



# SCCHA NEWSLETTER

November 2018

## From the President

Hello Members,

I wish you all Happy Thanksgiving and it's coming fast, Merry Christmas. Your SCCHA Board, with help from many volunteers has been busy this past year. The show grounds look great and we've had several successful events. One of the things we've done that I'm the most enthusiastic about is the survey we sent out to every member. Member input and volunteerism is really the fuel that helps sustain a successful club. Please keep up the good work! The results of the surveys are included on your SCCHA web site. Our next big club event is one of the most fun. Please mark your calendar for the Christmas party Dec 9.

Thank you to all of you who have taken time to share your stories and photos about your adventures with your horses for our newsletter — keep 'em coming! This will be the last newsletter until early February — we traditionally do not publish in November and December. The next deadline for submission will be the last Tuesday of January, the 22nd, and every last Tuesday of the month ongoing. I'd like to thank Sarah Miles and Lindsay Overton for putting together the last few newsletters and doing an awesome job. Sarah, unfortunately, is not able to continue as the editor and I'd like to thank her for her efforts and she will be sorely missed. Please contact any board member if you have interest in helping out with the newsletter.

Enjoy the holidays!

Karen





## **Equestrians Welcome at the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's Preserves**

**by Kathy St John**

If you're looking for some place new to ride, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority would like to encourage you to explore their four preserves that have equestrian trails that can be accessed with a permit. You can learn more about three of the preserves at [openspaceauthority.org](https://openspaceauthority.org).

The Authority opened a fourth preserve, the Diablo Foothills Open Space Preserve in Gilroy, to equestrians, hikers and cyclists for three consecutive weekends at the end of October and the beginning of November. Helen Clary and I and our pals Panda and Smarty made the trek over from Boulder Creek on October 28. It took us almost two hours to get to the preserve that the Authority describes as "an 819-acre undeveloped preserve with rolling hills, oaks, ponds, and creeks that are part of the primary watershed for the Pajaro River and Coyote Creek. The preserve features Coast Live Oak and annual grasslands and provides habitat for the threatened California red-legged frog and endangered California tiger salamanders."

The preserve is just lovely and it would be a great place to ride in the winter when our mountain trails are sodden. The trails were well maintained and wide and the vistas were gorgeous. The hills themselves are stunning and the views over Gilroy and towards Mt. Diablo invite you to stop and try to get that perfect pic between your horse's ears. The trails are unmarked and there are some very steep slopes that some riders chose to dismount to go down. We were happy that we had a docent leading us on our first adventure in the preserve but the land is pretty open and not that large so it would be hard to get really lost. However, it would be best to go on a day when you don't have any time constraints just in case you're so taken with the scenery and wildlife that you lose track of where you are.

The highlight of the ride for me was seeing two small herds of wild pigs running fast and furiously across the golden hills driven by some invisible force. They were close enough to us so we could enjoy the spectacle but far enough away for the horses not to be bothered. We also saw two red-shouldered hawks sparring with two golden eagles above the parking area after the ride. Also after the ride and near the parking area was a HUGE bobcat on a hill on the other side of the road sauntering along and hunting. It was such a thrill to see that wildlife in

such a spectacular setting! We'd hoped to see burrowing owls but the docent wasn't sure where to find them. Next time!

Diablo Foothills Preserve is located at 6280 Cañada Road in Gilroy. Cañada Road is narrow and windy in places but if you drive slowly and carefully it should be fine, even for large trailers. There is quite a large parking area that would accommodate maybe a dozen trailers, depending on their size. The parking area is located just after you pass the windmill on your left if you're coming into Gilroy and onto Cañada Road from the south. There was a porta potty but it may have been brought in especially for the open day event. There is no water in the parking area but there are troughs for cattle on the trails.

If you'd like to get a permit to ride in any of the preserves, please contact Teri Rogoway, the Santa Clara Valley Open Space Authority's Educational Programs Coordinator. She is a spunky and friendly person who is extremely enthusiastic about equestrians enjoying the trails. She'd be happy to arrange rides of any size. You can reach her at 408.224-7476 or [trogoway@openspaceauthority.org](mailto:trogoway@openspaceauthority.org)

I hope you will take advantage of these awesome open spaces that welcome equestrians. I know I'm eager to explore them all. And our docent told us about other equestrian events in nearby [Henry W. Coe State Park](#). Helen and I were sad to hear we'd missed out on a moonlight ride earlier in October. That one sounds especially fun so check out that website too!



Photos: Helen Clary on Panda (docent lead in background) and Gilroy as seen through the ears of Smarty!

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## Horse Shopping 101

by Kathie Lynch

### **The Dream...Here's the ad I was going to place:**

Great Western Trail Gelding Wanted! Must be sound; "been there done that" attitude; tons of real on the trail experience; able to go out alone or in groups; well-trained (and doesn't need more training or anything fixed); not spooky; smooth gaits; trailers perfectly (load, travel, and unload quietly with no fuss); friendly; excellent ground manners; age up to mid-teens; height up to 15.2. Good looks a plus! Excellent home guaranteed!

### **The Reality...Here's what I got:**

On the Plus Side: Western; gelding; sound; goes alone and in twos (so far); well-trained; trailers well; friendly; ground manners OK; age 8; good looks (a nice bay roan, but not at all the gorgeous Tobiano Paint I had envisioned!).

On the Off Side: not really "been there done that;" still needs lots of wet saddle blankets on the trail; a bit spooky; could use some tune up; pretty smooth; 14.3 hh (seems short to me!)

### **My Top 10 Horse Shopping Tips:**

- 1) Tell all of your friends, trainer, vet, and farrier that you're looking. Be willing to explore all options and follow up on all leads. Best bet: Buy from a friend!
- 2) Search all of the web sites daily (DreamHorse, EquineNow, BayAreaEquestrian, CraigsList). But, be very skeptical. They all sound great in the ad!
- 3) Talk to the owner/seller and ask a million questions (to the point of being a pain) before you invest the time, energy, and money to go see and try a horse.
- 4) Check out the owner/seller/business on [www.ripoffreport.com](http://www.ripoffreport.com). I found at least four of the sellers I dealt with had complaints against them. Let the buyer beware!
- 5) Take an even more knowledgeable person than yourself along when you go to see and try the horse. It makes a world of difference.
- 6) Try the horse several different times and in different situations/conditions. Be sure it fits you and your needs!
- 7) Ask for a trial period, if possible. (Unfortunately, that's often not possible due to the seller's concerns about liability and potential harm to the horse.)
- 8) Get a vet check, preferably not by the seller's own vet. Do X-rays as recommended for your type of riding.
- 9) Ask the vet to obtain a blood sample to be kept for 30 days in case you later suspect the horse was drugged.
- 10) Do not give a down payment sight unseen for a horse you see advertised on the Internet. Stupidly, I once did that, and it cost me \$500, a trip to Arizona, and a big lesson learned!

If all else fails, consider this old Italian proverb:

"In buying horses and taking a partner,  
shut your eyes and commend yourself to God!"

Pictured below, new saddle pals Kathie Lynch and Frosty Joe!



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### **Battle of the Barns 2018 - RESULTS!**

**Each team donated \$40 through their registration fees to help with 2 half scholarships at Lichen Oak Adaptive Riding Center and LOARC volunteers raised \$125 selling waffles!**

TEAM 1 - MOON VALLEY MAYHEM - ***SECOND PLACE!*** & *Most Original Artwork*

Jane Brown   Amanda Langlais   Sheryl Germany   Judi Halpin

TEAM 2 - SCOOT AND HIS GROOVY GIRLS - ***BEST HORSEMANSHIP*** (award) & *Best Color Coordinated*

Genae Kindscher   Kiley Brown   Jordyn Edelstein   Hailey Polizio

TEAM 3 - BOULDER CREEK BOYZ - ***FIRST PLACE!*** & *Best Teamwork*

Janie Strang   Rebecca Crill   Chris Rice   Rachel Crill

TEAM 4 - EQUISANCE ECHOES - *Could Be Heard Everywhere!*

Russel Beggs Annabella Beggs Deleta Jones

TEAM 5 - REIN DANCERS - *Most Graceful*

Darren Hawks Desiree Ventura Tamar Hughs Sheri Rath

TEAM 6 - FRINGED FRENZY- *Best Dressed*

Heather Shupe Pat Duran Holly Hudson Lewis Liz Riehl

TEAM 7 - VILLAGE PEOPLE - *Best Team Name*

Kelly Klett

TEAM 8 - UN-STABLE - *Most Unstable*

Jaime Donato Kathy Rodoni Marlene Takle Wendi Silva

TEAM 9 - CB BETTY'S - *THIRD PLACE! & Prettiest Ladies*

Emily Hogye Michelle Boole Rachel Shupe Katelyn Praly

*Thank you judges: **Steve Shupe, Bonnie Stoehn & Karen Bish** (couldn't have done it without you!*

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## **Jack Brook Trail Update**

**submitted by Liz Riehl**

For those of you who have ridden at Jack Brook horse camp near Pescadero over the last two years, you've been aware that the West Brook trail has been closed due to the Town

Creek Bridge being washed out by a storm. This essentially has blocked off a main access to other trails in the park.

As you would imagine, the Woodside riders have been working diligently behind the scenes to get this bridge reconstructed. In conjunction with some volunteers, the San Mateo County park rangers, a civil engineer and the Mounted Patrol Foundation, they have been working on the permit process, the bridge design and are making plans to raise the needed funds to do this project.

Because this bridge crosses a creek and has its foundations in the creek, it is subject to the Department of Fish and Wildlife review. Currently, the Environmental Impact Review is underway and expected to be done over the winter along with finalization of the building and construction plans by the civil engineer. Unfortunately, no construction work of this type is allowed from October 15 to April 15. Weather permitting, and if the creek isn't too high at that time, work is expected to begin in mid to late April with hopes of completion by early June.

The Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County Foundation is a not-for-profit 501c organization. They will be leading the charge on raising money for this bridge reconstruction. The projected cost of the project is \$25K-\$30K. They have successfully raised funds for many previous trail projects and equestrian facilities and activities in the Woodside area and are a highly respected organization. [Check out their website for further information.](#)

An official flyer will come out in January 2019 explaining in more detail the Towne Creek Bridge project and how you can help by contributing funds or volunteering your services. We will keep you posted, as more information is available. Lets help get this trail re-opened!

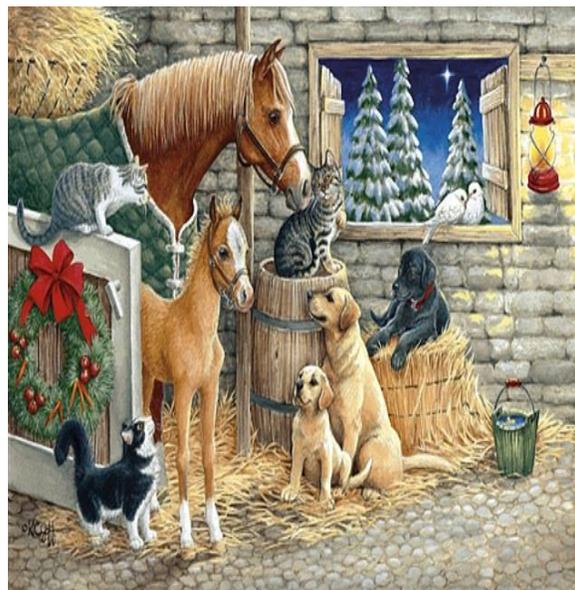
## Join us for holiday cheer!

December 9  
6pm - 9pm at the Clubhouse

A wonderful opportunity to put your boots up and have fun catching up with friends. Don't miss the games, awards and annual slideshow!

Please bring side dish or dessert and beverage of choice; the club will provide turkey and ham.

[please RSVP to Robin](#)



## CLUB CALENDAR

*Events sometimes change, CALL BEFORE YOU HAUL*

Nov 8	Meeting to provide public comment on <b>CEMEX DRAFT Restoration and Reuse Plan</b> . 6pm - 8pm at Pacific Elementary School, 50 Ocean St., Davenport. <a href="#">Please click here for more info.</a>
Nov 13	<b>Redwood Riders General Meeting</b> at SCCHA- contact <a href="#">Kathy Rodoni</a> for more info
Nov 16 - 18	<a href="#">TTouch Clinic with Linda Tellington-Jones</a> at <b>Rancho Ruiz, Gilroy</b> Amazing opportunity to help an insecure horse with world famous Linda Tellington-Jones using her system of TTouches that she has invented to address discomfort, whether emotional, behavioral or tactile.
Nov 20	<a href="#">Membership Meeting 6:30</a> at SCCHA Clubhouse Nadia Hamey, forester at San Vicente Redwoods will tell us about the park, the trails and the animals that live there!
Dec 8	<a href="#">Dig Day at Wilder Ranch</a> In partnership with Mountain Bikers of Santa Cruz, SCCHA is sponsoring a Dig Day to work on re-routing the West Englesman fire road trail in Wilder Ranch. <a href="#">Click here for more info and/or to sign up.</a>
Dec 9	<b>SCCHA Holiday Party at the Clubhouse 6pm - 9pm</b> Wild horses and burros are our theme this year! We are planning our trademark fun including games, awards and year-in-review slide show! Please bring a side dish or dessert to share and beverage of choice. SCCHA will provide turkey and ham for the

	main course.
	TURN THE PAGE...NOW WE ARE IN 2019!!
March	<b>First Aid/CPR class</b> given by Felton Fire at <b>SCCHA Clubhouse</b> . Exact date tbd. Cost \$40, please <a href="#">contact Kathy Rodoni</a> for more info and to sign up!
May 4	<b>Ride for Relay</b> at SCCHA! A ton of fun for a good cause! Come join the fight against cancer. Want to be a sponsor? for more information contact Mary Sullivan-White at 831-331-6227
May 18-19 2019	<a href="#">Endurance Clinic hosted by Nick Warhol</a> in Harvey Bear Park, San Martin"Interested in learning more about the sport of endurance? Already interested and ready to learn the basics? This clinic is for you!
June	<b>Krista Koenig Clinic</b> (contract pending and final date tba)
June 16-24	Private Event at <b>SCCHA</b> , PVHC Kids Camp <a href="#">contact Michelle LeClaire for more info</a>
June 22,23	<b>Redwood Riders</b> at <b>SCCHA</b> . Big arena reserved. <a href="#">contact Kathy Rodoni</a> for more info
July 13	The <b>Fireworks Endurance Ride</b> will be July 13th, 2019, with riders arriving beginning July 11th. The campgrounds WILL BE CLOSED FROM JULY 11TH, NOON, THROUGH JULY 14TH, NOON. This is a very big event/fundraiser for our club, and thank you for understanding. If you'd like to help, please <a href="#">email Debbie Boscoe</a>
Aug 24, 25	<b>Redwood Riders</b> at <b>SCCHA</b> . Big arena reserved. <a href="#">contact Kathy Rodoni</a> for more info
Sep 12-	

15	<b>Buster McLaury Clinic at SCCHA</b> (contract pending) contact <a href="#">Bonnie Stoehn for more info</a>
Sept 28	<b>Battle of the Barns at SCCHA.</b> Event limited to 12 teams. Stay tuned for registration. <a href="#">Contact Carol Kelley for more info.</a>
Oct 25-27	<b>Ricky Quinn Clinic at SCCHA</b> (contract pending) Big arena reserved. Cow clinic and horsemanship clinic. <a href="#">Contact Lisa Boyer for more info</a>

Get lots more information on the club's [Event page](#)

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Be sure to connect with us on Facebook for breaking stories, cute pics and camaraderie!

<https://www.facebook.com/Santa-Cruz-County-Horsemens-305203079460/>

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## TRADING POST

**No items at this time**

Items listed on the Trading Post are from SCCHA Members only. Members can e-mail trading post item details to [lindsayao@yahoo.com](mailto:lindsayao@yahoo.com) no later than the 25th of the month.

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## Suggestion Box

Members are welcome to contact any board member with suggestions or to volunteer for club events. All good ideas are welcome!

### SCCHA Board of Directors

President	Karen Bish	440-7203	kbish@c21mm.com
Vice President	Debbie Boscoe	224-4960	dboscoe@pacbell.net
Past President	Elise Levinson	212-4635	
Treasurer	Steve Shupe	925 980-0354	RebelsRider@yahoo.com
Recording Secretary	Bonnie Stoehn	457.2224	bonnies@cruzio.com
Calendar Secretary	Carol Kelley	297-3342	carolkelley@davidlyng.com

Membership Secretary	Heather Shupe	408 348-9512	
Youth Programs	Jan Jensen	801-8434	ranchgal422@gmail.com
Director	Mary Sullivan-White	331-6227	sulliz28@yahoo.com
Director- Grounds	Robin Musitelli	338-8980	manemom@gmail.com
Director-Grounds	Kathy Rodoni	246-0441	kathyrodoni@gmail.com
Director	Jaime Donato	212-8332	jmequinn@aol.com
Grounds Caretaker	Tricia Dalton	566.4763	idratherbridin@yahoo.com
SCCHA Newsletter	it could be YOU!		
Website Admin	Lindsay Overton	588-8763	lindsayao@yahoo.com

*(Area code 831 unless otherwise noted)*

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