory.

Among the options we're considering: quarterly meetings that would be social, fun, and at a different time. A lot of you suggested Zoom meetings. We're looking at that option, maybe combining it with a reduced number of in-person meetings. We've had some well-attended meetings devoted to a single topic, like Darren Hawks' presentations on Working Equitation, and the Horse Camping Clinic presented by San Martin Horsemen's Assn, which was on a Saturday. We also have some great ideas—Patricia Davis, one of our directors and a master bread baker has offered to teach us to make sourdough bread and pancakes for horse camping.

We're going to mull this over and will come up with something creative, I'm sure. In the meantime, please let me know if you have any objections to changing the monthly membership meetings. Like, if you really, really, really want to come to a meeting every third Tuesday at 6:30 p.m.

See you at the Open House!!

—Robin Musitelli

Don't forget to check the SCCHA website for more events and for archived photos of past events:
<https://sccha.wildapricot.org/>

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



Free admission
Open to the public & nonmembers.
Limited horse camping available
by reservation.

We're Showing Off!
OPEN HOUSE

Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association
1251 Graham Hill Road

SCCHA will be the first of three horse clubs (along with Santa Clara and San Martin Horsemen's) to host a progressive open house. We invite the public and all equestrians to come get to know us.



Saturday, September 9
10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Performances:

10 a.m. Encore Equestrian Vaulters are dedicated athletes who perform gymnastics on a trotting & cantering horse. Based in LaSelva Beach, Encore is open to vaulters ages three through adults.

11 a.m. Horseback Archery with Adam Sewell, a talented stunt guy who teaches this popular sport. Don't miss his performance. Sign up at his booth if you're interested in horse archery classes at SCCHA.

12 noon. Parade of Breeds. Learn about different horse breeds as their owners show them off in the main arena. Line up starts at 11:30.

1 p.m. Fitness exercises for you and your horse with Jec Ballou, the amazing fitness guru/rider/author/podcaster/clinician. Jec will demonstrate exercises for you & your horse. Be sure to peruse her books and exercise plans at her booth.

Food & drinks available for purchase.

*Groom a Pony! Meet Mini Horses & Donkeys!
Learn Why Horses are an Important Part of Our Community!*



For more info, text Robin at 831.331.5067



September 16 Working Equitation Playday

Come join in the fun for our third WE Playday at SCCHA!

\$25 SCCHA members/\$35 non-members

A WE course will be set up with these obstacles: Bull (Retrieve Pole/Spear Ring/Replace Pole), Pen, and Double Slalom, Bell Corridor and Jug.

There will be an auto-tutorial at each station. Participants will spend seven minutes at an obstacle on their own, then rotate to another obstacle each seven minutes. After everyone in the session has practiced each obstacle, participants will do a full course one at a time, once, with no schooling. You can sign up for more than one session.

Four sessions are offered: 10am, 11:15am, 12:30pm and 1:45pm. Max of 5 riders per session, all breeds, all riding disciplines and in hand are welcome!

To register, click the link below. For questions, contact Darren, morgansrule@sbcglobal.net



September 23 Working Equitation Clinic

Ali Kermeen will be back again! A top WE rider and author of "The Working Equitation Manual," Ali knows how to make her clinics fun and relaxed while you learn. Take your WE skills to a new level. Ali really gets in there and supports horse and rider!

\$180 for 3-hour group session

\$25 audit fee

There will be 4-8 people in the morning, and a second session of 4-8 people in the afternoon.

Ali will have copies of her book available for \$30 during lunch break.

All breeds and all disciplines welcome! To get on the list for this clinic, contact:

Darren Hawks
morgansrule@sbcglobal.net
(831) 234-9080





Volunteering is a great way to make a new best friend or strengthen connections as we all work together. We hope to see you at our next event!

Working Equitation at SCCHA

► September 16 WE PlayDay

Come see the sport in person, hang out with great people, support WE, and have some fun!

Morning set up (8:30-10:00?) Measuring, moving things around, posting directions; no heavy lifting.

During sessions, help reset obstacles in arena, time rotations, support horse/rider teams. Maybe two+ hours, 10:00-3:00?

Afternoon break down (around 3pm)

► September 23 WE Clinic

Morning set up (8:00-9:00) Need one able-bodied person to help with heavy stuff, as well as others who can help set things up.

Stay and audit for \$25 and learn about Working Equitation!

Contact Darren Hawks at morgansrule@sbcglobal.net or text (831) 234-9080 if you are interested in helping with an event or if you have questions.

★ Welcome New SCCHA Members: ★

★ Dr. R.E. Samuels

★ Emmet Brophy & family



Calling all Cowgirls and Cowboys!

Three-Day Ranch Camp/Retreat September 29 - October 1st

Hosted by Sandi Parker, this retreat will include a 3e-hour horsemanship workshop each morning, cow flag working simulations, as well as a fun obstacle workshop and friendly challenge. All levels welcome!



On October 14, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority will host a free Community Day celebration at the newly opened 1,859-acre Máyyan 'Ooyákma – Coyote Ridge Open Space Preserve. The event will feature special speakers and fun family-friendly activities.

Due to limited space at this stage, horse trailer parking is available only Wednesday through Friday by reservation.

Equestrian groups could inquire about a permit to host an event. With over 1,000 ft elevation gain, the trail up to the ridge is quite a steep (and exposed) but most of the trails are old, wide ranch roads. The steeper trails may not be ideal for older horses, but endurance riders may find them perfect for conditioning.

For more information, or to make a reservation, email info@openspaceauthority.org or call (408) 224-7476

SUMMIT RIDERS PRESENTS FALL PLAY DAY SATURDAY OCTOBER 14 2023



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August 2023

Endurance Clinic

A Recap by Melissa Broquard (& Polly)

Quicksilver Endurance Riders and SCCHA hosted an "intro to endurance" clinic at the end of August. I signed up with my young Haflinger Polly, not so much because we're ready to go off and do an LD—we're not!—but because we could both use the exposure and confidence-building.

This was Polly's first time camping, aside from flood evac stays at a friend's house and the fire evac three years ago. This was also my first time camping in my trailer. No issues! She was even kind enough not to repeatedly dump over the water bucket!

We hauled in Friday evening and unloaded in the dark. The goal was to get there before dark, but as with most things horses, there's always one more thing.. and one more thing.. and oh maybe we'll need this. It was fine! Easy parking, nearby hose to fill Polly's water bucket, unexpectedly knew the folks we parked next to which is always a bonus.

Saturday was lecture day. There is an incredible wealth of endurance knowledge and history in this area. Those new to endurance may not realize it, but we are really very lucky in that regard. Nick Warhol, Debbie Boscoe, and Jill Kilty-Newburn spoke to us about the basics, what to do, what not to do, and why. They shared their stories of things that went well, and things that did not go so well. We heard their conditioning and feed recommendations, more resources to look into. (I took notes. So much was covered I'm barely scratching the surface here.) Join AERC, get a mentor, ask lots of questions and be receptive to the answers. We heard from a vet: vets are your friends, not your enemies. We're all in this for the welfare of the horse. Sometimes that means pulls (non-completions) and that is OK! Advocate for your horse, you know them best. If something isn't right, talk to the vets.

And there were even more speakers. Our fabulous organizers also brought back a rider who participated in last year's clinic and is still early in their endurance career. They shared their struggles and victories over the last year, what has worked for them, what has been more challenging. In contrast, we also heard from Becky Hart, a three-time World Champion among many other things. She shared her recommendations and stories from many years of endurance riding. It's always a joy to hear from Becky, and I learn something new every time. A saddle fitter talked to us about the many, many different saddle types and options that are out there, what to look for, what different terms mean. She also did a demo with a participant's horse so we could all see the differences and what "good" fit looks like. Jerry Wittenauer brought glow sticks and zip ties for our night ride. He gave us the science behind

horses seeing in the dark. Jerry also talked us through when to use, or not use, headlamps on the trail, red light vs white light, when to use glowsticks instead of a headlamp, and more.

There was a "vet check" on Saturday evening where all participants did an endurance-style vet in. I know how this works; Polly does not know how this works. We've been practicing trot-outs for five years now so that's not a big deal for her. She thought some of the poking and prodding was a bit strange. However, she was delightfully good about it. (Why does this surprise me after several years of new-and-exciting vet visits with this horse? I have no idea.) Trotted out and back when asked. Good pony.

Saturday night there was a short night ride around the Showgrounds. The good: Polly was sane enough that I got on with only a little bit of help, and I did not instantly channel my stress at her. Fetti and I did a reasonable amount of riding in the dark, sometimes at speed. Polly and I ride mostly at twilight. My anxiety wasn't about the darkness. I was more worried about going out with other horses. I definitely held on her face too much, but we had a minute or two of civilized walk/trot. The bad: when another horse in our group did some shenanigans, Polly and I both ran out of brainpower. There are definitely things I would have done differently in hindsight. End result was that I hopped off and handwalked my fire-breathing dragon back on in, eventually letting her move her feet in the round pen to work off some of the compiled anxiety.

Sunday morning, Nick offered trailer backing sessions. I am not a trailer backing expert; I very happily signed up. No matter how great your family or significant other may be about helping with your trailer, it's always nice to get coaching from someone unrelated! Nick gave me a refresher on the basics and talked me through some of the areas where I was struggling with fantastic patience and explanations. I'm really surprised no one else signed up, and I hope it gets offered again next year, this is super fantastic to have.

Sunday was the group ride. We were split into three groups for this. Jill led our third group, followed by two junior sisters on their horses, a lovely lady (whose name I forgot at least a dozen times over the weekend) on her super zen chestnut mare, and Polly bringing up the rear.

Polly stood perfectly still for me to get on despite horses milling around. We went out calmly at the back of the group. For a horse that nearly always leads at home, it was great to see that Polly went just as well in back.

The culvert of doom was an absolute non-issue. "Huh. That's weird. Guess we walk over it. Whatever."

Polly trotted out nicely when asked and the group started moving. We're both lacking fitness. We're also very new to trotting over trails with things like sharp turns and tree roots. Periodically Polly and I would be thinking really hard about feet and form and posture and balance and WOOPS the group was walking and we missed it. Again, saint of a mare in front of us absolutely did not care. (Not that I'd recommend this, either! But it was nice to not have to expend the mental bandwidth on also having discussions with Polly about always always always keeping more space; she was good about it when I insisted, and it's one we'll need to keep working on.)

When Polly got tired, she went at a respectable Polly-speed walk. She did not insist on staying with the group or trotting to catch up (though she would if I asked). We had a few "no you may not trot down hills" conversations. Those felt mostly like balance problems, not a desire to stay on top of everyone else. Fixable problems.

After Polly tripped and went to her knees, I made the call that she was done trotting. Tired pony! Which sucked, as there were some really nice trottable sections, but: she wasn't ready.

Zen Mare and her rider offered to stay back with us while the other three went on ahead, and Jill agreed, and I was very appreciative, and that all worked out nicely. Polly kept a nice marching walk. Zen Mare was very polite when the other horses trotted off in front of us, and even when she did a slow-motion canter at walk speed, Polly kept to her walk.

Polly and I opted out of the second loop. We had only gone five miles, but that was already the longest ride I'd asked her to do, the most hills, the most trotting, in a group—and handled all of it fabulously. I think everyone else went back out and got the full experience, which is awesome!

We did our "final vet check" after I pulled tack and brushed her off. She was tired but willing to trot out when I asked. There were some areas of slight concern; they were all perfectly reasonable and non-concerning when put in the context of our fitness and experience level.

In short: delighted. There's a lot of conditioning work to be done before we go to a 25. It's incredibly reassuring that she's grown up enough mentally to handle something like this, and that's really what we needed to get out of it.

Good pony.



Melissa and Polly (above, 2nd from left) prepare for the riding part of the Endurance Clinic. Left, the sand trail as seen from the back of Polly. Below, Debbie Boscoe teaching the classroom part of the Clinic.





A tip from Kermit:

***"I Neigh for Dr. Novick—
He comes when you call!"***

Check out Bayview Equine and other veterinary services on the Local Resources page on the SCCHA website

WANTED

We need your

Stories, Photos, Suggestions, Recommendations

Tell us about your horse, yourself, your equine experiences. Let us know what you'd like to read about in this newsletter.

Send Karen an email:

palmviewfarm@comcast.net



SCCHA member Jessica Howard has been a pillar of strength in our community. Many of us saw Jessica put her life completely on hold during the CZU Fire Evac to run the equestrian part of the Fairgrounds refugee program. She has always been first to action in times of trouble, and now it is our turn to support her.

Jessica was recently diagnosed with aggressive breast cancer. She will be unable to work for the next year while she undergoes surgery, chemo, and radiation, and she is ineligible for disability benefits.

One of Jessica's greatest rescue stories is her herd of six horses, each with their own story of overcoming hardship, given a chance at life under Jessica's love and care. Their care averages \$2000 a month for food, vet, and hoof care.

If you would like to help ensure that her beautiful herd stays together and is cared for during the next year, click the link at the bottom of the page to visit the gofundme page that has been set up for Jessica.

For Sale:

Contact:

**laurelharlamoff@
hotmail.com**



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[Fundraiser for Jessica Howard by Jamie Lafollette : Help Jessica & her horses while she battles cancer \(gofundme.com\)](https://www.gofundme.com/fundraiser-for-jessica-howard-by-jamie-lafollette)

Upcoming Events 2023 *For more details, see SCCHA FB and website.*

9/9	Progressive Open House	Stay tuned for more details!
9/16	Working Equitation Playday	morgansrule@sbcglobal.net
9/23	Working Equitation Clinic/Ali Kermeen	morgansrule@sbcglobal.net
9/29	3-Day Ranch Campout Retreat	sandiparker@gmail.com
10/14	Summit Riders Playday	www.summit-riders.com
10/19	Tri County Horsemen Campout	10 pens reserved 10/19-10/23

Trading Post

Exiss CX-300 gooseneck, 3-horse slant, 2002, stock combo trailer with large tack room. \$13,500. Aluminum, good condition. Call 707-245-7896.

Small Rental wanted for Julie Carpenter, a well-known, local trainer. Needs a small studio, can share kitchen. Prefers location in SLV but not critical. She has a very friendly, extremely well-trained dog. I have known her well for several decades, and strongly recommend her as a low-key, kind, and highly responsible person. Please contact her directly via phone or text: (831) 818-3129. Posted by Renee Shepherd, SCCHA Lifetime Member

Room available mid-July near Summit Woods/Store with its own bathroom. We share kitchen, dining room, extensive deck/yard, outdoor cooking facilities, parking. We have 2 horses and are open to the possibility of a third horse...The people and the horses need to be compatible, so we're looking for a good match. For the room, \$1400 includes utilities, wifi, DISH TV, etc plus our charming company. First/last, no lease. No smoking, drugs, no pets. Drop us a line with some information about yourself and your phone number and we'll give you a call. Suwanda@surfnetc.com. 415 519 8031. Thanks!

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.

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The more you can naturalize their lives, the better off they will be—mentally, physically and emotionally. And if you do allow them the most natural lives possible, at least 21-22 hours a day, maybe you can still keep your horses fit, sound, healthy and happy even if competition is your thing.

—Jill Willis, Paddock Paradise Track System

*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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palmviewfarm@comcast.net

Thank You to our Board and all our Volunteers!
★ **2023-2024 Board of Directors**

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