

## SCCHA News

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

To: lindsayao@yahoo.com

Date: Wednesday, September 4, 2019, 07:28 PM PDT



### *From the President*

Hello Members,

Another month passed that was full of activities here at the SCCHA show grounds. Redwood Riders had an event, there was a saddle fitting clinic and, even as I sit here typing, the Obstacle Challenge is taking place in the big arena. There are 40+ participants signed up. The obstacles look pretty fun and very challenging, and dinner sounds great. Should be a super event, and I'm sure we will have some pictures. I had fun last night and this morning helping get the participants checked in. I'd like to say that volunteering to help at any of these events is a great way to meet people, and we can always use the extra help.

It's hard to believe that summer is drawing to a close. Labor day is here, and Halloween is next. I hope we will still have some good Fall weather, and we can enjoy riding either on the show grounds or in the parks. Keep an eye on the event schedule; the Battle of the Barns is coming and that is always big fun.

I hope I see you on the trails!

*Next Member Meeting:  
September 17, 6:30 p.m at  
the Clubhouse*

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Karen

## Feature Articles

### The BackStretch Equine Rescue, Rehabilitation, and Retirement

*Mission Village Voice* recently had the pleasure of visiting Dennis Barwick, founder of The BackStretch Equine Rescue, Rehabilitation and Retirement, a 501c3 and a safe haven for abandoned, abused or neglected horses on a beautiful 35-acre ranch in Aromas. At this magical place, where their motto is "We rescue each other," they believe in giving horses the opportunity to be horses. A volunteer shared that, "It all starts with Dennis; his soul is here, and we all follow his lead. He is the kindest, most caring man I have ever met. He is here from 5 a.m. till 10 at night." His passion and dedication are evident throughout the ranch.

#### **MVV: How did BackStretch get started?**

DB: In 2011 I had an acquaintance who had 20 horses; she loved them, but she couldn't feed them, and she called me and said she was going to shoot 10 of them on the weekend and asked me if I could come. I didn't know what to do at that point. I certainly didn't have a rescue. I told her I would be there, and when I went there, something happened that day. I looked into the eyes of those horses and just told myself I would help them. So, I told her I would go and get something for them to eat and let me figure out what to do.

#### **What did you do?**

I went to Windfall Farms, previously owned by Alex Trebeck of Jeopardy, and asked if they would allow me to bring 10 horses over, and they graciously responded and allowed me to take the horses over there, and that began the rescue.

#### **How did you come up with BackStretch?**

Because many of these horses are on the backstretch of their lives with nowhere else to go, it was fitting to name it The BackStretch Equine Rescue, Rehabilitation & Retirement because it covers the whole gamut of everything I thought needed to be done with the horses.

#### **Where did you live back in 2011?**

I lived in Salinas and worked in Monterey. I would drive back and forth between Salinas and Paso Robles to feed them and realized that I LOVED doing it. I couldn't wait to get there, and I hated to leave them and come back home because I was thoroughly gratified by rescuing these horses and seeing them flourish.

#### **How long were you going back and forth?**

About a year and then I moved them back to Salinas and there the rescue began to grow. People heard, and I began to get calls from California, Nevada, New Mexico and Arizona. We've never turned down a horse; we've taken every horse that anybody has ever called us about, and today we have 63 here at our ranch in Aromas.

#### **How many horses have you taken in and given for adoption?**

Twenty-three have been adopted out, and we've taken in about 90 over the course of time. Many of them will never be adopted because some have disease, such as blindness, arthritis, liver disease. A lot of time folks who come here to adopt want a perfect horse. In my eyes they are perfect, but not to everyone, so some horses can be here for retirement. As long as they live, they can have a place to live here.

#### **When did you buy this property?**

As our rescue numbers grew, we outgrew our properties. We found this property 2 years ago and knew this was it. There was nothing here, no roads, nothing. It's still a lot of work in progress. This is where we've made our home, and we love Aromas. The community here has really rallied behind us to support us, and it has just been a wonderful experience. I think we are now the largest rescue on the Central Coast.

#### **Do you have a horse background?**



Karen when she's not volunteering.



**Obstacle Challenge Photos:**

I grew up on a farm in North Carolina -- no horses, only cattle and pigs. Never had horses.

#### **And your wife?**

She was really one of those that said, "If this is what you want to do..." Over time she has become such a great help and enthusiastic supporter of what we are doing.

#### **How do you keep this place running?**

We have an amazing staff of volunteers. ALL OF THEM touch these horses' lives; this is way beyond my touch. Our volunteers come almost every day of the week. It really takes a village to make this happen. We have safety classes that we take them through before they start doing any work here.

#### **Can you use more volunteers?**

We can always use more volunteers and donations. We became a 501c3 non-profit just a few months ago, so we can certainly use the support.

#### **What is your feed bill?**

Right now, it's about \$9000 a month. My wife and I have been covering all the expenses. We have feed bills, farrier bills, vet bills. We have 16 horses that are on medications. I knew what I was getting into when I got into it, so there's no disappointment. You just do it, and we are grateful when anyone does anything to help to support us. It really does help.

#### **You do all the feeding?**

Yes, I do all the feeding. I do that for a reason because it's my time with the horses. I tell everybody I feed 54,000 meals a year. It's my time to evaluate all the horses, to touch all of them, and to see what is going on with their day. I know immediately if one doesn't come up, something is wrong. It gives me my chance morning and night to evaluate them.

#### **How long does it take to feed?**

Typically, 2 hours in the morning and 2 hours in the evening

#### **I see this arena; you work horses here too.**

We have training for all ages and all different types of riders from Western to European. If you are just beginning, we can train you all the way through. We can provide a horse and tack if necessary. All you have to do is come and sign up with our trainer. We have one of the largest arenas in the area; it's 150 x 300 feet, and we have a 60-foot round pen.

#### **What else do you offer?**

We have trail rides; we teach driving wagons with the big draft horses at our driving school. We have a driving club; our horses just pulled the wagons in the Monterey 4th of July Parade. We provide almost every kind of exposure from somebody who is interested in riding to carriage driving; whatever you like. G.I. Josie is based here too.

#### **What is G.I. Josie?**

It is a women's veterans' foundation that supports women suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, and it's wonderful having G.I. Josie here. Some of the women who wouldn't otherwise come out of their homes are now coming here to be with the horses and providing great therapy for them. Whole Foods has become a sponsor for G.I. Josie with plans to create a big organic garden out here.

#### **You also have Equine Collaborative Healing out here?**

Yes, a wonderful organization directed by Jennifer Fenton which provides therapy to autistic children, children with ADD, eating disorders, rage issues, disturbed teenagers and other issues. Many of the school districts and County Health Departments are seeing the value of Equine Therapy and referring individuals here for much needed therapy. Equine Collaborative Healing has several qualified clinicians with master's degrees available to provide assistance.

#### **This is a beautiful property; do you have events out here?**

Yes, we are available for weddings, birthday parties and other events. It's a wonderful environment for events because of all the interaction with the horses, mini horses, goats, donkeys etc. -- any events we open to the surrounding communities.

#### **What should someone do if they would like to visit the ranch?**

Just call us so we know to expect you, and that way we can have someone here to show you around and make sure the staff is prepared.

#### **And the future?**

Our overall vision is to have a rehabilitation center. We will have a 20-stall ICU and that will be for horses that are really traumatized. We've had horses come in with stakes through their girth, terribly lame, abscesses, deep abrasions, and



*Meg Smart and Jack enjoying the Obstacle Challenge at SCCHA. (Obstacle photos courtesy of Sheryl Germany, Jack's owner, and a volunteer at the event).*



*Jane Kameny Brown and Indy navigate the poles at the Obstacle Challenge.*



*Bridgette Rory Elliott and her pony show 'em how it's done!*



*Winners from the first day of the Obstacle Challenge. Congratulations! (Photo by Heather Shupe .Many thanks*

more. The ICU will have a sea walker, saltwater spa, a solarium, all to speed up their recovery. We've got new paddocks to put in as soon as our budget allows us. We are working on plans for a barn.

**You know the names of all your horses?**

Oh, every one. I can name every one of my horses in 3 minutes. The Backstretch tagline is "We rescue each other," and it really is true. I thought I was rescuing them when I started, but I realized they were rescuing me. And the cyclical affect -- reaching out and touching children, women and seniors, all those things -- I wouldn't have done that if I hadn't gotten involved in this.

**For more info or to make a donation:** contact BackStretch at 831.245.0458, email [backstretchrescue@gmail.com](mailto:backstretchrescue@gmail.com), or visit <https://backstretchrescue.org/>. BackStretch is located at 18500 Rea Avenue, Aromas.

**Flies:  
Know Your Enemy**

**by Karen Morgan  
SCCHA Newsletter Editor**

Fly Species	Approximate Size	Food Source	Preferred Egg-laying Areas
 House fly <i>musca domestica</i>	1/4 - 3/8"	Body secretions	Rotting organic matter
 Stable fly <i>stomoxys calcitrans</i>	1/5 - 3/10"	Blood	Rotting organic matter
 Horse fly <i>Tabanidae</i>	7/8 - 1"	Blood	Cattle manure/ Wetland vegetation
 Midges/Gnats <i>Culicoides</i>	1/25"	Blood	Mud/damp soil/ Rotting organic matter
 Bot fly <i>gasterophilus intestinalis</i>	2/3 - 3/4"	Nutrients/ blood in horse stomach	Forearms of horse/ pupates in manure

Above-average rainfall this spring, and a warm Indian Summer ahead = the perfect combination for flies in Santa Cruz County. Warm, wet conditions increase fly populations dramatically because flies need damp organic matter to breed, and they cycle from egg to adult much faster in heat. More flies mean more discomfort and more potential health problems for our horses.

Experts say that the more we know about flies, the more effective our efforts to control their populations will be. Here's what I've learned about flies and how to keep them off my equine friends:

- Insecticides should not be our first line of defense. Flies quickly become resistant to chemicals. The most important thing we can do to eliminate flies is to eliminate the damp, dirty places where they breed. Chemicals are not a substitute for sanitation.
- Adult flies should be killed with species-specific traps.
- Every horse should have a fly mask and sheet to protect him during fly season.
- The safest, most effective fly repellents are ones you make yourself.

Removing manure as often as possible should be a priority because each adult female fly can lay hundreds of eggs at a time, up to 1,000 in a lifetime of 1- 2 months. Each egg hatches into a larva, becomes a pupa, and emerges as an adult fly in as little as 10-12 days. If the surface of manure piles is dry, flies will still lay eggs, because their larvae burrow down to find moist layers. Other fly breeding materials include damp bedding, spoiled hay, and composting

*to Heather and her crew for a great event!)*

*Join Us for this Annual Event!*

**Battle of the Barns**  
(and the Arena Grand Opening!)  
**Saturday, September 28th**

- ★ Great Prizes!
- ★ Bragging Rights for Your Barn or Team!
- ★ Mounted Laser Pistol Shooting during Half Time!
- ★ Optional Horse Camping Friday/Saturday nites
- ★ Tri Tip Dinner/Sunday Breakfast available
- ★ only 12 teams accepted

contact [Carol.Kelly@gmail.com](mailto:Carol.Kelly@gmail.com) or the SCCHA website for more info

**Did You Know?**



*All SCCHA members are Affiliate Members of the California State Horsemen's Association.* As a founding member of CSHA, SCCHA has continued to support this statewide organization since its inception in 1942. CSHA is focused on providing equestrians with quality, family-oriented amateur events, educational programs and recreational activities for all equine breeds and disciplines.

Everyone is welcome to join CSHA directly. Becoming a CSHA direct member enables you to vote at the Annual Convention on rule changes and for the election of CSHA officers, and to participate in any CSHA program.

vegetation. Sweep under stable and trailer mats, behind feeders, in stall corners, and beneath fence lines. Some flies will even breed in wet soil around water troughs or in undisturbed urine spots. Use ultra fine bedding and cedar fiber to absorb and dry damp areas faster, and keep paddocks graded to prevent erosion and allow water to run off.

The two most common flies that plague our horses are house flies (*musca domestica*) and stable flies (*stomoxys calcitrans*). House flies feed on a horse's body secretions, including tears, nasal mucus, sweat, smegma, skin oils, and fluids from wounds. They breed in manure and locate horses by smell. They don't bite, but they spread disease and infection. Stable flies bite and feed on a horse's blood. They locate horses by both smell and sight.

Horse and deer flies (*Tabanidae*) also bite and feed on blood, but they usually breed near wetlands. Horn flies and face flies breed in cattle manure, but will feed on the blood of both cattle and horses.

Horses suffering from "sweet itch" may be allergic to the bites of several different fly species, including stable flies, although the usual suspects are *Culicoides* flies, the tiny "no-see-ums" that feed on blood at dawn and dusk. Females lay eggs in wet areas, including damp manure piles. These flies can be difficult to control in areas near ponds and streams, but manure management helps.

Female bot flies (*gasterophilus intestinalis*) don't breed in manure. They spray their eggs onto horses' forelegs where they most likely will be ingested. Removing them interrupts the life cycle of some, but the rest will migrate from the horse's mouth to his bloodstream, where they hatch into larvae that feed in the horse's gastrointestinal tract. The pupae are excreted in manure, which is another reason for frequent manure removal.

Trapping adult flies is our second line of defense. Most fly traps sold in feed stores will catch house flies, but only specifically designed traps (like the Starbar) will catch stable flies. Fly predators (tiny wasps that prey on the larvae of house and stable flies) can be helpful if manure can't be removed regularly (although removal is a better method). Barriers between flies and your horse are the third effective method of protection, and include sheets, masks, and leg wraps.

Applying repellents may be our last line of defense but, when used regularly and safely, they complete an effective fly management program. Both the CDC and the California Department of Public Health list oil of lemon eucalyptus as a repellent that is as effective and long-lasting as chemical repellents. There are many DIY fly spray recipes online, but they're essentially variations like this: 1 cup apple cider vinegar, 1 cup witch hazel or water, 1 Tb olive oil, 1 Tb liquid castile soap, and 1 tsp oil of lemon eucalyptus. The olive oil "carries" the essential oil, making it gentler for a horse's skin, and it helps the spray adhere to surfaces. The soap keeps the oils dispersed in the vinegar and witch hazel. Apply twice a day to a clean horse, and to the areas flies roost (look for fly specs on walls, ceilings, and rafters).

In summary, following the four steps to fly control will dramatically lower fly populations. May the fly NOT be with you and your horse!

For more info:

<https://www.cdph.ca.gov/Programs/CID/DCDC/Pages/NuisanceFlies.aspx#>

<https://stablemanagement.com/articles/fly-traps-horse-farm-32199>

<https://extension.psu.edu/filth-fly-control-on-horse-farms>

**Membership Report**  
**August 20, 2019 Meeting**  
 by Bonnie Stoehn,  
 SCCHA Director, Recording Secretary

SCCHA is part of Region 6, covering counties from Monterey thru San Francisco. The next upcoming event in our area will be the Gymkhana State Championship at the Santa Cruz County Fairgrounds on October 10-13.

To find out more about CSHA and read the "New Horseman" newsletter go to [www.californiastatehorsemen.org](http://www.californiastatehorsemen.org)

Information on Region 6 can be found here: [www.csharegion6.org](http://www.csharegion6.org)

### Redwood Riders Gymkhana Show



**The August 24 and 25th event at the SCCHA was their annual buckle show, historically run at the Santa Cruz Fairgrounds. The Club decided to run the Buckle show at SCCHA on the new grounds, and handed out five beautiful buckles to the lucky winners of both young and not so young riders!**



**Redwood Riders is a local Gymkhana Club located right here in Santa Cruz County. Their next show is September 22nd in Boulder Creek at Boulder Creek Stables. They host 7 shows per year, two of which are held at the SCCHA. Anyone can participate in Gymkhana, come check it out and follow them on Facebook at Redwood Riders D9 CGA for event information. Lots of fun!**

Big THANK YOU to everyone who showed up at Tuesday's membership meeting with Ben Blom, Bureau of Land Management's Central Coast Field Manager. Ben's presentation focused on the BLM Cotoni Coast Dairies National Monument, which is about 6,000 acres and sits just north of Wilder Ranch State Park extending around and beyond Davenport. Lots of potential for some world-class trail exploring with our horses!

Ben went into detail about the land's history, how it came to be a National Monument and what the time-line looks like for finalizing plans to open to the public. Questions ranged from "will trails be both multi-use and horse/hiker only?" to "Is there a chance the land will be used for fracking/oil exploration?" Yes, to the first and no to the second.

Right now they are awaiting a report summarizing all of the comments received (over 600) from the recent comment period which closed August 2. Hopefully you had a chance to write and state your interests. Two more comment opportunities are on the agenda, as the planning takes shape, and we will definitely keep you informed.

Ben expected there would be a final land use plan in about a year. He did point out, on one of his maps, 3 possible sites for equestrian trailer parking. Afterwards he asked me for suggestions on good existing designs, so our trail committee is gathering that information for him. Pull-throughs with water spigot, hitching rails and bathrooms would be good, don't you think?

Again thanks to you all who came out in person and those of you who sent in comments. So important for them to know we equestrians are interested and active! You can use this link for map and additional info:

<https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=120855>

**Trading  Post**

**Looking to buy:** portable corral panels for camping with the Club. [sccowgirl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:sccowgirl@sbcglobal.net) or text 831-212-4635.

**For Sale:** *Luken For An Invite (Flynn)*, Flashy dark brown 2018 AQHA gelding Reg#5873080 looking for forever home. Top breeding as an all-around prospect. 5-panel DNA test N-N. 15.1 hands at 16 months; should mature 16+ hands. Healthy, correct conformation, and great disposition. Would like to find someone experienced with young horses, preferably knowledgeable with natural methods. Flynn will make be a special partner, whatever your discipline. For price, videos, or more information, please contact: [palmviewfarm@comcast.net](mailto:palmviewfarm@comcast.net)



### *The New Cotoni Coast Dairies National Monument:*



*At the last member meeting, Ben Blom, BLM's Central Coast Field Manager presented the plans for the Cotoni Coast Dairies National Monument, with the potential for world-class trails!*

### *Welcome New Members!*

*New Members for August include:*

**Jody & David Rumsey & family  
Lori Dunn  
Denise Olson  
Robert & Marilyn Miller**



**Kimiko \$ Chayce Milheim & family**  
**Jennifer & Jacob Breese Kauth**  
**Christy Feigenbutz**  
**Nancy Chin**  
**Julie Roby**  
**Myrna Johnston**  
**Natalie & Brett Hodges & family**  
**Ida Ellis**  
**Joyce Nash**  
**Joni Springer**  
**Shannon Gotschall**  
**Patricia & Bryn Davis**

**For Sale:** *Lauriche Dressage saddle* 18", black, made in England, 2500.00 OBO. *Multiple snaffle bits:* french key, regular, gag style, 5.00 each. *Courbette leathers :* 30.00 black. English irons- 2 pairs 10.00 each. *Dressage girths* (black) Wintec 15.00, Leather 42/44" 40.00. *Misc:* A/P saddle pads, dressage pads available. Ursula can be reached at 831-818-9866 or [alamarana00@gmail.com](mailto:alamarana00@gmail.com)  
 Sorry, no texting available.

**For Sale:** 8 year old Arabian gelding, AERC registered, professionally trained, for endurance rides, needs intermediate middle-weight rider. 15H, easy keeper, \$5,500 OBO. Call Jeffrey Luternauer: 831-476-1407.

**For Sale:** 10 year old Rocky Mountain mare. 14.3H, gentle, very good with kids, sure-footed on trails and creeks. Easy trailering, natural healthy foot trim, never had shoes. Has been to three Linda Tellington clinics (her favorite mare for demo). Likes camping, has been to Jack Brooks, Roaring Camp. Very sound, UTD on all shots and dental. Looking for special home with room to roam. Text Shahla for video and pictures: 831-535-8070.

## September 2019 Events

Sept 6-8	Horse Harmony Clinic with Sandi	Sandi Parker 408-842-1015
Sept 17	Member Mtg with Exec Dir of MBOSC	debbieboscoe@gmail.com
Sept 20	Battle of the Barns!	carol.kelley@gmail.com

★ For more details and a complete list of 2019 events, see SCCHA website.

***Ideas? Suggestions? Stories? Photos? Want to advertise?***  
**Please contact us:**  
[santacruzhorsemens@yahoo.com](mailto:santacruzhorsemens@yahoo.com)

## 2018/19 Board of Directors

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