

The San Mateo HORSEMAN



Spring 2010

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COVER

Tanya Rebarchik
 Honoring our Past Editor

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Spring is my favorite time of the year with SMCHA... Rainy days are being replaced by sunny days bursting with blooming trees and blossoming flowers. Trails that have been closed for the winter will soon be open again - allowing us to meander along them as we get reacquainted as if with an old familiar friend. I promise you a fun-filled spring, summer and fall with your horses. Check out the 2010 calendar in the back of the magazine and notice the variety of activities that are planned. You'll see some popular, familiar traditions as well as some new clinics.

All of the clinics we did last year for the first time were so popular that we've brought them back this year. First, we have **Cheryl & David Busick** bringing us their expertise to the **Trail Course Clinic** on Sunday, April 18th. This year we will hold it at NCEFT in the covered arena. Rain won't interfere with our plans! Thanks goes to new SMCHA member, **Gari Merendino** of NCEFT, for his generous offer. Last year's **Ranch Versatility Clinic with Kathy Torres** sold out in 1 day! So this year Kathy agreed to put on 2 **Ranch Versatility Clinics**: Friday, May 7th and Saturday, August 14th. Of course, **Rich Braun** put on 3 awesome **Cow Sorting Clinics** last year with the invaluable partnership of **Joan McLaren**. Yep, Rich & Joan will be doing them again this year – May 8th and October 2nd. We'll be having one just for our Juniors on July 10th. All levels of experience are welcome. This is one of the most fun activities I've ever done with my horse. We both love cows! All of these clinics have limited space and will fill quickly so don't hesitate if you want to participate. Pick up the phone and make your reservation now. I'm not kidding...

We may have lost Bay Meadows Race Track in San Mateo - but there's still Golden Gate Fields in Berkeley. On May 2nd will be a new **Day at the Races**. This outing will include admission to the Turf Club, special seating on the finish line and a delicious prime rib buffet. We are even providing chauffeured transportation complete with refreshments en route! We've thought of everything... so come enjoy the sunshine and the warm company of fellow SMCHA members as we cheer on our favorite racehorses. You might even go home the big winner! See the special page elsewhere in the magazine for all the details. Space will be limited, so make your reservation now.

Last year's Halloween Play Day was such a huge success with our members – and laugh-out-loud fun – that this year we'll be having 2 Play Days. The first one will enjoy the benefit of wonderful Spring weather on May 22nd and the other one will be on October 30th.

The year just can't happen without the ever-popular **Western Riding Clinic** starting May 13th at Mounted Patrol Grounds. We are all grateful to the unwavering dedication of **Karen Rowley-Shawback** to this clinic. There's a special treat this year – thanks to Promotion Committee Chair, **Gretchen King**. You will have to show up to find out. Our wonderful tradition of **Jack Brook Horse Camp** will be July 21-25. This is one of my

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San Mateo County Horsemen's Association

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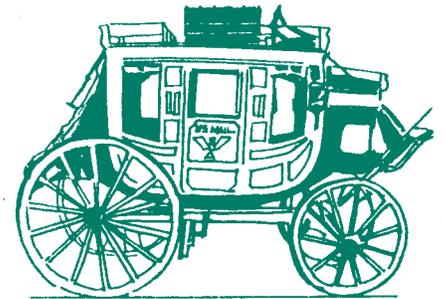
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The San Mateo HORSEMAN

Spring 2010

The official publication of
**San Mateo County
Horsemen's Association**

Published quarterly
January (Winter)
April (Spring)
July (Summer)
October (Fall)



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(Application on back cover)

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President's message, continued

favorite events that we put on. There is something really special about camping with my horse. It's our own little equine vacation together. My horse, Slick, just doesn't get to sleep in the tent with me! All of the wonderful camaraderie at breakfast in the morning and again around the campfire at night under the stars. It just doesn't get better than this. We don't even have to cook! SMCHA member, **Tim Stewart**, will once again do the honors as our chef. Everyone loves his delicious meals. This event has been SOLD OUT both of the last 2 years. I don't expect it to be any different this year. **Laurie Greenblat**, 2nd Vice President and Ride Chair, will be getting the information to you in our next mailer. Leslie is also busy this year planning our regular group rides. She has some special destinations planned. The first one is for our **Spring Ride** on Saturday, April 24th to Fifield-Cahill Ridge. Access to this special area is only with a docent. Luckily, **Mike Bushue**, SMCHA member and docent, has agreed to lead our group. This is a rare opportunity to ride and enjoy the beautiful San Francisco Peninsula Watershed lands.

Our first horse show, the **Western Schooling Show**, will be on Sunday, May 16th at Webb Ranch. This is a great opportunity to get first-hand feedback from the judge during the schooling classes. Whether you've ever been in a horse show or not, this is a great show to participate in. All levels of riders are encouraged to sign up. The information with registration forms was in the mailer you recently received. With **Cheryl Basin** in charge – along with **Noel Moody** – this event is guaranteed to be a success. A big "thank you" to **Joan McLaren** for all her support behind the scenes with our horse shows. That's one terrific cowgirl!

The last event I want to make sure you are aware of is a new one we are putting on this year. It's for men only and will be under the skilled leadership of popular trainer and SMCHA member, **Jason Attard**. Jason will be working to improve each participant's horsemanship skills. The **Cowboy Up Clinic** will take place at Mounted Patrol on in August. So all you cowboys – and wanna be cowboys – be sure to mark your calendars.

I'm still in the midst of planning a few social events: another Square Dance, a single's event and an outdoor dance with the California Cowboys. Junior Chair, **Dan Johndrow**, along with **Mike Raynor**, has some special events planned for our Junior members. Check on our website—www.smcha.org—to

find out more about all of these events as they get finalized. Our website is also a great place to view wonderful photos of all our activities. Thanks to our club photographer, **Sue Winslow**. She does such a terrific job.

I don't want to miss the opportunity to publicly thank **Nancy Kouchekey**, 1st Vice President, for the job she did putting on the **Spaghetti Feed & Bunco Tournament** in February. She did an outstanding job of not only organizing the event but she and **Sharon Butler** did all the cooking, too! What a woman! This year's event had the biggest crowd yet. Everyone ate well and had such fun playing Bunco together. SMCHA member and photographer extraordinaire, **Lori McIntosh**, generously donated a photo portrait of the recipient and their horse as a raffle prize for this event. Thank you, Lori. The money raised will help support our events this year. Hats off to you and your committee, Nancy. This event has quickly become a must do event on our annual calendar.

continued on page 4



Welcome New Members

Dana Krystofek, Dan Merrill
& Family- San Francisco

Robert & Kim Steinjann
& Family- San Carlos

Flore Dalles- Versailles, France

Gari Merendino- Menlo Park

Jeff Tucker - San Carlos

Samantha Tucker- San Carlos

Ken Kingsbury & Carolyn Shaw- Woodside



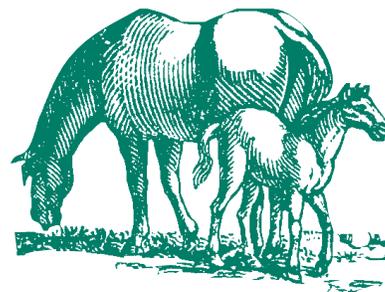
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President's message, continued

It wouldn't be a message from me without mentioning membership. I remain committed to seeing our membership reach 1000. We have had many new people already join SMCHA this year. We're glad to count you among us. Believe me, my goal of 1000 members is not about having a huge club. Having 1000 members assures us that our voice will be heard loud and strong when SMCHA speaks on behalf of our equestrian community. Having 1000 members assures that our beloved riding trails will be preserved and hopefully, remain bicycle free. Having 1000 members assures that the enjoyment and enrichment that we get from the equestrian community will be available to future generations. We still have a long way to go to reach 1000. I can't do it alone. It takes each of you inviting the friends you ride with, the trainers you learn from, the folks you share your barn with. It takes each of you renewing your membership each year. Invite others to become part of the heritage of this community. SMCHA is 70 years old this year. Let's make sure SMCHA and our equestrian community is around for another 70 years.

Happy Trails,

Barbara Stogner
President 2010



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HONORING OUR OUTGOING EDITOR: TANYA REBARCHIK

By Tanya Rebarchik

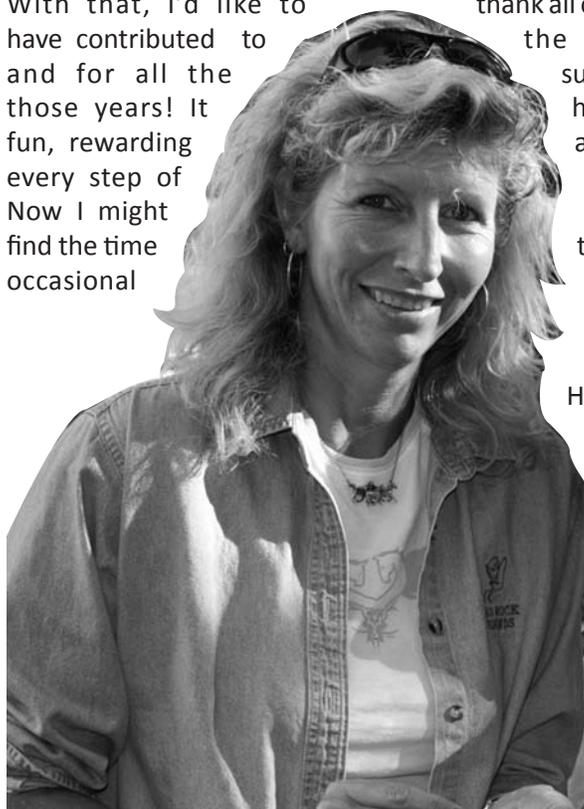
In 1997 or so, I started helping then-editor Linda Menon with the task of putting together the San Mateo Horseman magazine. I was a fairly new member then, and I figured it was a good way to get to know more of my fellow SMCHA members, and also to contribute something to the Club. Back then we still printed the pages and pasted them onto boards which were then hand-delivered to the printer, or, more accurately, the publisher would take a floppy disk and turn a bunch of raw files into a beautiful layout, which would then find its way onto those boards. I remember sitting at the publisher's house, sometimes in my car in her driveway, making last-minute corrections and edits.

Boy does email and ftp make our life easy now!

I did get to meet and got to know lots of great people, many of whom I got to be good friends with, and many of whom still write articles for our magazine.

After 12+ years, I have decided it is time to pass the torch - and thankfully Janine O'Neill has volunteered (there might have been just the slightest bit of arm-twisting!) to take over. I am happy and confident to leave the San Mateo Horseman in her capable hands. She has already been our publisher for several issues and did all the work on the last issue and has done an outstanding job!

With that, I'd like to thank all of you who have contributed to the magazine and for all the support all those years! It has been a fun, rewarding adventure every step of the way! Now I might actually find the time to write an occasional article!



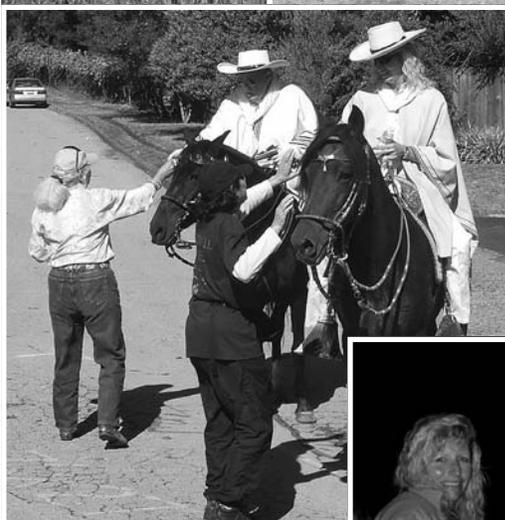
Happy Trails
Tanya



Tanya hard at work!



Tanya out for a ride at Jack Brook Horse Camp.



Tanya and Rick Payne on a past ride.



Tanya and friend, Ingrid.



Tanya & Larry Rebarchik enjoying a dance at Jack Brook Horse Camp

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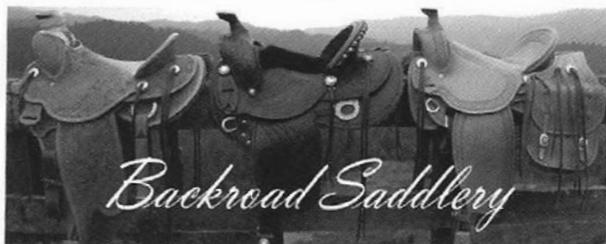
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ONLY HORSE PEOPLE....

Submitted by Anne Whitten

Only horse people.....

- Believe in the 11th Commandment: Inside leg to outside rein.
- Know that all topical medications come in either indelible blue or neon yellow.
- Think nothing of eating a sandwich right after mucking out stables.
- Know why a thermometer has a yard of yarn attached to one end of it.
- Are banned from Laundromats.
- Can magically lower their voices five octaves to bellow at a pawing horse.
- Have a language all their own ("If he pops his shoulder, I have to close that hand and keep pushing with my seat in case he sucks back.")
- Will end relationships over their hobby.
- Cluck to their cars to help them up hills.
- Insure their horses for more than their cars
- Will give you 20 names and reasons for that bump on your horse.
- Know more about their horse's nutrition than what's in their own diet.
- Have neatsfoot oil stains on the carpet right next to the TV.
- Have a vocabulary that can make a sailor blush.
- Have less wardrobe than their horse.
- Engage in a hobby that is more work than their day job.
- Know that mucking stalls is better than Zoloft any day.



GENERAL MEETING & BUNCO NIGHT

By Nancy Kouchekey

Back by popular demand our first General Meeting (February 27)for 2010 was again our annual Spaghetti Feed & Bunco Tournament. It was well attended with over 90 members, new and old and their guests.

A great job was done by junior member Andre Kouchekey as he greeted and checked everyone in at the door.

Everyone mingled and enjoyed the tasty appetizers that were donated by board members.

The dinner was prepared by the loving hands of Sharon Butler and Nancy Kouchekey. Two different pasta entrees, salad, bread and pizza were served. There was plenty of food, wine/ beverages that seemed to be enjoyed by all. The dessert was also made by board members. You all know who you are and thank you is not enough.

When the tournament started we were instructed on how to play the game of Bunco by our very own Bunco queen and President Barbara Stogner.

Very quickly the game became quite competitive with Baby Bunco being called out fast and furious. Horse treats were passed out as prizes for the Baby Buncos. Stuffed animals were donated by Joan McLaren for Baby Buncos which were awarded to the winning Juniors. The tournament ended with a \$100 cash prize to the one with the most Buncos, \$50 to the one with most Wins, and a consolation prize of \$20 to the biggest Loser.



Our gracious hostesses, Nancy and Sharon.

Nigel, Lori McIntosh's husband presents her display.



Several of the Juniors volunteered at the end of the evening to clean up and it was greatly appreciated.

A special thank you to the SMC Mounted Patrol and our Mounted Patrol sponsor Bill Jabs.

A special treat for this event was the photograph portrait prize donated by SMCHA member, Lori McIntosh. She generously donated a portrait of you and your horse as a raffle prize. The lucky - and very excited - winner was Noel Sousa-Powers. The raffle raised almost \$500 for SMCHA! If you haven't seen Lori's work, it is fabulous. Check her out at www.lorimcintoshphotography.com. Thank you, Lori, for your generosity.

Susanne and Jody enjoy the night.



GENERAL MEETING & BUNCO NIGHT - MORE PICTURES!



Nancy awards Kip the Loser prize.



Katie Raynor gets a prize!



Mike Bushue talks about Etrac.



Sharon and Giselle stop rolling the dice to strike a pose.



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BITS OF HISTORY



By: Sue Sheehan, SMCHA Historian

Have any of you ever wondered how and when SMCHA got started? Here's the answer:

The following are excerpts from our San Mateo County Horseman's Association 50th Anniversary booklet published in 1990 and notes from long time historian, Irma Goldsmith:

In the late 1880's, our country was well noted for its fine horseflesh. There were many noted horse farms established here, namely Stanford's Farms, Ormandale Ranch and others. However, with the increasing use of motor power, the use of the horse gradually diminished until there were only a few horses left and these were to be found generally on small truck farms and with the wealthier people who maintained horses for pleasure riding and show purposes. It was becoming apparent that our faithful friend, the horse, was being relegated to a place in history. But this was not to be as later years proved.

The return of Thoroughbred racing, the organization of many horsemen and riding groups, both statewide and locally, have been instrumental in bringing back to the people the recognition of the great pleasure the horse can be. Irma C. Goldsmith; Historian – SMCHA

During the year of 1939, San Mateo County officials arranged to have the first FLORAL SHOW AND FANDANGO held at the new Bay Meadows Club House on Hillsdale. A parade was to be held in conjunction with the show starting in the City of Burlingame. L.C. Smith was asked by San Mateo County to organize a group of horsemen to ride in the parade and to display as many different representative types of horse-drawn vehicles as possible. Mr. Smith, as he later stated, anticipated a rather small showing, but he underestimated his ability to organize as well as the horse lovers who couldn't wait to show off their old family carriages, buggies and wagons. Horsemen from the southern end of the county (Pescadero) to the extreme north (Colma) were contacted and an estimated 300 horses were in the line of march the day of the parade.

This large showing of horses was truly a credit to Mr. Smith and an inspiration to him to try to find a way of keeping these horse lovers together instead of "being scattered to the four winds." That evening at the Fiesta Dance, L.C. Smith discussed his ideas with Don Facciolle of the Lazy Day Ranch in Portola. It was Mr. Facciolle's suggestion to start an association of horses similar to the one that had already been organized

in Santa Clara. One might say that the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association was born that evening. However it wasn't until the following year that the Association began officially with the election of officers. The first meeting was held in the City Hall of San Mateo with a membership roster of 20 to 25.

The first Executive officers were:
 President: L.C. Smith
 First Vice President: John Perata
 Second Vice President: H. Himmeleman
 Secretary: R.B. Watt
 Treasurer: Harry Tyrell

The Board of Directors met monthly and a general meeting was held every three months. Meetings were held at various places throughout the county in order to allow the membership to become better acquainted with the different sections of the county. Generally though, most meetings were held at the Benjamin Franklin Hotel in San Mateo where dinner was served and the meeting followed.

The Association's first trail ride and barbecue started from the Old Homestead Stables in San Mateo, trailed through Spring Valley Lake properties and back to the Crystal Springs Stables, where dinner was served.



Bits of History, continued

The first uniform shirt of the Association was a rose (or pink) colored western shirt. A monthly bulletin was printed during the early years which publicized all the events. The bulletin was printed on pink paper and was called "The Pink Shirt." It was to become symbolic of the Association. The first rodeo was held at Kavanaugh's Ranch located on Dumbarton Road below the Bayshore Highway.

The second trail ride was held on October 20, 1940 and a group of riders rode over to the coast and had lunch at the Miramar. This ride hoped to bring attention to the people on the coast that this new organization was alive.

During the fall of 1940, a competition sixty-five mile ride was held which started at the old Homestead Stables. It was held over a two-day period. This event was the first of its kind in San Mateo County.

One of the outstanding events in San Mateo County during 1941 was the Peninsula Celebration Association's first rodeo held in Redwood City on July 4th. Many SMCHA members participated in the rodeo.

In March 1942, a new administration of officers was elected. Some of these officers were replaced as World War II called them to duty.

During the following two years, the Association faced troubled times because of the war which claimed many SMCHA members. Blackouts, gas rationing and longer working hours added burdens to the activities that had been planned.

In 1943, the first trail sign markers were made and established along certain trail routes. A well attended Horse Show was held at Green Briar Stables in Belmont and a very successful dance was held in San Mateo in conjunction with the newly formed San Mateo County Mounted Patrol. It was about this time that the SMCHA became members of the California State Horsemen's Association.

In 1944, the organization took on a new life. Membership increased, activities were more numerous and a closer union with San Mateo County Officials was recognized. "The Pink Shirt" became a source of income carrying paid advertisements. The Statewide Trail Program sponsored by the California State Horsemen's Association came into being. Also during this period, the "Bill Byrne Annual Futurity" was inaugurated. An annual "play day" was started for members as a day of fun and games on horseback.

This was also the year that Huddart Park, 1000 acres of land in Woodside, was given to the county. Although it wasn't accepted by the county until 1946 as a public recreation area, SMCHA members were active in 1944 getting the county to set aside trail and playground areas.

Over the next several years SMCHA continued to flourish and grow by leaps and bounds. There were many activities such as Sunday rides, overnight rides, dances and parties, including New Years Eve, which became a yearly event. Horse shows and the July 4th rodeo were held every year, as was the annual play day. The club participated in parades all around the area, winning many trophies. By 1947 the membership was reported to be up to 715 people.

Riding became more and more popular. Trails were developed through Huddart Park, the Emerald Lake area of Redwood City, up toward Skyline, open spaces over the Stanford lands behind Menlo Park and through Portola Valley and of course trails were becoming dedicated all over Woodside. The juniors were very active with their own group within the organization. The horse-oriented activities brought them shared interests and fostered their natural love of animals, horses and dogs in particular.

Outstanding men and women led SMCHA contributing his or her special kind of talent plus hard work to build up a fine group of riders dedicated to horsemanship, the care, feeding and training of the horse. Leisure time, minimum prosperity, with enthusiasm and sincere good fellowship accomplished so much to make possible the happy, satisfying contented life of the horseman and horsewoman during these early years. This was truly gracious living!

This segment of "Bits of History" is dedicated to Richard DeLucchi, one of our founding fathers and President in 1948.





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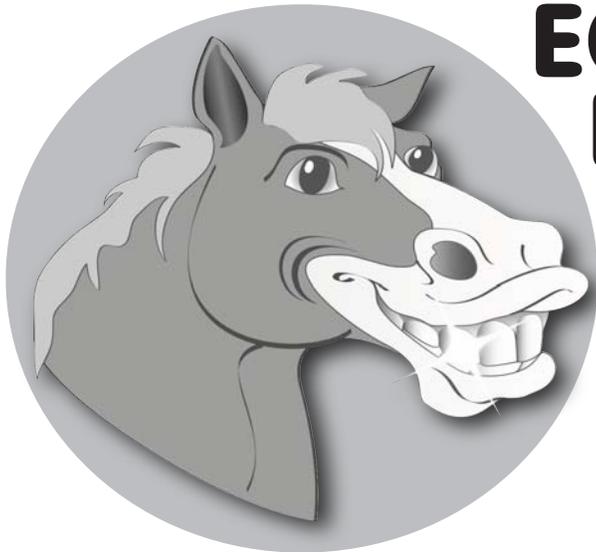
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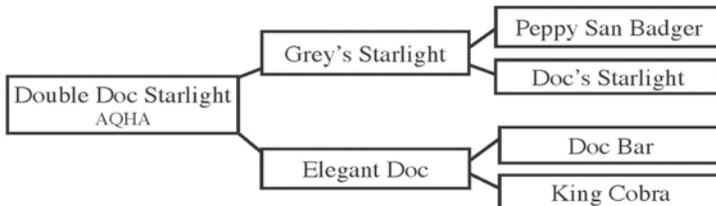
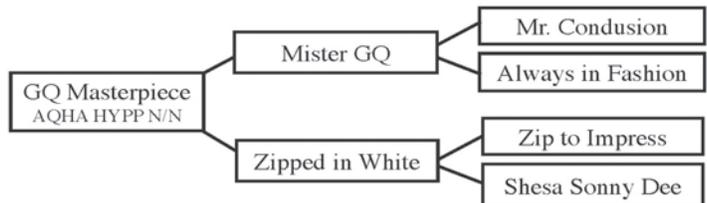
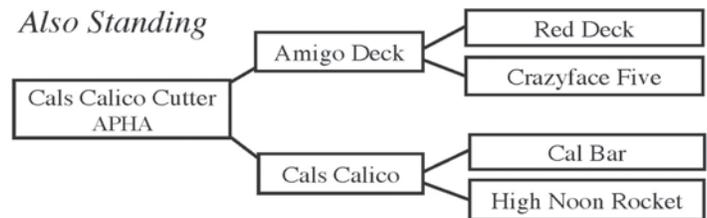


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Coastside Cowgirls

We are looking for new riders



We are the Coastside Cowgirls, Riding for the Cure. The team is composed of five girls between the ages 11 and 17. This past year the team has joined forces with the Susan G. Komen Foundation, and every ride is dedicated to finding a cure for breast cancer. The girls practice weekly and perform at events and rodeos around the Bay Area to promote Breast Cancer awareness.

*If you are interested or have questions
please contact Akaela or Samantha for more information.*

Akaela
(650) 759-4037
memorysecho1@att.net

Samantha
(650) 387-9964
Mycowgirl@aol.com

We can also be found on Facebook as the Coastside Cowgirls

IN MEMORIAM: NORA JOHNSON

Longtime SMCHA member, Nora Johnson, passed away in March. Claire Box of Los Viajeros shared a poem in Nora's honor. The following is a sentiment that Nora would subscribe to.

*When I am gone, release me, let me go
I have so many things to see and do.
You mustn't tie yourself to me with tears,
Be happy for our time together.*

*I have lived and loved much,
You gave me much happiness.
I thank you for the love you each have shown,
But now it's time I travel alone.*

*So grieve awhile for me, if grieve you must,
Then let your grief be comforted with trust.
It's only for awhile that we must part,
So bless the memories within your heart.*

*And then, when you must come this way along,
I'll greet you with a smile, and say "Welcome Home".*

(Author Unknown)

Nora was very active with Los Viajeros & Volunteer Horse Patrol. She tried to support all the horse clubs and activities.

Carol Antonio has boarded her horses at Nora's place for 5 1/2 years. She describes Nora as having a real strong passion for horses and riding. She was a very independent & strong woman. Nora rode endurance in the past and was always eager to encourage new riders and help with training. She was always trying to make time to go for a trail ride. Nora survived breast cancer over 20 years ago, but had health issues which sometimes limited her activities. She was a great inspiration to her friends and encouraged them to not waste time, get out and enjoy & live life to its fullest. She always did... Nora fought right to the end. She will be greatly missed.....

Nora Johnson...she will be greatly missed.

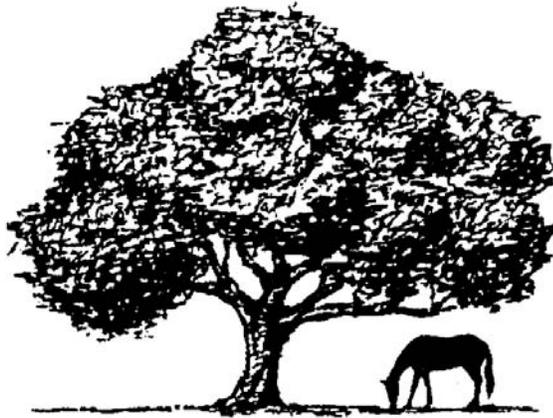


Nora out doing what she loved most at Jack Brook Horse Camp.



Missel and Rusty loved their master Nora...the Westie is Toby.





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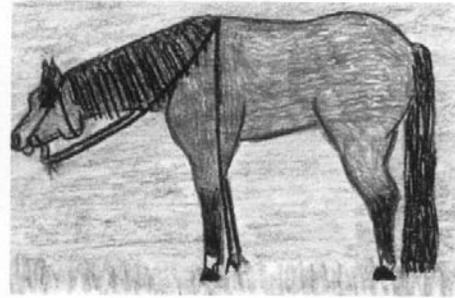
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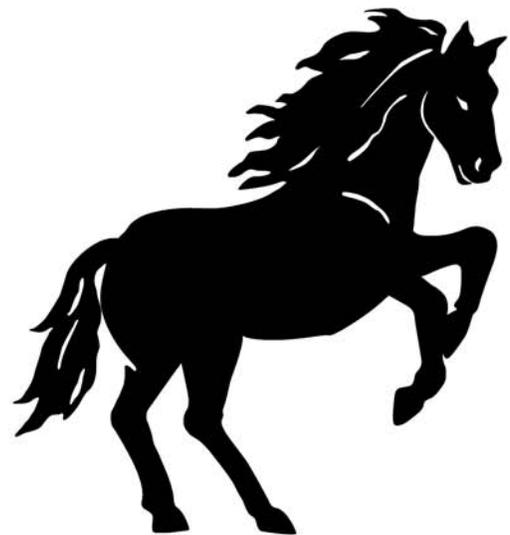
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LET US NOT FORGET RILEY'S PLACE

By Wendy Mattes, Founder & Executive Director, Riley's Place

I met Riley Church in the summer of 2000. She had just turned 8 years old, and along with her 3 best friends, was a riding student of mine at Webb Ranch. Little did I know then just how my life would be permanently changed by this beautiful little girl with dark hair and a twinkle in her brown eyes.

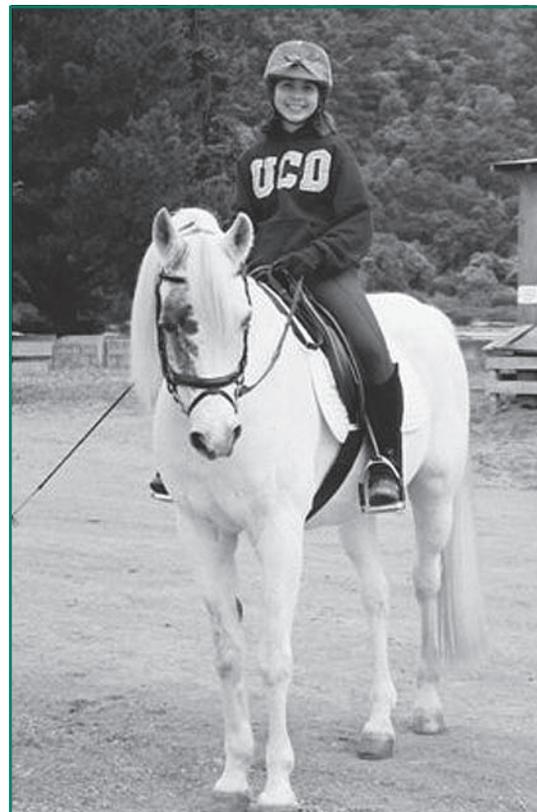
Riley's friends shared with me that her nickname was "Smiley Riley". To this day, I am warmed by the memory of Riley standing on the porch of the Webb Ranch lesson office, her excitement and enthusiasm overflowing. "Who am I riding today?", she always asked me. And my answer never mattered... I could have said "Handy," the most popular horse, or "Curly," the laziest horse -- her reaction was always pure and joyful. Jumping up and down, she clapped her hands with glee, saying "Yay! Yay!!"

Riley and her friends continued to take lessons with me after the summer camp ended, and she quickly progressed in her ability. It wasn't long before she started leasing one of the lesson horses. "Al" was a big, lanky, sorrel Quarter Horse gelding who was the first recipient of Riley's passion. In addition to riding, Riley immersed herself in learning about horses – grooming, feeding and caring for them. She read about horses, drew pictures of horses, saw movies about horses, and dreamed of becoming an equine veterinarian, and of someday riding in the Olympics.

On her 11th birthday in 2003, Riley began leasing a beautiful grey Polish Arabian gelding with a luscious mane and tail and impressive brown starburst-shaped spot on the right side of his face. "Louie" soon became the love of Riley's life. Together they entered dressage shows, and Riley's ability shone!

The earth stood still on New Year's Day 2004, when Riley was diagnosed with an inoperable malignant brain tumor. Under the direction of Dr. Paul Fisher at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital, Riley began an intensive year-long treatment program of radiation and chemotherapy. This courageous little girl continued to go to school, take riding lessons, enter horse shows, and basically live a life as normal as possible. I am still in awe that she was able to do that. The year 2005 went well, and Riley thrived. But in January 2006, Riley relapsed. In April 2006, when Riley could no longer travel to the ranch to see Louie, some of Riley's dear friends and I borrowed a miniature horse, and drove her to Riley's home in San Carlos to visit. Right into the living room marched the mini horse! The look of pure joy on Riley's face was unforgettable. The little horse looked around the living room at the group of assembled family and friends, then walked straight to Riley in her wheelchair, and put her head in Riley's lap. It was as though she knew her purpose for being there, and she

Riley "Ladybug" showing her beautiful smile.



Riley pictured here riding Louie.



A current picture from Riley's Place with Kachina.



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Let Us Not Forget Riley's Place, continued*You'll see smiles when folks experience Riley's Place.*

stayed there with her head in Riley's lap for the next hour, letting Riley pet and love her. It was a moment in time that will never be forgotten by anyone who was there that day to witness it. Riley passed away a month later, in May 2006, at the age of 14.

Riley lived her life with a positive, optimistic attitude, and never let cancer define who she was. Riley's smile lit up her face. She had an infectious laugh, an impish sense of humor, and wisdom beyond her years. Her love of all animals, but especially cats, dogs, horses, lambs and goats (she always wanted one) contributed to her compassionate nature. She was kind and caring, always thought the best of others and continues to be inspiration to many – myself included!

And so, with the help of a group of caring people, I founded Riley's Place in July of 2009. The mission of Riley's Place is to enrich the lives of children on the San Francisco Peninsula experiencing chronic or life threatening health problems and/or challenging family situations such as homelessness. The programs offered through Riley's Place encourage and facilitate children's interaction with animals, allowing them to experience the joy and healing that spending time with animals and enjoying and appreciating nature can bring. After hearing about Riley's Place, the wonderful people at NCEFT in Woodside opened their hearts, their arms, and

their facility to us! By fiscally sponsoring Riley's Place initially and sharing their lovely facility with us, we were able to start our fundraising campaign and operating our program services immediately! We are so grateful to this incredible organization for such a gift.

Since July, we have been taking animals to visit the children and their families at Ronald McDonald House at Stanford, and Shelter Network's Haven Family House in Menlo Park. In collaboration with NCEFT, we have hosted children from special needs schools in San Mateo County. Our on-site program enables children to visit individually, or in a group. Within our first six months of operation, we were recognized as an award winning organization. In December, we received the "2009 Animals are Kind to People" award given by the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA.

We formed significant partnerships with other highly regarded organizations, including PHS & SPCA, NCEFT, Shelter Network, Ronald McDonald House, and the Redwood City Rotary Club. We have an amazing Advisory Committee consisting of several dedicated, passionate and well-renowned individuals including: Paul Fisher, MD, Professor of Neurology, Pediatrics, and by courtesy, Neurosurgery and Human Biology, Division Chief of Child Neurology, and the Beirne Family Director of Neuro-Oncology at Stanford University and Lucile Salter

Ky and Robin share a moment.

Let Us Not Forget Riley's Place, continued

Packard Children's Hospital; Russ Peterson, DVM, founder of Peninsula Equine Veterinary practice; Michele Jackson, Executive Director of Shelter Network; Glenn Nielsen, former Atherton Chief of Police; Andrea Church, Riley's Mom; Martin Church, Riley's Dad and Senior Vice President at Grubb & Ellis; John Mattes, former Deputy of San Mateo County Sheriff's office and current Communications & Records Supervisor at Atherton Police Department; Claire Edwards, currently pursuing a career as a Physician's Assistant; and me, lifelong horse lover, trainer and former headhunter.

We are selectively forming our "animal family," which now consists of two miniature horses, "Kachina" and "Ayana". We adopted "Ayana" from the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, and named her in honor of a little girl whom we met at Ronald McDonald House. We also adopted two lovely and gentle bunnies from the Peninsula Humane Society-- "Casper" and "Robin" are very popular with the children we visit, and we feel it's a double blessing to be able to rescue animals and help children at the same time! Our two baby Nigerian Dwarf goats, "Laverne" and "Leo" came from a breeder in Santa Rosa, and have already stolen our hearts! The two mini donkeys owned by NCEFT, "Willy" and "Wonka" have also accompanied us on our visits to Ronald McDonald House, as has a lovely Rhode Island Red Hen named "Pumpkin". As part of our partnership agreement with the Peninsula Humane Society & SPCA, some of their certified dog and handler teams have also accompanied us on some of our visits. We even have two English Babydoll sheep, "Shawn" and "Sheryl" who have traveled with us frequently. The children love a variety of species, sizes, shapes and textures of animals!

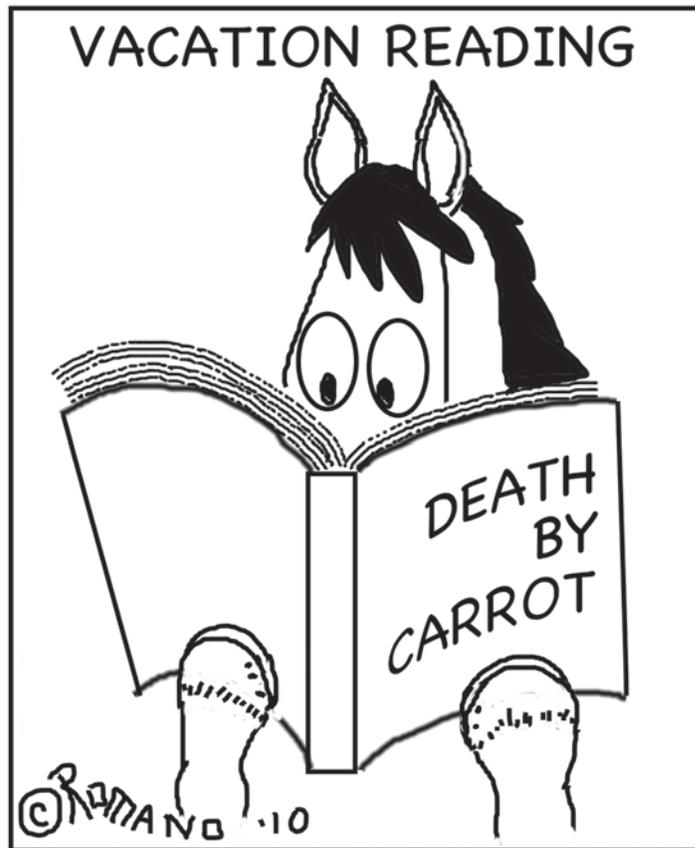
We are constantly amazed by the generosity of people who have stepped forward to help us. Everyone involved with Riley's Place, whether volunteer, client, vendor or even animal, comes with a unique story. We truly believe there is something special about this organization and this facility... call it magic ... or call it being blessed. As with most non-profit organizations, our greatest need is financial.

And so, Riley Church, the horse-crazy little girl whose life was all too short, continues to touch and inspire and improve the lives of others ... including me! Always.

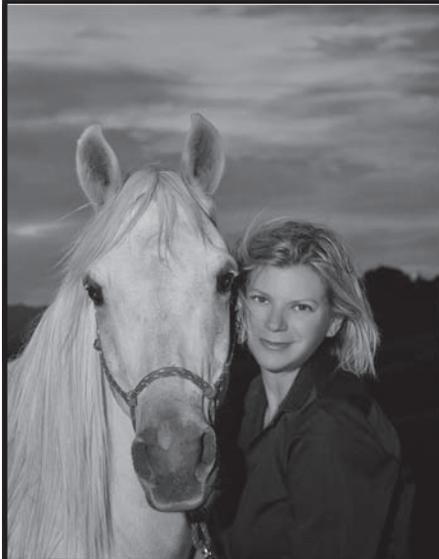
To help, or to learn more about Riley's Place, please visit our website: www.rileys-place.org.



Riley taking a break with her kitty.



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My wonderful horse Rio had a fatal heart attack while riding in the hills of Hungry Valley with the Red Rock Hounds, near Reno, NV. After being out for two and a half hours, we were trotting along a hill side, when he suddenly collapsed and rolled down the hill. I suffered a few bruised ribs, but was otherwise ok. The vet did a field autopsy and concluded a hidden heart defect finally gave way. There were never any symptoms of a problem, and no way to determine that there was any problem. He is buried in the hills where he died, out in the country where he belonged. He died while doing what we both loved to do.

The human/horse bond is one of the wonders of riding. There is no greater joy than riding with a horse you trust and love. As we approach a jump on the cross country course, we are one, as his strong legs counting the pace, my mind focused on the landing; we are experiencing the ultimate joy of riding. Rio was willing to do anything, and always ready to learn something new. My thanks to the other riders who have shared this bond for their support, care and compassion on that day, and the days that followed.

We have been together for 7 years, and have had many wonderful adventures with the Mounted Patrol, Los Altos Hounds, Santa Ynez Valley Hounds, SMCHA and Los Viajeros. He was the LAH hunter pace men's high point champion for the last three years and 6th place in the Western States Field Hunter championship. His skill in polo resulted in trophies, and he was Reserve Champion in show jumping at Horse Park. We earned money in Team Penning, and ribbons and buckles in barrels, poles and other gymkhana events. His proudest moment was carrying the American flag in parades

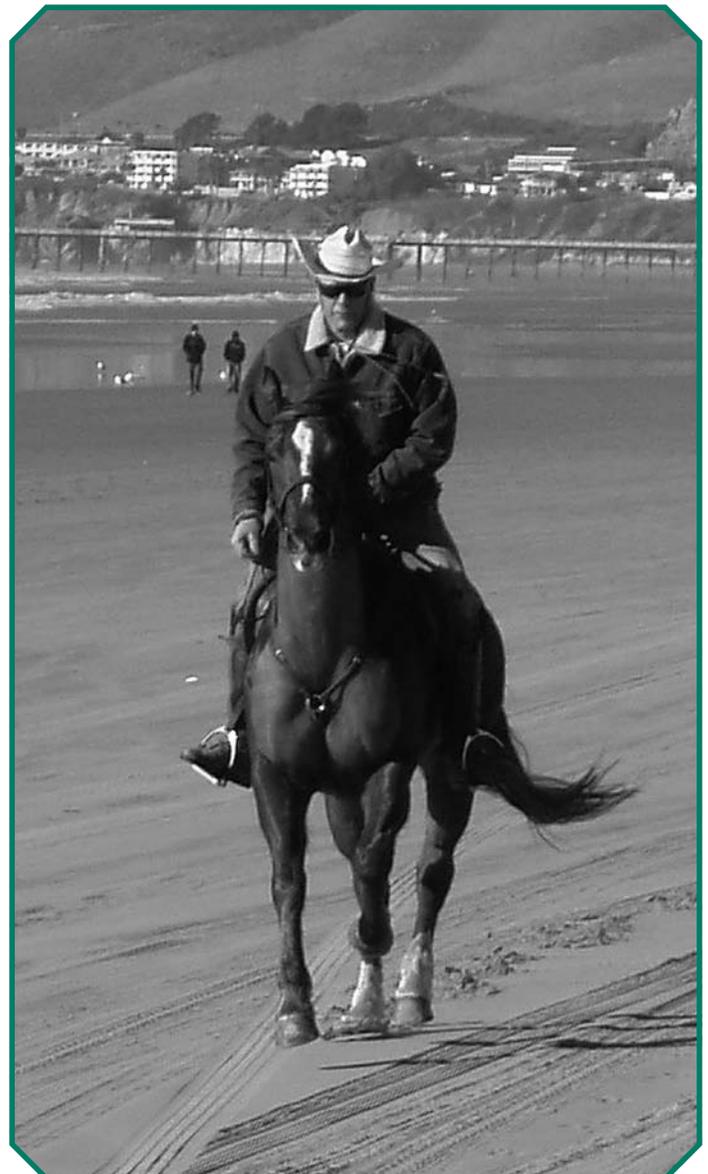
He loved going riding, and would take care of all kinds of riders. He could be ridden as a whipper-in one day, and carry a beginner the next. He carried my son, the Town Manager, the Sheriff and many friends thru the hills and trails.

He will be missed by many, but I know he is now grazing in fields covered by green grass with babbling brooks. I was so lucky for our time together.



Condolences to:

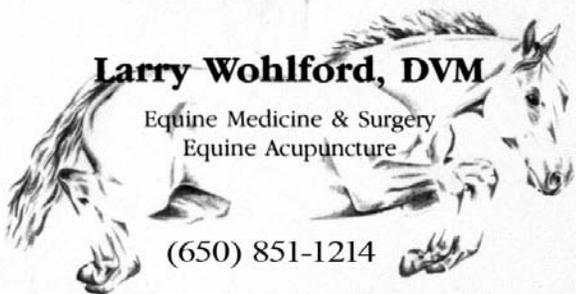
Don Pugh for his loss of Rio.
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These adorable ponies, who are trained to the cart, are available for hire. The brown pony is Buddy, a hackney pony, and the pinto is Tahoma. They typically can be found over at Portola Valley Training Center as they belong to the California Riding Academy. Their main jobs in Winter is grazing (see above!), but riding season they are often found working in driving lessons that California Riding Academy offers. Currently they are residing over at Butch Coggins place as he provided these ponies with a good home in the off season, when these ponies needed their Winter R&Rlike a good & caring cowboy would!

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UPCOMING SMCHA EVENTS.....



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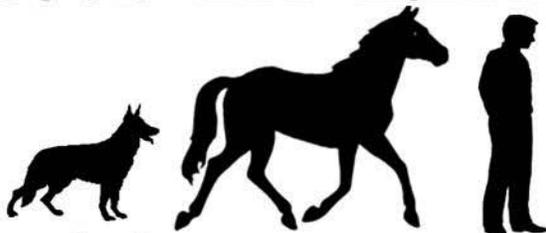
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2010 Calendar of Events

Subject to change - please check website for updates

April

- 8 Board Meeting
- 17 Jack Brook Clean-up Day
- 18 CLINIC: Trail Course-Cheryl Busick (NCEFT)
- 24 SMCHA Spring Ride: Fifield-Cahill Ridge

May

- 1 Woodside May Day Parade
- 2 Day at the Races – Golden Gate Fields
- 7 CLINIC: Ranch Versatility -w/ Kathy Torres
- 8 CLINIC: Cow Sorting –w/ R. Braun & J. McLaren (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- 12 Board Meeting (note: Wednesday)
- 13 Western Riding Clinic (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- 16 Western Schooling Show (Webb Ranch)
- 20 Western Riding Clinic (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- 22 Play Day & Gymkhana (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- TBA May Group Ride
- 27 Western Riding Clinic (Mounted Patrol Grounds)

June

- 3 Western Riding Clinic (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- 4-6 Woodside Gaited Horse Show (Horsepark)
- 9 Board Meeting
- 10 Western Riding Clinic (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- 11-13 Horse Expo – Sacramento
- 12-20 San Mateo County Fair
- 17 Western Riding Clinic (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- 24 Western Riding Clinic (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- TBA Clarkia Trail Clean-Up Day (Summer)

July

- 3 *Mounted Patrol: Rodeo Dinner & Dance*
- 4 *Mounted Patrol: Junior Rodeo*
- 4 *Fourth of July Parade-Redwood City & HMB*
- 7 Board Meeting (note: Wednesday) (NCEFT)
- 8 Western Riding Clinic (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- 10 CLINIC: Cow Sorting (Jr.'s Only) R. Braun & J. McLaren (Mounted Patrol Grounds)

July (continued)

- 10 Western Riding Clinic Show & Dinner (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- 17 *NCEFT Poker Ride-a-Thon*
- 23-25 Jack Brook Horse Camp
- 20-25 *Reining by the Bay (Horsepark at Woodside)*

August

- 1 English Schooling Show (Webb Ranch)
- 12 Board Meeting
- TBA CLINIC: Men Only w/ Jason Attard
- 14 CLINIC: Ranch Versatility w/ Kathy Torres
- 21-22 *Woodside Round Up (Mounted Patrol Grounds)*
- 29 Open English/Western Show (Horse Park at Woodside)

September

- 9 Board Meeting
- 16 General Meeting
- 26 SMCHA Presidents' Ride
- TBA Clarkia Trail Clean-up Day (Fall)

October

- 2 CLINIC: Cow Sorting –w/ R. Braun & J. McLaren (Mounted Patrol Grounds)
- 14 Board Meeting
- 9 *Woodside Day of the Horse*
- 20-24 Grand National Rodeo – Cow Palace
- 30 Play Day & Gymkhana (Mounted Patrol Grounds)

November

- 11 Board Meeting
- 13 General Meeting - Elections

December

- 3 Board of Directors' Dinner
- 12 Holiday Barn Party
- 19 Caroling on Horseback

January 2011

- 13 Board Meeting
- 29 Kick-Off Gala & Installation Dinner

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR CHANGES AND UPDATES • www.smcha.org
Listings in italics are local events

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Annual dues are for January 1 through December 31 of each year. Your cancelled check is your receipt.
Join after October 1 and your membership is paid through the following year.

Do you want to be included in our Membership Directory? (Must be received by Jan. 31) ___ Yes ___ No

NAME(S) _____ PHONE (____) _____

ADDRESS _____ EMAIL _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

**PLEASE MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO SMCHA. PLEASE DO NOT SEND CASH. MAIL APPLICATION TO:
SMCHA • P.O. BOX 620092, WOODSIDE, CA 94062**
