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COVER

*Chris Friis,
 2013 Horsewoman of the Year
 and her horse, Casey.*

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE
 JANUARY 2014**



As 2013 goes into the history books, I am once again proud and honored to have been re-elected as President of SMCHA for 2014.

What a great year it has been for our club with outstanding events which were well organized and managed by an amazing team of committee leaders and volunteers.

Some of the highlights were:

- Spring Ride led by Adeline Forrest
- Numerous parades and presentation of colors led by our

Horsewoman of the Year and Color Guard Captain Christine Friis

- Three successful horse shows, Western, English and Open, thanks to many volunteers who make them happen
- Western Riding Clinic led by Karen Rowley-Shawback
- English Riding Clinic led by Annie Tyo
- Clarkia Trail, Edgewood Park, clean-up endeavor led by Ginger Bushue
- Jack Brook Horse Camp, led by Adeline Forrest
- September's General Meeting with wonderful guest speakers on Shoeing, Veterinary First Aid, Mounted Search and Rescue orchestrated by Sharon Butler
- Grand National Rodeo Bus led by Nancy Koucheckey
- Play Day and Halloween Extravaganza at Page Mill Pastures with head wrangler Mike Raynor in charge
- Holiday Barn Party @ NCEFT organized by Sharon Butler and many elves

All in all, a fun-filled and action packed year and I thank all of those dedicated members and friends for participating and supporting our events.

Besides all the fun times, there are challenges and those have to do with embracing the equestrian community in an effort to keep horses in the area along with trail maintenance and partnering with other groups and keeping things positive for the future of horses and riders. There's

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is March 15, 2014



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The San Mateo HORSEMAN

WINTER 2014

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

Published quarterly

January (Winter)

April (Spring)

July (Summer)

October (Fall)



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strength in numbers, so I encourage you all to stay involved and get others involved as well.

2015 will be SMCHA's 75th anniversary. We'll be working on a book similar to the one we did for 50 years, so be thinking about items to include.

Get ready for more fun with your horse in 2014...the Year of the Horse.

Happy trails,



Cheryl Basin
SMCHA President 2014

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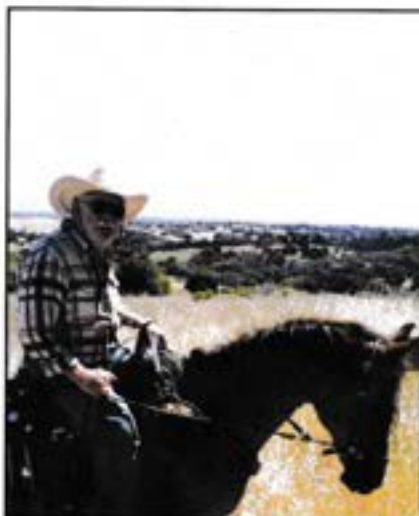
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The Board of Directors
Welcomes
Our New Members to
SMCHA 2013-14

Amy Han,
Rick & Tina Hong,
Mary Huck,
Nancy Manning &
Trigg McClellan,
Gayle Wilbert-Paoletti

Board Members, 2014



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Bonnie Bertetta



Bee Brown



Ginger Bushue



Maria Fonseca



Adeline Forrest



Chris Friis



Kim Gair



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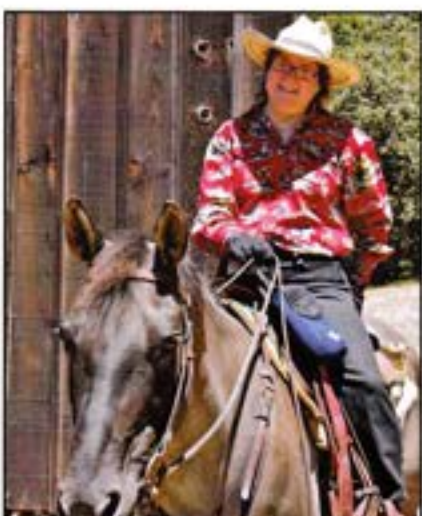
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Gina Silva



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ANIMAL COMMUNICATION - JAKE AND HIS BLANKET

By Brian Damkroger, submitted by Amy Hublou of Galloping Ventures



As horse lovers, we're likely more open than most about the idea of animal communication, but probably hover somewhere in the "possible, maybe, but dubious" range. At times, I'm absolutely convinced that Jake understands me, and every once in a while, equally convinced that I understand something he's patiently trying to tell me. Once, when he first came to live with me, I decided to blanket him. After a bit of trial and error, he finally made it clear he didn't want a blanket. Every time I would hold the blanket and open his stall door, he'd walk out into his paddock. If I retreated, he'd come back in his stall. And finally, when the light went on, I put the blanket down and opened his stall door, and he stood calmly, started licking and chewing, and gave me the patient, kind of bemused look I'd see over and over in the coming years.

But animal communicators claim to go well beyond that sort of simple exchange, purporting actual two-way conversations, which is where my skepticism really kicked in. I'd encountered a few animal communicators, and even paid a couple, but they only seemed capable of hearing things like "I'm uneasy", when a horse was nervously pacing around his stall. Not very impressive. At the other extreme, I WAS impressed

by a demo I saw at the Western States Expo where a woman had a long, involved talk with a horse, and convincingly related the conversation to the horse's posture, mannerisms, and movements. Unfortunately, it was a lot less impressive when later in the week, she had exactly the same conversation with a different horse, and related the exchanges to a completely different set of mannerisms and movements.

Then one day, out of the blue, I learned that a woman at our new boarding facility named Eileen studied and practiced animal communication as a hobby. In contrast to the "experts", Eileen was very low-key about it would only allow that in most cases, it seemed to work. Another huge difference about her was that whenever she'd try to talk with someone's four-legged companion, she insisted that they give her an odd question to ask, one where only the owner could know - or even imagine the answer. For example, there was the dog whose favorite food was raw broccoli...and the list goes on and on. Unless she could ask the question and get the right answer back from the animal, her assessment was that for whatever reason, it wasn't working.

About this time, I became convinced that Jake should get shoes instead of

staying barefoot, and had him shod. Not surprisingly, he seemed uncomfortable with the shoes, so I asked Eileen if she could talk with him and find out if that was true. She did, got the right answer to the odd question, and found out that yes, he was uncomfortable with the shoes. He didn't like them and didn't see why he had to have them. Pretty cool, eh? But what really blew me away was that Eileen recounted that the first thing Jake said, even before she asked a question, was "My blanket is very nice". Since she'd never seen Jake blanketed, she was a little puzzled and asked "I don't understand. Did you get a new blanket?" and he repeated "My blanket is very nice. I like my blanket."

I couldn't help but laugh because for the past week, we'd had a cold spell and unbeknownst to Eileen, I'd been debating whether or not to blanket Jake. I'd hold his blanket, stand outside his stall, and say "I know you didn't want to wear a blanket before, but do you now? I wish you could tell me what you wanted." Eventually I'd sigh, give up, and put his blanket away. That night, Jake stood calmly in his stall while I put on his blanket, then when I stepped back, started licking, chewing, and smiling.

I came to learn in future conversations between Eileen and Jake that he really didn't think it was that cold, but all of the horses had blankets (it was a show barn) so he wanted to wear his too. And, truth be told, he thought that he looked very handsome in his blanket, which he does. I could go on and on about the conversations Jake, Eileen, and I have had over the years but that will have to wait for a future newsletter. For now, just count me among the believers. The field of animal communication is full of charlatans and wanna-bes, but to me the phenomenon is definitely real.

HALLOWEEN PLAY DAY EXTRAVAGANZA

By Annie Tyo

Saturday November 2nd was a fun day had by all. The night before, Mike Raynor arrived at Page Mill with obstacles in tow to set up a fabulous trail course for riders at the play day. He was the key person for this even with his passion and knowledge. Mike Tyo was there as well to help set up the course for the next day's activities and by luck or skill the following day Mike Tyo ended up winning 1st place on the trail obstacle by showing off with his mule Essence.

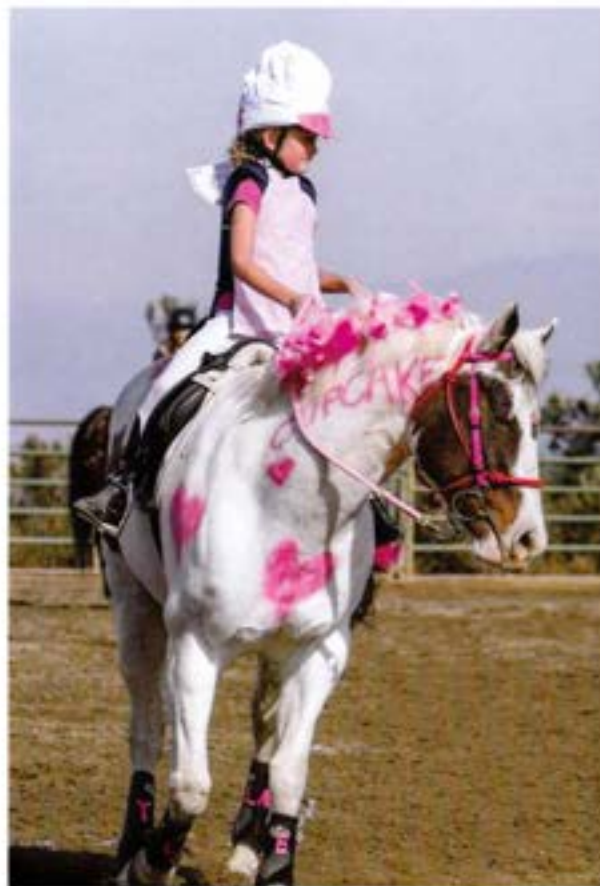
As the Sun rose on Saturday morning decorations and preparations were taking place to make the day a special day for those who came. Pat McKenna and her husband Al were a big help that morning and throughout the day! Amy Hublou headed up the kids' activities and even though we didn't have many juniors, they had fun painting her horse Corky and learning about horses.

Participants began to arrive and check in at 8:00 and a big thank you to Cheryl Basin and Deb Alverado for helping with registering people for the events while I went and got my broom ready! When I came back the play day was ready to go and Mike and Larry were going over the rules and how the day would go. Then it was time to let the games begin!!!!!! We had over 35 participants and believe it or not the day went by pretty smoothly with no one falling off! Nicole Fava won the high point buckle this year! You go girl! Todd and Susan Snook gave everyone a run for the money Great job everyone!

The costumes were very creative and it made it a hard decision for the judges-Sharon Butler, Barbara Stogner and Deb Alverado. Some of the costume standouts were a zebra, a pirate and a horse skeleton.

Sharon Butler went over and above on the fabulous lunch! We had the most amazing Taco Bowls! I only wish I was able to eat more. A BIG Thank You to Giselle Turchet for letting us use your awesome facility for this event. I also want to thank each and every volunteer and participant that made this day possible.

We hope to see more of our SMCHA members again next year!



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EQUESTRIAN TRAIL RIDERS ACTION COMMITTEE (ETRAC)

By Carole Bridgeman



We are a coalition of the equestrian groups in this area; Coastside Horse Council, Disabled Equestrians, Jack Brook Horse Camp Ad Hoc Committee, Los Altos Hills Horseman's Association, Los Altos Hounds, Los Viajeros Riding Club, Mounted Patrol

of San Mateo County, Portola Valley Trails Association, San Francisco Horseman's Association, San Mateo County Horsemen's Association, The Shack Riders, Woodside Area Horse Owner's Association, and the Woodside Trail Club

The ETRAC mission statement is "to promote creation and maintenance of a comprehensive, regional trail system for equestrian trail riders on the San Francisco Peninsula." The group attends many meetings; from the National Park System (GGNRA) to the San Mateo County Park System, which also includes Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District (MROSD). We also attend Woodside and Portola Valley Town Meetings as well as State Parks meetings. We are the watchdogs for the equestrians and whenever we can, we try and make sure that equestrian access is granted whenever possible from all these land managers. Also ETRAC sends out notification messages to our parent organizations regarding the trails in this area i.e. opening or closing of trails, hazards, etc.

Below is a synopsis of major current projects. Soon we will be announcing our yearly General Meeting to all equestrians. There we will go into much more detail.

GGNRA: Rancho Corral de Tierra- This is still an ongoing project. We do have access but the specifics are not

finalized yet. Currently their focus is dealing with the dog management issues. They have meetings scheduled in S.F. on Nov 2nd, in Montara on Nov. 4th, and Mill Valley Nov 6th. Christine Carey is the San Mateo County Liaison for GGNRA. For more information check their web site: www.nps.gov/

San Mateo County: Crystal Springs Trail is still in its conceptual planning due to finances. Devil's Slide Project is still in its final planning stages. ETRAC is proud to say that the trail is now officially multi-use which includes equestrians. It still needs San Mateo County Board of Supervisors approval. The Alpine Trail is also being designed and finalized. ETRAC has strongly requested a gravel 2 foot border along this projected paved trail. Questions to County Parks can be found at ParksandRecreation@smcgov.org

Midpeninsula Regional Open Space District has a number of projects that we are closely following. MROSD has a new Community Advisory Committee which includes two ETRAC members. This CAC group is helping MROSD to prioritize its focus on all the various items needed to finish a project. Bear Creek Redwood's Master Plan has been on hold due to work in Mount Umunhum. They are reviewing Bear Creek Stables now. Rancho San Antonio is having work done in the parking lot due to work needed for Santa Clara Valley Water District. They will be creating a new parking lot which includes trailer parking first before beginning construction in the old lot. El Corte de Madera has a new parking area which includes spaces for trailers. It is not open yet due to a drainage problem. We will be following it. We are still following the La Honda Creek-Driscoll Ranch project and the Driscoll Ranch Event Center/Apple Orchard. There is another public meeting being held at Elkus Ranch on Sept 10th which will be an "Informational Presentation on Pre-existing Uses at the Driscoll Ranch Event Center and Potential Use



ETRAC picture of trail riders

Alternatives Under Evaluation". MROSD Board Members and the Real Property Committee will be conducting this meeting. A lessor for the cattle management operation (who would most likely use parts of the Event Center) in La Honda Creek-Driscoll Ranch OSP is being selected. MROSD has specifically stated that they do not have the man-power to manage events at the Event Center. Previously many groups have used this facility and would like to continue using it. Groups have held classes, training sessions with cattle, trail rides in the OSP, and rodeos. For SMC MSAR, the Event Center is the only place in the County that they can do their yearly Sensory training. To contact MROSD www.openspace.org.

Many times I have been asked, "What is ETRAC? What do you do? What projects are you working on now." After talking about our projects, I sometimes hear, "What can I do or what can our equestrian group do?" or "Thank you for the job that you do". This is my plea for All EQUESTRIANS. Currently many important master plans are being develop that will affect equestrians for 20 + years. If YOU want to insure equestrian trail access to our beautiful open spaces, make the individual effort to get involved and help insure that this happens and join ETRAC. The Management Committee needs a representative from each organization it represents. Without this representation, we/YOU will risk missing or be unknowledgeable about equestrian concerns or issues. So please help ETRAC help you by making your voices heard by coming to our every other monthly management meetings.

There are more projects that ETRAC is following. Come to a meeting, visit our website www.etrac-equestrian.com or see us on Facebook: Equestrian Trail Riders Action Committee or see Cheryl Basin and she can get you in touch with us.

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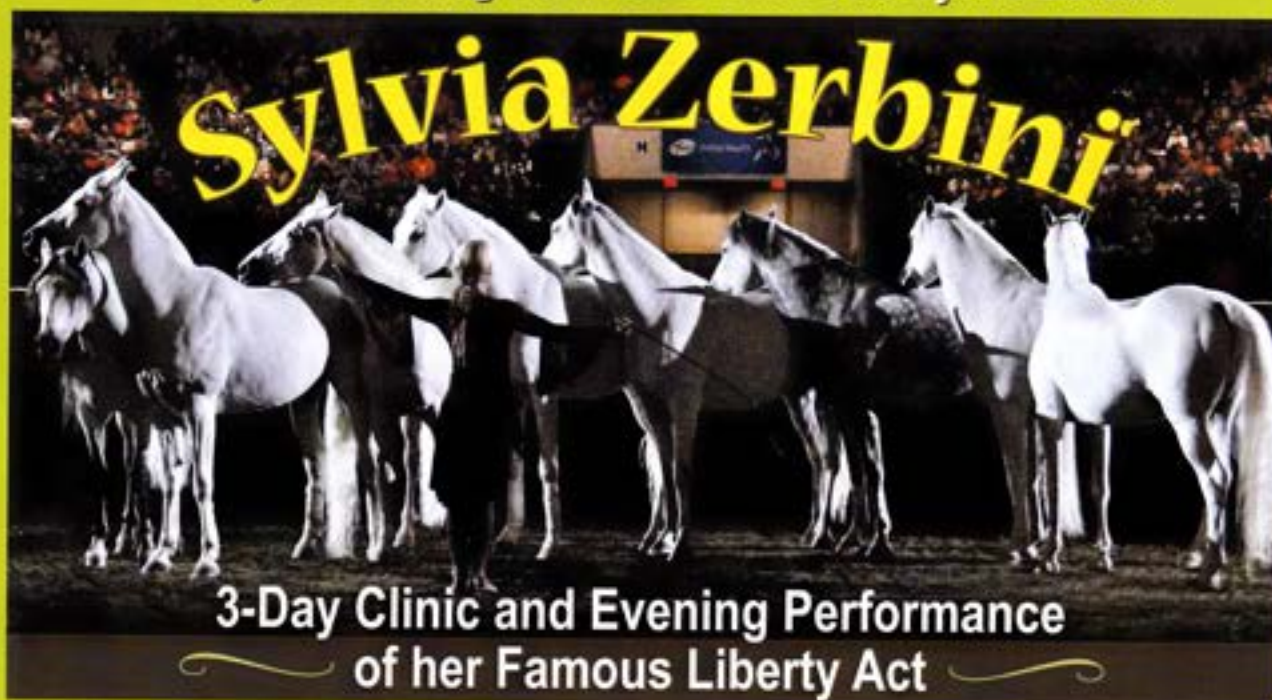
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Join Sylvia for a 3-day clinic and a special evening presentation of her famous Liberty act with "The Herd" at lovely Beaumont Farms in Petaluma, California.



Sylvia captivated and enchanted us all at Cavalia in San Francisco with her 9 Arabians performing complex patterns and movements with freedom and joy—all at liberty. Since then she has conducted inspiring clinics for us here in Woodside. Participants and auditors have been amazed at the transformation in the relationship between horse and handler as Sylvia coaches and demonstrates. Her focus on establishing trust and a unique bond, using only body language and limited verbal cues, translates into a remarkable partnership for all equestrian disciplines. In the clinic Sylvia will work individually with each horse and handler, without tack or training tools. Register to participate for 1-3 days (limited to 8 horses /day) or as an auditor.

Don't miss the evening performance of Sylvia's original *Grande Liberté* presentation seen in Cavalia, plus new movements. She'll demonstrate bringing a young horse into "the herd" and discuss establishing a unique partnership with our horses through liberty work. Join us for a unique evening of Beautiful Horses, Wine Tasting, and Buffet Dinner. The event is a benefit for the White Barn Project, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the lives of at-risk youth, developmentally disabled and chronically ill children through their interaction with animals, gardens and unique activities in a spectacular rural setting. www.whitebarnproject.org

For more information, to register or purchase tickets please visit www.naturalhorseevents.com

Attendance at the Clinic is not required to purchase tickets for the Evening Dinner and Performance. A portion of your evening ticket will be tax deductible.

For more information, contact Dawn Williams, Event Organizer, at dawnwilliamsdes@yahoo.com 650-851-1128

Clinic photos courtesy of Kelly Kennedy

HOLIDAY PARTY AT NCEFT

By Cher

NCEFT, National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy, was once again the venue for our annual Holiday Barn Party on Sunday, December 15.



Santa Arrives by Buggy

This was a festive and lively gathering of over 100 members and guests. Santa arrived via horse-drawn carriage driven by NCEFT's Bonnie MacCurdy. Jack, the beautiful Percheron, was the horsepower in front of the carriage. Following Santa's arrival, Jack and Bonnie provided carriage rides down Runnymede Road to the delight of everyone who took a ride. The day was warm and sunny.

Our members and guests enjoyed a sumptuous buffet which was organized and prepped by an enthusiastic team of elves, including Sue Sheehan, Sharon Butler, Silverhawk Russi, Adeline Forrest, Kristi Eifert, Tanya Rebarchik, and Cheryl Basin.



Fun Rides for All

Thank you to our many contributors of tasty morsels... appetizers, salads, ham, chili, and desserts. So many generous gifts for the Toys for Tots and Second Harvest food drives were graciously received by the Woodside Fire Department and the Second Harvest Food Bank.

Sue Winslow was on hand with her camera and captured lots of fun photos of the day. Photos are on our website @ www.smcha.org

Our Horsewoman of the year was announced...Color Guard Captain Christine Friis is the well deserved recipient. Thank you and congratulations, Chris!

Thank you, Kip Witter, for donning your colorful Santa Claus costume and entertaining all of us.

Special thanks to Gari Merendino, NCEFT's Executive Director, for graciously opening the NCEFT facility for our Holiday Barn Party. SMCHA sincerely appreciates your hospitality.



Members enjoying Holiday Fare



Santa is very popular



Christmas Wishes



Friends Celebrate



Enjoying time with Santa



More Members Celebrating

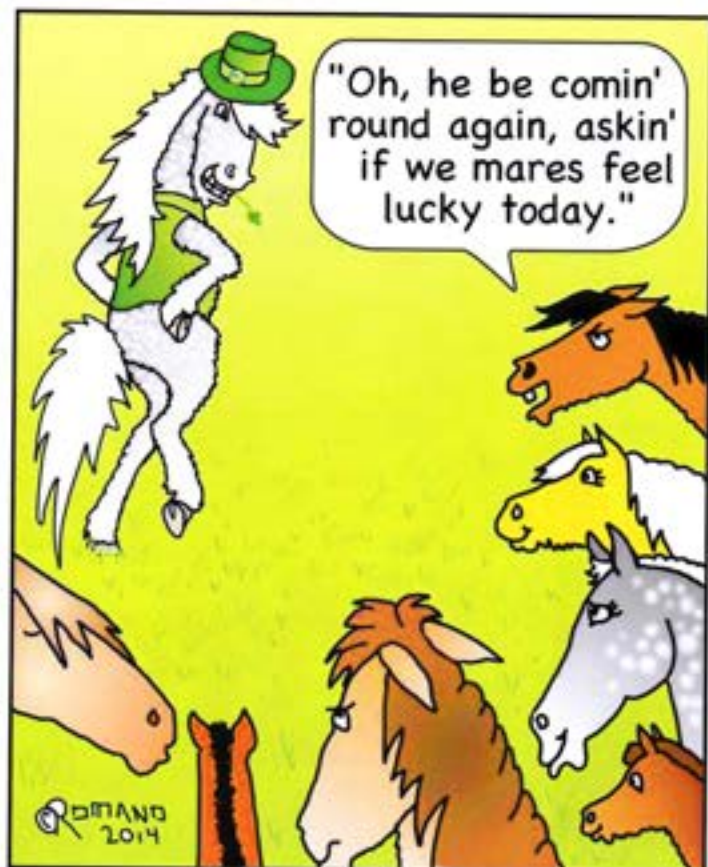
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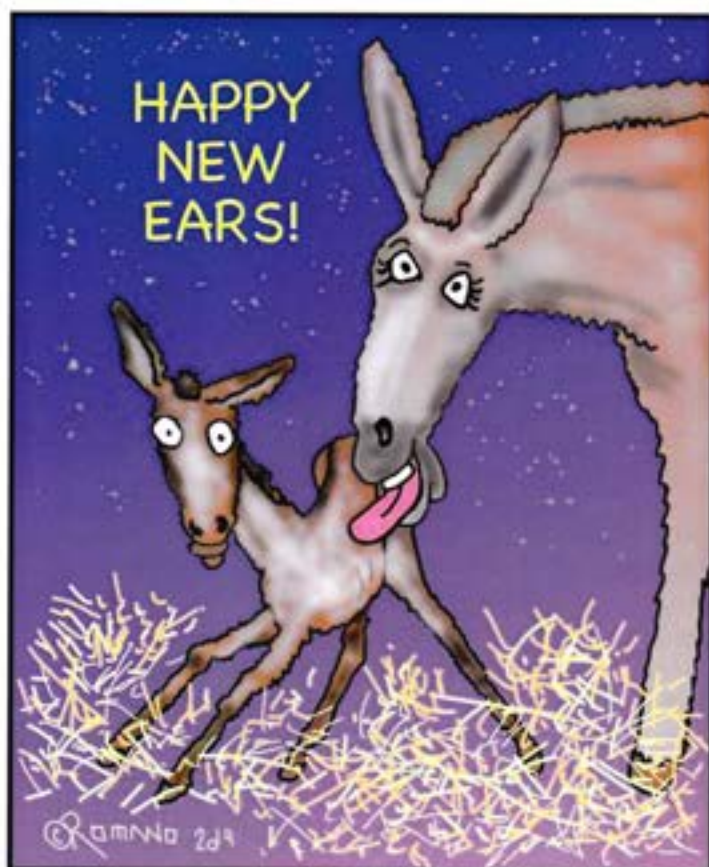
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HORSEWOMAN OF THE YEAR



Christine Friis has loved horses since seeing Roy Rogers, Dale Evans and of course Trigger at the Cow Palace when she was a small child. At five years old, Chris was given the choice of ballet lessons or horseback riding lessons – guess which she chose! During her fourth lesson, she was bucked off, at age 12, she was bitten by a horse, and then at age 19 she took a bad fall. After all of those trips to the emergency room, Chris

decided that horses just may not be her thing and moved on to other adventures.

In her 40s, after years of raising a family, Chris decided it was time to do something for herself and riding horses was her choice. Chris was a bit fearful, as she knew that the older you get, the harder the ground gets, so she decided to find somewhere local to take lessons. While glancing through a Redwood City Rec Center flyer, Chris found an ad for lessons at Spring Down Equestrian Center, in Portola Valley. She arrived on her first day and joined the four others in her class, all were under the age of 8. Although a bit embarrassed, she decided to stay and start the journey to fulfill her dream. Chris said, "Those children were fearless, which actually helped me feel confident and kept me coming back each week." After four weeks, it was time to show off what they learned by riding in the big arena on graduation day. As Chris rode into the arena behind those four kids, she saw smiles and waves from all of the parents sitting in the stands. Even though Chris was older than most of those parents, she was proud of herself, deep down, for finishing the program.

From there, it was off to Webb Ranch more lessons, followed soon after by leasing a wonderful old horse named Mayor. Next came lessons with Joan McLaren, which helped boost Chris's confidence to purchase her very own horse. Fortunately, Chris's husband, Robert, got horse fever as well, so the familiar "husband horse" was purchased. Next came a couple of private rescues, and before she knew it, they had a herd. Does any of this sound familiar?

In 2006, Chris and her good friend, Pam McClure Roman, founded The YeeHaw Sisterhood at a small private barn in Woodside. Under the banner of TYHS, Chris and Pam spent several years putting on workshops to help women (and even some men) mostly in their 40s and 50s, get back into riding or start riding for the first time. Since Chris and Pam knew what it was like to start riding as an older adult, they were very aware of the fears and hesitations others might have. One of the ways Chris and Pam taught women about horses was through what they called "The Equine Secrets of The YeeHaw Sisterhood." One of Chris's favorite "Secrets" is: "Why is the Alpha Mare alpha? Answer: Because she knows she is!" Chris and Pam must have done something right, as they keep running into former students, riding on the trails of Woodside!

Four years ago, Chris started training to be part of the San Mateo County Sheriff's Mounted Search and Rescue Unit (MSAR). Chris, and her horse Casey, (and all other members) are certified in emergency response. They are proud to be one of the few mounted units specially trained, and frequently called to respond to emergencies throughout the state of California. Outside of search and rescue missions, you may also see this dedicated unit patrolling on horseback at community events and fairs, riding in parades, or assisting with kids' educational programs.

Three years ago, Chris was recruited by Ann Whitten, former captain of SMCHA's Color Guard Unit. With great passion, Ann taught Chris protocols and horsemanship skills needed to succeed in presenting the American flag with honor. Soon after, Ann handed over the reins as captain to Chris. Since then, Chris and her SMCHA Color Guard team of Cheryl Basin, Kristi Eifert, Sara Esquivel, Jen Mize, and Patty Walsh, have won many awards, including back-to-back Grand National Rodeo Championships. SMCHA is very proud of this accomplishment, as the Color Guard Unit is often the face of SMCHA to the public, and represents the club with style, grace, and honor.

Chris doesn't know where her trails may lead in the future, but she looks forward to supporting SMCHA and is thankful for all the wonderful people that she has met thus far on her journey.





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SMCHA COLOR GUARD WRAPS UP THEIR 2013 SEASON

By Christine Friis



Kristi Eifert, Sara Esquivel, Cheryl Basin and Christine Friis
Picture courtesy of Nick Esquivel Photography

Your SMCHA Color Guard, Cheryl Basin, Kristi Eifert, Sara Esquivel, Christine Friis and Jen Mize have remained busy throughout 2013

The Redwood City 4th of July Parade was once again an exciting day for the team. Our SMCHA banner led the way while thousands of spectators cheered us on. The parade route was high sensory and full of energy and in turn so were our horses. Even so, we had a great time and survived the day. When all was said and done, your SMCHA Color Guard team won 1st place in our division

On July 20, for the first time we had the opportunity to present colors at Reining by the Bay. We opened for Derby Day with a flawless performance by our team of riders and horses. We walked into that big arena while "Where the Stars and Stripes and Eagles Fly" by Aaron Tippin played loudly over the sound system. This song was even more meaningful as a few days prior a beautiful picture was captured as a bald eagle flew over that very arena. I believe the team would agree that this was one of those emotional presentations from start to finish. We have been asked to come back next year and we are very excited to do so. In August, the team was once again honored to present two different evenings at the Menlo Circus Club Charity Horse Show that benefits The Vista Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired. This show is always a beautiful venue and

wonderful event to attend. Thursday night we were joined by Cliff Evans and a few of his upcoming Jr. Color Guard team who offered to ground crew for us. Cliff's team was a big help by grooming the horses and making sure our team as well as spectators remained safe. Saturday night's presentation we had our alternate rider Caprice Tennefoss step up to ride for one of our injured riders. Caprice "cowgirl'd" up and calmly handled a spirited horse throughout the presentation. It was very impressive.

For the past 3 years, our season seems to come to and end in October competing in The Grand National Rodeo at the Cow Palace. We had another exciting year with new rules, new judges, and a new pattern. We spent 4 days at the Cow Palace practicing, competing and riding in the Grand Entry. We came in second behind San Francisco Police Mounted Unit by 1 point (86 to 85 points). Even with that our spirits stayed high during the entire 4 days as we had many visitors from the club showing

their support as well as good times making memories and a lot of laughs with SFPD Mounted Unit. We had an excellent ground crew again this year and they made sure the horses and the riders were suited and booted for this high level of competition. I want to thank everyone personally for all the help we received during the Grand Nationals.

Caprice Tennefoss, Sylvia Ruggiero and Tina Wuslich...thanks for coming and lending a hand when needed. Whether it's cleaning tack or just holding a horse, you have no idea how much it helps.

Adeline Forrest, thank you so much for the decorations. Seriously, it makes us feel loved surrounded by pictures from the past and it all adds to the ambience especially since we seem to live at the Cow Palace for several days.

Liz Sullivan, thanks for helping us set up.... and of course your attention to detail always makes a huge difference and we love having you when time permits.

Nancy and Greg Mize, thank you for feeding us. The fact that we didn't have to worry about food is a huge help and we so appreciate it. We also appreciate the help getting us ready and making sure we are good to go.

Debbie Padilla and Kelley Hix, thanks once again for your physical (and mental) help on Friday. It's a short learning curve with both of you and it's great that you can both just jump in and know what needs to be done..... appreciate it all.

Nick Esquivel, thank you for all the help getting us unloaded along with other tasks you knew needed to be done thus jumping right in and doing them. Can't thank you enough for the wonderful pictures as well.

Patty Walsh, words can't express the thanks we have for your generosity for letting us borrow Cowboy. Your commitment to the horse community and your friendship is near and dear to our hearts. Cowboy is a wonderful horse but no doubt as he has a wonderful Mom.

Cheryl Basin, Kristi Elfert, Sara Esquivel and Jen Mize, thank you for all your dedication and hard work throughout the 2013 season. You're all incredible horsewomen and a true asset to SMCHA and this team. It's an honor working and riding with such a dedicated group of women and I look forward to doing it all again next year.

On behalf of the entire Color Guard team, we would like to thank the SMCHA Board of Directors for all the support and assistance you give us throughout the year. A huge thank you to all the folks that assisted in ground crew throughout the season and a special thanks to Jen Mize our Ground Crew Manager for her time and patience to help us reach the goals we once thought we couldn't.

"United we Ride"



All Contestants at the Grand National Rodeo Color Guard Drill Team Competition
Picture courtesy of Phil Doyle Photography



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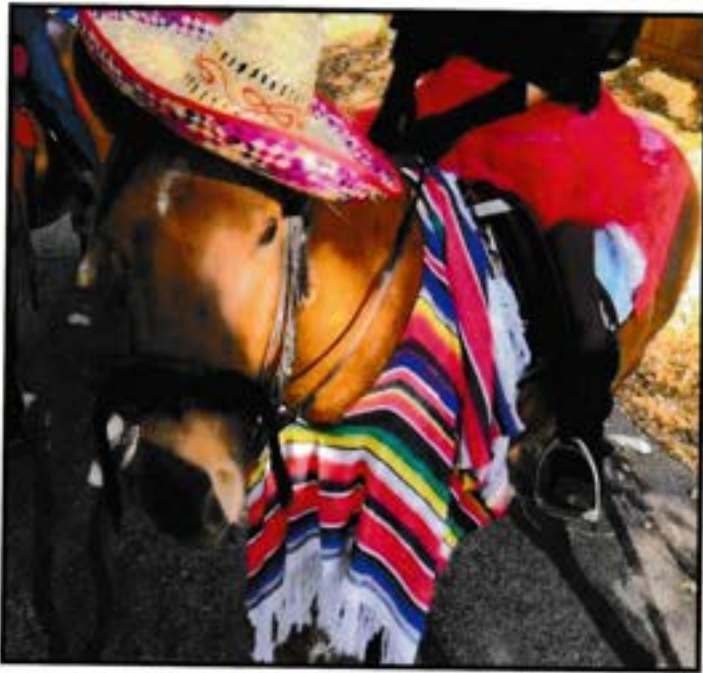
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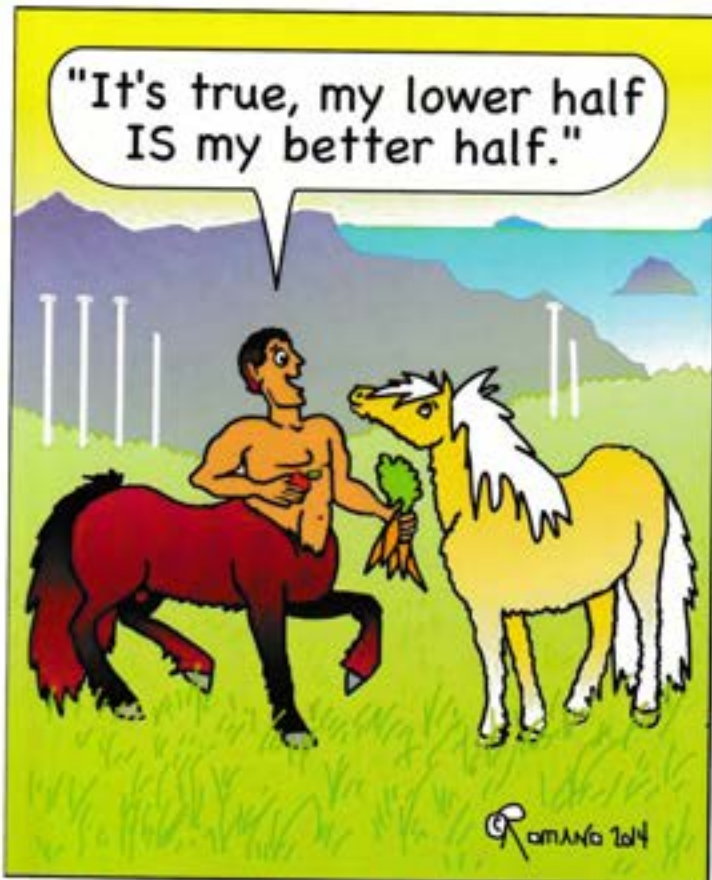
DAY OF THE HORSE



Bill's Mustache and Sombrero



Debra Vaquez - USA



Josie Neal and Apollo - NOLA



Annie Tyo and Wild Bill Ole!



Sharon Butler - Italian



Noel Powers - Japanese & Mike Tyo - Russian



WILD BILL'S STORY

as told to Annie Tyo by her friend Susan Wood.



Wild Bill

Awhile back I asked my friend Susan Wood the former owner of my horse, Wild Bill to tell me how she picked out Wild Bill the Mustang what follows is what she wrote me.....

"My father was actually the person who put the idea into my head to adopt a Wild Mustang. He had always said they were the best breed in America and I knew he secretly wanted one. I researched the requirements to adopt a mustang and discussed the matter with my father. My dad's farm met the necessary requirements (i.e. land, corral, lean-to, etc) to adopt through BLM.



Jerry & Wild Bill

We decided my dad would keep the mustang until he was gentled and just under saddle and then I would have him shipped to California. This gave my dad a chance to fulfill his dream of having a mustang and it was perfect for me.

I found a trainer on the Internet that had previously worked with mustangs and knew a lot about them and paid her to go with me to the adoption to help me pick one out. My dad and I worked hard on getting the corral built and ready for my mustang. We also rented a stock trailer for the day as they are easier to get a mustang into rather than a regular covered horse trailer. I filled out the online application and printed it out to bring me with to the adoption. I became so excited for the adoption clinic that I hardly slept

the night before. My dad was very excited too! He was up earlier than usual on the day of the adoption clinic.

My dad, mom, the trainer and I took my dad's truck and trailer to Beaumont, Texas EARLY in the morning so we would be first in line for the adoption

paperwork. There were people already walking around looking at the horses up for adoption in the pens when we arrived. We walked around and around each pen and looked at the horses. I think my trainer got tired of me pointing out every horse I liked and told me she was going to walk around a bit on her own. After a while I tracked her down and she said she had 3 horses I could choose from. Bill was the last horse I came to for a closer look. I stood on the metal fence railings and studied him. He was not friendly at all and kept his rear-end toward the outside of the pen.

He was smaller than most of the other horses, but very stocky and muscular. The trainer said he was in such good shape because he had been a stud for those 4 years in the wild.

Anyway – and I'll never forget this as long as I live – at one point he turned around and faced me and looked me dead in the eyes. I knew he was asking me to take him home - asking me to trust him. I knew at that moment that he was the horse for me. Also, right after this happened, another trainer came by and told me that if I was thinking about adopting Bill I was making a good

decision because he was a "fine looking mustang and if he didn't have enough already, he would adopt him." I ran back to my dad and told him which one I was going to get and we both went and studied Bill some more over the railings. My dad liked him more and more and said he was the perfect size for me and probably a good size for him to gentle (since my dad was 79 years old at the time!).



Susan Johnston Wood and Jerry at Texas Ranch



Jerry Johnston with Mustang Bill

We stood in line waiting for the adoption process to begin and prayed that the 3 people in front of us didn't want Bill. I was shaking when I went up to the BLM adoption administrator with my application and photos. He asked me some questions about the facilities at my dad's and then he approved the adoption. I started crying..... I was so happy!



Annie & Mike with Wild Bill at the beach

get him under saddle with more confidence. My dad said "nobody is ever going to whip or spur that horse" to get him to behave, it's all done with patience and trust.

Through all of this process, the thing my dad kept telling me was that Bill had to learn to trust me (and him). TRUST was the key. If he could trust that you would not hurt him or put him in harm's way, Bill would do anything for you. For four years Bill had trusted himself and his "herd." He had to learn that my dad was his "herd" and that my dad knew better about life in civilization than he did.

My dad knew how to talk to Bill and how to get Bill to trust him. My dad set the foundation for the great horse Bill is today."

We met Wild Bill when he first came to Page Mill with Susan. My husband, Mike told Susan if you ever want to sell that horse let me know. When she moved to Switzerland we became Wild Bill's guardians in June of 2012. In November 2013 Susan came to California to visit Wild Bill and she asked me if we wanted to have him. It has been a pleasure and an honor to take care of this magnificent animal. He has made our lives a better place and has helped our relationship in more ways than I can say! Wild Bill is a very special horse and one that comes along once in a lifetime. I look forward to many more Happy trails with him and friends from SMCHA. Stop by and say hi to Bill. He is a sweetie and he likes to dress up or all the special events.

Bill loaded into the trailer just fine and we drove home. Every day that I was at my dad's farm I spent 3-4 hours just sitting in a chair in the corral or by the corral talking to Bill. He didn't want anything to do with me the first few days and when I tried to approach him, he would turn his butt to me - warning me to stay away. He had never had grain before and didn't know what to do with it at feeding time. He had constant grass hay that he ate, but when I put the grain into his feeding bin, he sniffed it and walked away - or went back to eating his hay. We even bought "sweet feed" grain - which is full of molasses and corn - but he wouldn't have anything to do with it. It wasn't until my dad fed his 2 horses their grain up closer to Bill's corral that Bill took another whiff at his grain. He didn't eat it right away, but we left the bucket in the corral and when we went out the next morning, he had eaten it all. That was all it took.... he started loving his grain.

hung out with my dad's other two horses all the time. My dad called the horses and they ALL came running from the end of the property through the trees - including Bill. Bill ran right into the corral and my dad was able to pet him and give him "treats" that he now loved. Bill learned how to be a "regular" horse through watching and learning from my dad's two other horses.

My dad was able to put a halter on and off him and had started to lead him around. Sometimes Bill would get stubborn and not want to lead, but then my dad would take his rope and rub it along Bill's hind legs (just touching them) while trying to lead him forward and Bill would walk-out. He was getting brushed regularly and had started to let my dad pick up his feet to clean them - SLOWLY..... ever so slowly. Getting Bill to pick up his feet for my dad took quite a while. My dad had the farrier come out once a week just to make a little progress with one foot at a time. Once Bill realized that the farrier wasn't going to hurt him, it got easier and faster.

My dad worked with Bill every single day and got to where he could put a saddle on him. At that point, we hired a "Natural Horsemanship" trainer to

I returned 3 months later to my dad's farm to see how Bill was "gentle-ing". I couldn't believe how much he had changed. My dad had finally let him out of the corral after he had bonded to the farm/land and knew where to get his feed. He



Annie & Wild Bill in Costumes



Annie & Wild Bill



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2014 Calendar of Events

Subject to change - please check website for updates

February

- 13 Board Meeting
- 22 General Meeting/Bunco

March

- 13 Board Meeting

April

- 10 Board Meeting
- 19 Jack Brook Clean-up Day
- 27 Spring Ride

May

- 3 Woodside May Day Parade
- 4 Versatility Ranch Horse w/Kathy Torres
- 10 San Mateo County Fair Show at the Cow Palace
- 11 Western Schooling Show - Webb Ranch
- 15 Western Riding Clinic - Mounted Patrol
- 22 Western Riding Clinic - MP
- 24 AQHA RHV Show - MP
- 26 Hillsborough Parade
- 29 Western Riding Clinic - MP

June

- TBD Tack Sale & Horse Park
- TBD Stable Tour
- 11 Board Meeting (note: Wednesday)
- 12 Western Riding Clinic - MP
- 19 Western Riding Clinic - MP
- 7-14 San Mateo County Fair
- 26 Western Riding Clinic - Dinner
- TBD Clarkia Trail Clean-up (Summer)

July

- 3 Mounted Patrol: Rodeo Dinner & Dance
- 4 Color Guard at RWC Parade
- 4 Half Moon Bay Parade
- 4 Mounted Patrol: Junior Rodeo
- 10-13 Weaver Clinic - MP
- 10 Board Meeting
- TBD - Reining By the Bay

July continue

- 17 General Meeting TBD
- 21 English Riding Clinic - Spring Down
- 23-27 Jack Brook Horse Camp
- 28 English Riding Clinic - Spring Down

August

- 3 English Schooling Show - Webb Ranch
- 4 English Riding Clinic - Spring Down
- 11 English Riding Clinic - Spring Down
- 14 Board Meeting
- 18 English Riding Clinic - Spring Down
- 24 Open English/Western Show-Horse Park
- 25 English Riding Clinic - Spring Down

September

- 11 Board Meeting
- TBD Clarkia Trail Clean-up Day (Fall)
- 19 General Meeting/Movie Night at Webb
- 28 Presidents' Ride

October

- 9 Board Meeting
- 11 Woodside Day of the Horse
- 17 Horsemen's Night/Bus to GNR
- 17, 18, 24, 25 Grand National Rodeo
- 25 Play Day & Halloween Extravaganza

November

- 13 Board Meeting
- 15 General Meeting - Elections & Bingo

December

- 5 Board of Directors Dinner
- 14 Holiday Barn Party

January 2015

- 8 Board Meeting
- 24 Kick-off Gala & Installation

PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR UPDATES - WWW.SMCHA.ORG

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Founded in 1940

Membership Application

<input type="checkbox"/> New <input type="checkbox"/> Renewal	Annual Dues	<input type="checkbox"/> We would like to help with the following events/functions: <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors <input type="checkbox"/> B - Trails <input type="checkbox"/> C - Western Riding Clinic <input type="checkbox"/> D - Horse Shows/Playdays <input type="checkbox"/> E - Magazine <input type="checkbox"/> F - Trail Rides <input type="checkbox"/> G - Youth Programs/Youth Color Guard <input type="checkbox"/> H - Hospitality/Promotions <input type="checkbox"/> I - Membership <input type="checkbox"/> J - Senior Color Guard <input type="checkbox"/> K - Other: _____
_____ Youth Member (17 & Under)	\$25	
_____ Senior Member (18 & Older)	\$35	
_____ Couple	\$50	
_____ Family Membership*	\$55	
* Parent(s) & unlimited # children under 18		
Please list names and ages of children		

Contributions are always welcome to any of the following events/functions in any amount	Total contribution: _____ Total amount enclosed: _____
B \$ _____ E \$ _____ H \$ _____ K \$ _____	Annual dues are for January 1 through December 31 of each year. Join after October 1 and your membership is paid through the following year. Your cancelled check is your receipt.
C \$ _____ F \$ _____ I \$ _____	
D \$ _____ G \$ _____ J \$ _____	

If you **DO NOT** wish to have your name appear in our membership roster, please check here: _____

To be included in our roster, please remit dues by January 31.

Name(s) _____	Phone: _____
Address: _____	City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Email: _____	
Please make checks payable to SMCHA and mail application to: SMCHA, P. O. Box 620092, Woodside, CA 94062	