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# Content

## FALL 2021

President's Message . . . . .	4
Ask the Vet . . . . .	5
Interactive Tick Map is Launched . . . . .	5
Mulatto Meadows and Humble . . . . .	7
Drive-Up Movie Night . . . . .	8
Clarkia Trail Workday . . . . .	10
Do You Have An Equine Dependency?. . . . .	12
SMCHA Gives Kids Equestrian Scholarships. . . . .	14
The Water Trough . . . . .	17
DOTH Was Through the Roof!. . . . .	18
Webb Ranch Dressage Show . . . . .	23
Hanging In With a Friend . . . . .	24
McLaren Wins Sportsmanship Award. . . . .	24
Reds Billy Bar. . . . .	26
Sam McDonald's Farm . . . . .	28
SMCHA Free Fall Riding Clinics. . . . .	30
Where Are They Now – Colleen Combes . . . . .	33
Larry Pelzner Farewell. . . . .	34
Connect the Dots Game . . . . .	36
Fun Facts . . . . .	36
SMCHA Event Calendar . . . . .	36
Answers to Fun Facts. . . . .	39
Equestrian Websites . . . . .	39



14



18



23



30

## Cover

Wishing you a safe and joyful holiday season!



## President's Message – Christine Friis

# As the Year Draws to a Close

*By Christine Friis, SMCHA  
President 2019-2021*

Though sad that this is my last President's Message for SMCHA, I am also excited to hand over the reins to three of our very competent board members for 2022. Please welcome the terrific trio of Sharon Butler, Deb Alvarado, and Deb Vasquez as they take over the leadership of SMCHA in 2022.

The last three years have been interesting. We started off with a wonderful movement to create a larger, more bonded horse community by encouraging San Mateo County and beyond to work and support each other. The following year we were all deep into COVID, but SMCHA still tried to keep relevant by thinking about the positive tasks we could do instead of what we couldn't do. This year lightened up a bit, and SMCHA was able to plan a few outside events with pretty good turn-outs! So many riders were just itching to be in the saddle, learn new techniques, and have fun with their fellow riders.

Over the last several years, most SMCHA's functions have been free to our members and beyond to strengthen and grow our horse community. We encourage all of you to help SMCHA support our horse community by donating your time and/or money in our effort to keep us strong and thriving.

I would like to thank all our members who have supported SMCHA throughout the years, especially our Board of Directors as their blood, sweat, and tears have made SMCHA an active and successful non-profit organization.

SMCHA sends the best of holiday wishes to you, your family, and friends. Have a safe Holiday Season!

**Christine Friis,**  
SMCHA President 2019-2021



## The San Mateo County Horseman Magazine

FALL 2021

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# ASK THE VET

Answered by Lydia Gray, DMV

*Dr. Gray is the Medical Director and Staff Veterinarian for SmartPak Equine in Plymouth, MA, where she directs the research and development of products and provides horse health and nutrition education to a wide variety of audiences.*

**Q: WHAT ARE SOME WAYS TO ENCOURAGE HORSES TO DRINK MORE DURING THE FALL AND WINTER MONTHS AND MAKE SURE THEY STAY HYDRATED, OTHER THAN KEEPING FRESH WATER IN FRONT OF THEM ALL THE TIME AND PROVIDING A SALT LICK?**

**A:** This question gives me a great opportunity to share some ground-breaking research on the topic of horses drinking. I use the term “ground-breaking” even though the research is over 20 years old, because it completely changed what we thought we knew about drinking water preferences in horses.

Using a herd of feral ponies at New Bolton Center, the large animal campus of the School of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania, behaviorist Dr. Sue McDonnell and a team of researchers studied the effects of water temperature on drinking behavior. They wanted to find out if indeed horses drank less water when the weather (and the water) turned cold. What they found was just the opposite of what most horse people have always thought.

In their experiment, they cycled the ponies through three scenarios:

1. Offering the single option of warm water only
2. Offering the single option of icy cold water only
3. Offering both warm and icy cold water simultaneously

During cold weather, horses drank more volume per day of warm water (scenario No. 1) than icy cold water (scenario No. 2). But, when warm water and icy cold water were both available at the same time, horses drank almost exclusively from the cold water, and less of it. That is, horses prefer icy cold water, but they don't drink as much cold water when compared to warm water. Dr. McDonnell and her team, as well as other equine behaviorists, aren't



Hydration is important in all seasons.

sure why this is so, but horse owners can still use this information to encourage their horses to stay hydrated during the winter.

## Hydration Helpers

If possible, only provide your horse with warm water during the chillier months. Ideally this would be at all times using a heater, but if continuously heated water is not an option, then use another helpful fact from this same study: horses do most of their drinking within three hours after feeding. Continuously heated water in this study ranged from 41 to 140 degrees Fahrenheit with an average of 66 degrees while buckets were refilled twice daily with hot water that ranged from 114 to 120 degrees and was in the range of 68 to 95 degrees when most drinks occurred.

In addition to providing warm water, two other ways to try and get more fluid into horses in the winter are to give electrolytes containing salt (sodium chloride) to stimulate thirst, and to add water to feeds such as hay, hay pellets and cubes, complete feeds, and beet pulp. The easiest way to meet the horse's daily requirement of 1 ounce (about 2 tablespoons) of salt per day is to add it to the grain or the meals listed, but if you do choose to add it to the water, make sure there's a second bucket of fresh water (with no salt added) available. And watered-down feed can take some getting used to for many horses so start by just moistening the food and gradually add more and more water until your horse tells you “that's enough.”

## Bay Area Lyme Foundation Launches Interactive Tick Map

From 2016 to 2019, people across the U.S. collected and mailed over 21,000 ticks to the Bay Area Lyme Foundation in California to better understand where the disease-carrying blood-suckers live in the U.S.

The citizen science project tested the ticks for four of the most common bacterial infections that make people sick, including those that cause Lyme disease, tick-borne relapsing fever, human granulocytic anaplasmosis (HGA) and babesiosis, a malaria-like disease.

Testing revealed that ticks carrying any one of these diseases are living in 83 counties across 24 states that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had not previously identified to host these arachnids.

Testing revealed that ticks carrying any one of these diseases are living in 83 counties across 24 states that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had not previously identified to host these



arachnids. States with newly documented disease-carrying ticks include Alabama, Georgia, Illinois, Kansas, Louisiana, Minnesota, Texas, Utah, Washington, Kentucky and the Carolinas, among others.

The project also found that ticks carrying the bacteria that cause Lyme disease live in 116 counties the CDC has yet to flag.

The team developed an interactive map <https://bit.ly/bayarealyme> to check whether disease-carrying ticks live in your county,

including the Western black-legged tick, black-legged tick, American dog tick, and lone star tick.

Ticks were sent in from 49 states, excluding Alaska. Puerto Rico was not involved in the study. People did not submit ticks in counties colored white on the map, but researchers say those areas could still carry risks, especially if nearby counties are colorful.



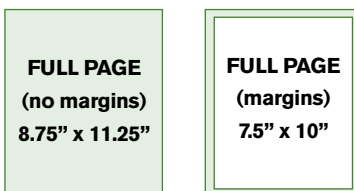
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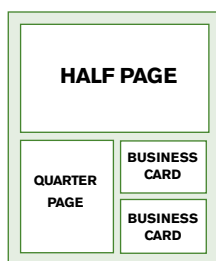
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# Mulatto Meadows and Humble

*By Chris Romano*

Mulatto Meadows is the home of a barn in Castro Valley, where Brianna Noble runs Humble. Humble is an after-school equestrian program immersing underprivileged children in all aspects of ranch life. The children learn about riding, horse socialization, animal husbandry, and barn maintenance. The website explains how Humble works with students to create a foundation of confidence around the stable, on horseback, and in everyday life. Today, youth from under-served communities—predominantly children of color—have limited access to enrichment programs and natural environments.

Due to high costs and limited accessibility, the motivational and therapeutic qualities of horseback riding are often out of reach, but, Humble brings horses to the city for one-day events to inspire the children. Then at the barn, there are multi-session programs tailored to a student's comfort level.

This is a marvelous program that SMCHA members might want to contribute to, I donated a nearly new pack saddle and brand-new panniers. I'm sad my husband and I won't be able to pack out with horses anymore, but I'm grateful to know the packs will be enjoyed by many students on one of Humble's Cowboy Campouts.

Hopefully, some of you will check out Humble's informative website: <https://www.mulattomeadows.com> The site has beautiful videos and explanations of programs offered.





# San Mateo County Horsemen's Association Annual: UNDER THE STARS DRIVE-UP MOVIE NIGHT!

*By Christine Friis*

On Friday, September 24, approximately seventy-five moviegoers were blessed with yet another beautiful night and a perfect venue at Webb Ranch's Polo Field! There was plenty of room for folks to park their trucks, climb in the back, park their cars, and pull out a blanket or lawn chair. It was nice to see so many folks enjoying the evening, visiting, and catching up on their latest horse stories.

Once again, Luis came with his T-Chuvis Food Truck and served up scrumptious Mexican food; he did not disappoint! While we waited for the sun to go down, Andee Frei from Steinbeck Peninsula Equine Clinic, Elizabeth Ouellette, and Christine Friis hosted an exciting "Horse Fun Facts" game for the crowd. Prizes were given out to the winners, and we all learned a lot about horses and even had a few laughs (You'll find some of those fun facts in this magazine issue)!

Soon the sun went down, the "Grab-and-Go" popcorn was available for all and it was time for the movie! This year's movie was "Spirit Untamed," a wonderful family-friendly movie that everyone enjoyed.

Did you know there is never a charge to attend any part of SMCHA's movie night? This is just one of the many perks of being an SMCHA Member or friend. If you aren't already a member, please join SMCHA to continue Movie Night and other "FREE" events to support our horse community. The membership application can be found on the SMCHA website ([smcha.org](http://smcha.org)).

A special thank you to Bonnie Bertetta, Jon Hayward, and all the SMCHA Board members who made this night possible!







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# Clarkia Trail Workday

*By Cheryl Basin*

We had an awesome and productive morning on the Clarkia Trail in Edgewood Park on Saturday, October 16. We had a good group of rake-and-shovel-toting helpers who cleared much debris from our beloved trails as well as digging out water bars and a few trail-side ditches. SMC Park Ranger Stewart "Stu" Smith was on hand to supervise and work alongside our crew. He provided interesting info on the park including the local Dusty Footed Wood Rats who have built large nests throughout the park. Thanks to Beverley Kane who scheduled this work on a perfect day and a week before the downpour.





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# Do You Have An Equine Dependency Problem?

*(Reprinted by popular demand)*

Do you....

- ...have more horses than children?
- ...ride more than three times per week?
- ...spend more time in the stable than in your home?
- ...think of cleaning stalls as relaxation?
- ...smell horses long before you can see them?
- ...feel the need to own just one more halter, bit, head stall, girth, saddle, etc?
- ...rush to the mailbox in eager anticipation of the next SMCHA magazine?
- ...consider cowboy boots and hats as all-occasion wear?
- ...own more than two cowboy hats?
- ...own more than three pair of western boots?
- ...prefer spending time with your horses than most people you know?
- ...find yourself able to pick horse people out of a crowd?
- ...work a conversation to mention you have horses?
- ...have more photos of your horses than your children or grandchildren on your phone?
- ...make excuses to visit a store's tack section?

- ...wash and wax your trailer inside and out?
- ...think of horse sales as social functions?
- ...look forward to trimming and shoeing?
- ...feel equestrian activities are the # 1 sport in America?
- ...call your parents and in-laws as soon as a foal is born, no matter the time?
- ...use your horse chores as an excuse to leave some places early?
- ...complain about the cost of groceries, but not a raise in feed costs?
- ...think your horses mind better than children?
- ...decorate your home with old tack?
- ...pay more for a truck and trailer than your home?
- ...have difficulty talking to most non-horse people?
- ...notice the horse before the gal or the guy with the lead rope?
- ...use your horse to meet new people?

If you have answered yes to four or more of the above questions, then you might have an Equine Dependency Problem. Please call your nearest Horse Anonymous Support Group as soon as possible.



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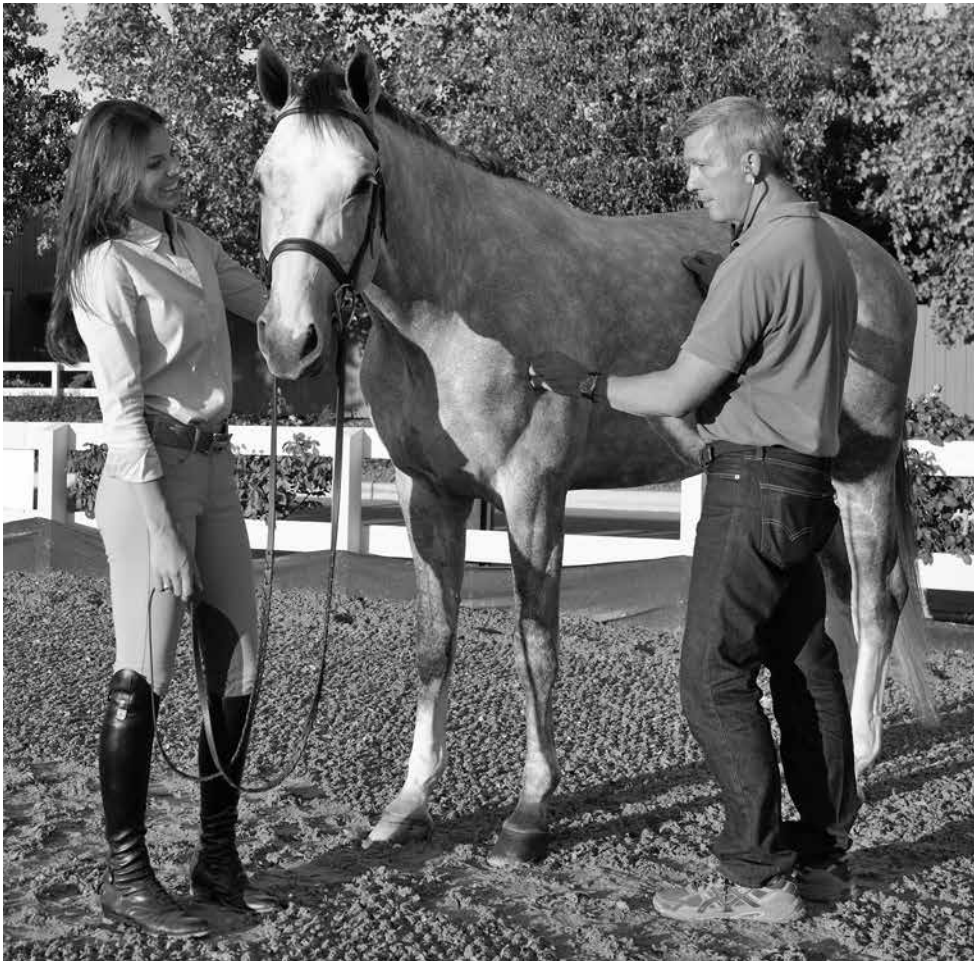
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# SMCHA Provides Children with Equestrian Scholarships

*By Sharon Butler*

Throughout the years, SMCHA has donated to several different organizations that teach children to ride horses during summer camps. We have always believed that by teaching our youth to ride, understand and love horses, there will always be equestrians in our communities.

This year, our donation went to Robin Elsineitti, owner and trainer of Maple Leaf Equestrian, ensuring two spots in the "Send a Kid to Camp" program. The club sponsored one child, and our very dear Larry Pelzner sponsored the second child.

Robin was able to provide lessons to one lucky girl and then found herself in the middle of moving her training/riding program to Whispering Creek Equestrian Center in Cupertino. So, Robin will be giving another child the same golden opportunity this spring in honor of Larry Pelzner.

The mom of the young girl who received the sponsored camp week said, "I want to express my gratitude to the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association and Robin Elsineitti for allowing my daughter to participate in the horse camp at Maple Leaf Equestrian. It was so nice to hear the details of her riding instruction each day and see how much fun she had with Robin's students." All in all, it was a win-win for the horse community!!

You can find out what Robin is up to by visiting her Facebook Page - Maple Leaf Equestrian.



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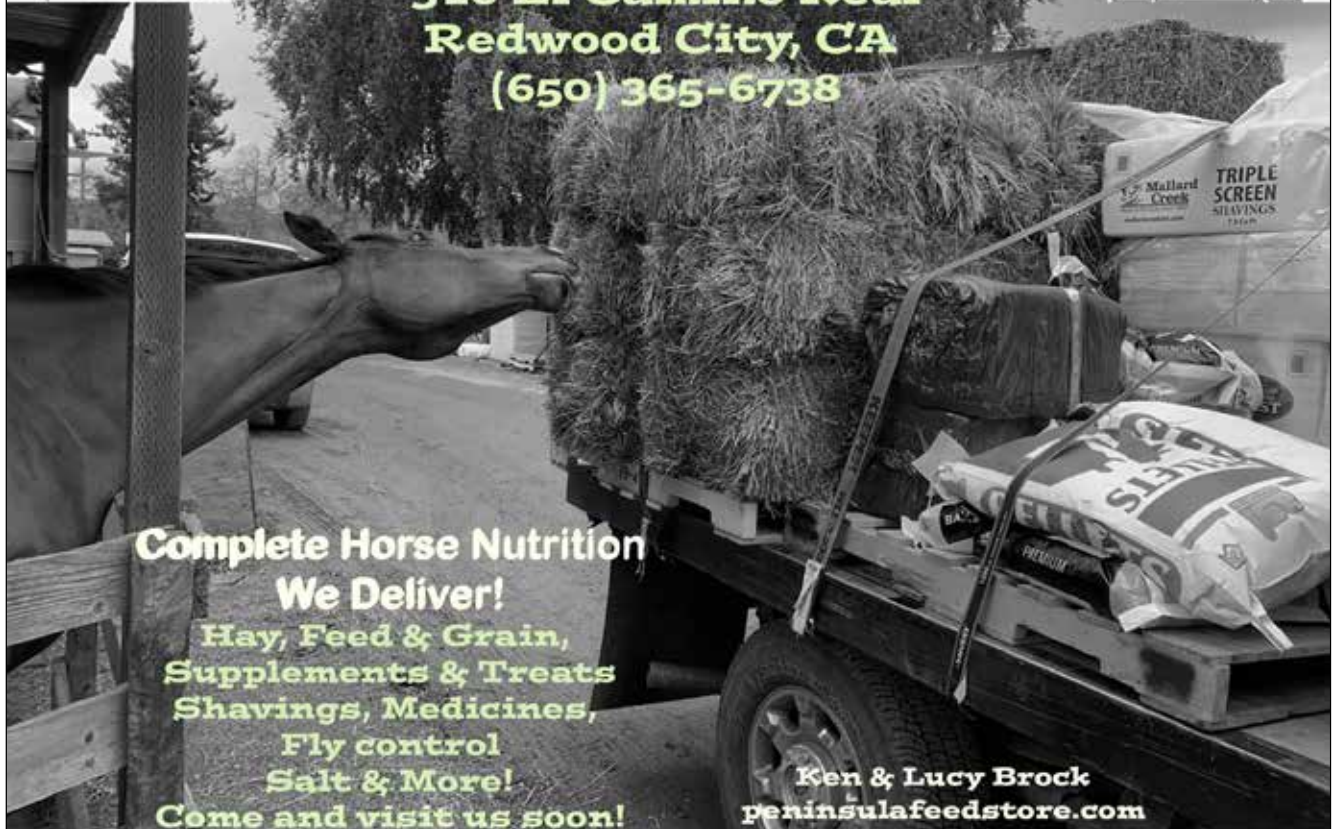
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## The Water Trough

*Have fun reading our new column, The Water Trough (a rider's version of the Water Cooler!). Let us know what's new and exciting in your lives. Let's bring our community together by sharing news, fun facts and information! Got something to share? Send your info to me, Elizabeth Ouellette @ elizabetho@outlook.com*

Mike Bushue and Betsy Hart are caring for Magda Bartilsson's mustang "George" for the winter while she is recovering from an injury. Isn't he darling?



In July, Faye and Emmet Brophy and Bob and Marcy Rosenberg traveled north with their horses to camp and ride in Oregon's Deschutes National Forest near Bend. They stayed one week at Whitefish Horse Camp and the second week at Quinn Meadows. Oregon Equestrian Trails (OET) is a non-profit that maintains the camps and trails and they do a wonderful job. A night's stay at one of these camps was less than \$20. If you go, take bug spray because the mosquitos are ravenous. Their all-around favorite ride was the Green Lakes Trail for which you need a permit; however, it is well worth the hassle of getting the permit.



On Saturday, Sept. 25th, Deb Alvarado put on a Ride the Tests Cowboy Dressage Fundraiser for Founder Rehab, located in Lockeford, Ca. It was specifically to raise funds to bring home a mother and daughter from a feedlot in Colorado. Thanks to our efforts, two beautifully-bred Quarter horses were saved. The girls will be brought home in early November. Joan McLaren donated her judging time, and Sharon Butler, who serves on our board, volunteered. It was an enjoyable day and so rewarding! It was a win-win not only for the horses but also for the folks who participated and practiced in a low-stress environment.



Kathleen Cooley has a collection of signed, numbered, and professionally-framed western art by James Bama and others. The entire collection can be viewed here: <https://bit.ly/bamaart-work> Interested in knowing more? Email Kathleen @ thleenm@gmail.com.



DRUM ROLL, PLEASE! Don Pugh has been selected as SMCHA's 2021 Horseman of the year! Congratulations, Don! Read more about Don in the next edition of the SMCHA magazine!



At the end of October, our very creative and talented, Noel Moody, visited her niece, Carolyn, in Austin, Texas to complete a mural on a retainer wall in back of the family's pool. Is there anything this woman can't do?



August 2021 was our August 2021 was our (Adeline Forrest & Cheryl Basin) summer trip to Hunewill Ranch in Bridgeport, Ca, an oasis in our current challenging times. The ranch crew is so welcoming, and the ranch horses are awesome and they know every rock, prairie dog hole, ditch on the ranch and sometimes don't hesitate to leap over the ditches like they were 3-foot fences (yes, we managed to stay aboard). It's such an easy-going atmosphere with beautiful scenery beyond words. Can't wait for August 2022.



A big "Thank You" to **Debbie Padilla** who has served on the SMCHA Board of Directors as Secretary for many years. Her contribution to SMCHA has been so very much appreciated!

**George Noel Ruhberg Jr.**  
10/10/1925-09/03/2021

Our condolences go out to Noel Moody whose brother, George, died in September at the age of 96.







Day of the Horse first place costume for paired riders.

# Through the Roof!

## 2021 Woodside Day of the Horse Exceeded All Expectations

**By Nan Meek**

With its 17th annual Woodside Day of the Horse now behind them, Woodside-area Horse Owners Association (WHOA!) organizers, volunteers, sponsors, and participants can reflect on the October 8-10 celebration, when reality exceeded all expectations.

"Through the roof!" exclaimed one young visitor when she was asked if she was having fun at the drive-through Family Fun Horse Fair. At the time, she was literally standing up through the roof of her father's slowly moving vehicle, the better to see and video the variety of equine exhibits.

"Two years of adapting our traditional events to pandemic safety measures proved that the power of horses to attract people knows no limits," remarked WHOA! Steering Committee member Anne Van Camp. "The Day of the Horse celebrations in 2020 and 2021 highlighted the resourcefulness and dedication of our team and many volunteers, who creatively reimagined the Day of the Horse weekend to continue the mission of WHOA! even during challenging times. Through all these years, the Town of Woodside and staff have been instrumental in support of WHOA! and its goals."

The mission of WHOA! is to preserve the fundamental role of horses in maintaining the rural character of the Town of Woodside and neighboring foothill communities, to enhance opportunities

for equestrian activities, and to promote the enjoyment of horses in all their various roles.

This year's Woodside Day of the Horse did precisely that, bringing smiles to the faces of visitors, young and old alike. Whether riding the trails, driving through the horse fair, walking through the art show, or riding a pony for the first time, enjoyment of horses was indeed "through the roof!"

### **Saturday, October 9: "Oktoberfest" Trail Ride**

How often do you see dirndl-clad and lederhosen-wearing riders ambling along the Town of Woodside trails? Other than during this year's Woodside Day of the Horse Trail Ride, "never" is likely the answer. Blue skies and perfect temperatures brought out the best spirits and the best costumes. In addition to riders dressed to reflect the "Oktoberfest" theme, there were some black-caped vampires, along with a few cowboys.

Ride stops throughout the riders' route were decorated in "Oktoberfest" theme, although steins of lager were not served to horse or rider, to the disappointment of some. Carrots were handed out for horses, bottled water kept riders hydrated, and delicious sandwiches gave them a boost of energy.

*Continued on Page 19*



## DOTH

*Continued from Page 18*

"Volunteers 'pulled out all the stops' to decorate their ride stops," said Jo Egenes, WHOA! Trial Ride Committee Chair. "They take a lot of pride in providing a great-looking stop and providing refreshments for horses and riders. There's not another trail ride like this anywhere."

Regardless of the costume, 80 trail riders showed the fun of having horses in their lives to local residents out running their Saturday errands as well as to restaurant guests lunching outdoors. More than one rider was asked, "Can I pet your horse?" And more than one horse's velvet muzzle made new friends for equines, one nuzzle at a time.

For a look at costumed trail riders and other activities from 2021 and prior years, visit the photo galleries at <https://whoa94062.org/media-gallery/>.

### Sunday, October 10: Horses Were Everywhere

Horse Fair: Expanding on the innovative drive-through Family Fun Horse Fair that was so popular last year, volunteers and exhibitors brought the world of horses to life for visitors of all ages. From 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., the Woodside Town Hall parking lot hosted a slow-moving parade of 286 people in 103 cars, including 170 children who received free plush pony "stuffies" to take home.

Horses that spanned the variety of breeds and horse sports introduced horse fair visitors to a giant Clydesdale, an elegant Andalusian, an exotic Gypsy Vanner, a sturdy Morgan, American Quarter Horses, and several cuddle-worthy ponies. Equestrian sports included Western, English, dressage, vaulting, and driving. Organizations spanned youth riding clubs, a vaulting club, and equine-facilitated therapy. Educational demonstrations from veterinarians and a farrier sparked visitors' interest, and live music set the tone ... literally.

"We loved welcoming families to the drive-through version of the horse fair again this year," Kristina Chancholo, WHOA! Horse Fair Committee Chair said. "It's a delight to watch how engaged with the horses the children – and the adults – get, especially when an exhibitor brings a horse right up to the car window for them to pet. Horses are the best ambassadors!"

"I am so deeply thankful for all of the volunteers and exhibitors," Kristina emphasized. "The horse fair could not happen without them. We cannot wait to welcome them back next year, along with our traditional supporters with their own live booths."

Visitors can find horse fair exhibitors online any time at <https://whoa94062.org/horse-fair/>.

Free Pony Rides plus a mini petting party filled the field next door to the Woodside Fire Station. From 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., 167 children, accompanied by 200 adults, enjoyed free pony rides as well as petting time with both mini horses and a mini donkey.

Visitors to the pony ride site also had a chance to participate in the first-ever group art project, which resulted in an extra-large canvas featuring horse drawings and graffiti arrayed on a sky-blue background. The children's excitement and happiness showed in the artwork.

"Observing all the smiles of the children enjoying their very first horseback ride ... just cannot be put into words!" remarked Anne Van Camp, WHOA! Steering Committee member.

Youth Art Show took place at the Village Hub just down Woodside Road from the pony rides. Children were able to bring in their artwork from Friday afternoon through Sunday morning, with the art show open for viewing from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday. Youth artists from age five through age thirteen exhibited an array of



First place costume – Melinda Stoker on Playgirl

styles in a wide variety of mediums, all clearly demonstrating their true love of horses.

Every entrant won a Woodside Art of the Horse ribbon, and twelve works of art were chosen for the 2022 WHOA! Calendar. Their delightful artwork makes a fun splash of color every month.

"These kids represent our future," remarked Don DeFranco, WHOA! Art Show Committee Chair, who organized both the Youth Art Show in person and the online art show for all ages. "Most of them ride at local riding programs, so their love of the horse shines through in their artwork."

Youth artwork is online at <https://whoa94062.org/art-of-the-horse/>.

All donations to WHOA! over \$25 receive a 2022 WHOA! Calendar featuring selected youth artists. To donate, click on the "donate" button at the top of the WHOA! website at <https://whoa94062.org>.

Online Art of the Horse: This year, the original in-person art show was transformed into an online event. With 32 online booths, a variety of equine artists from across the country began showing their work online beginning October 8, continuing through November 8 at <https://my.boothcentral.com/v/events/woodside-art-of-the-horse-2021/>.

Visit them to see photographs, paintings, sculptures, and more, or to purchase their work. To support the projects funded by WHOA! that help the equestrian community, a 10% buyers' commission is included in these purchases.

Next year, WHOA! plans to return to a live art show, building on previous years' success and innovation. Until then, visit the online Art of the Horse at <https://whoa94062.org/art-show-gallery/>.

*Continued on Page 20*



## DOTH

*Continued from Page 19*

### Looking Ahead to 2022

Woodside Day of the Horse, celebrated in the second weekend of October, has become a local institution and Woodside tradition after seventeen years. It has been reinventing itself throughout the pandemic and WHOA! has hopes to further refresh these activities to appeal to an even larger audience in the future.

"We need to remain relevant, and we need to remain focused on our mission to support the equestrian community while preserving and honoring our local equestrian heritage," remarked Fawni Hill, WHOA! Steering Committee member. "I think our team has been very successful in keeping alive the intention and the spirit of Woodside Day of the Horse through some really tough times, thanks to our sponsors, volunteers, riders, exhibitors, the Town of Woodside and participants from surrounding communities."

Generous sponsors of Woodside Day of the Horse include a wide variety of individuals and organizations who share a deep interest in preserving the place of horses in our community. They can be found at <https://whoa94062.org/sponsors/>.

If the past two years have demonstrated anything about our equestrian community, it is its resilience, its commitment to taking care of each other and our horses, and its focus on the future.



The Horse Fair in downtown Woodside.

As Anne Van Camp, WHOA! Steering Committee member said with optimism, looking toward that future, "We are looking forward to a fully 'in person' experience in 2022 to celebrate the horses in our community. See you there!"



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# Mounted Patrol Foundation

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**The Mounted Patrol Foundation believes that horses and equestrian activities have helped create a vibrant, healthy community in Woodside California and the surrounding area.**

The Mounted Patrol Foundation seeks to honor this legacy by continuing to support, maintain, develop and encourage equestrian facilities, activities and heritage in the town of Woodside, the county of San Mateo and the state of California. Our vision also includes the preservation of horse habitats and trail systems to provide both opportunities and environments conducive to the enjoyment of horses for horse owners and the public at large.

We are pleased to announce that grants to the community just passed \$539,000, since founding in 2002. Over 72% of this came from generous contributions from many folks and organizations, for which we and the recipients are forever grateful: This year we have awarded a total of \$68,000.

## **THERE WERE THREE SIGNIFICANT PROJECTS THIS YEAR:**

**\$45,606 to the San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation Group** which comes into action to help rescue animals during fires or other catastrophes. The funding has gone to purchase two trailers with emergency supplies and other activities.

**\$11,739 to the Pescadero Creek Park trail project** which paid for a crew from the San Jose Conservation Corp to clear many obstruction and tree falls in the Park, enabling Jack Brook horse camp to be opened on June 15.

**\$5,000 to the Equestrian Merit Scholarship** (Jointly with \$5,000 from WHOA) of \$10,000 was awarded to Olivia Bodner, who will be studying veterinary medicine at UC Davis.

## **OTHER BENEFICIARIES WERE:**

SMCHA Clinics – Instructors	\$1,800
SMC 4H – Scholarship	\$1,000
Sweetbeau Horses – Wild Mustang Rescue	\$1,000
NCEFT – General support	\$1,000
Horse Park – Sponsorship	\$750
Horse books for Children – NCEFT	\$118

We thank the many donors who help support these projects.



**Check out our website for more information on these projects and history on others.**

**[www.MountedPatrolFoundation.org](http://www.MountedPatrolFoundation.org)**





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# Webb Ranch Dressage Show

*By Ashley Cameron McIntyre*

On November 1st, 2021, we had our first horse show at Webb Ranch in a very long while (10-15 years). One of the goals of this 3-star rated dressage show was to bring the quality of dressage at Webb Ranch to the forefront. At Webb, we have many instructors, trainers, and riders who are successful in the dressage discipline. All in all, we had 57 show competitors.

The other goal was to bring joy back to showing in a friendly atmosphere and still meet the professional criteria of USDF, USEF, and CDS. Many thanks to all the hard-working volunteers who made this event so successful.

We also had terrific sponsorships from SMCHA, A to Z Cookies, Idlewood Essentials, Comparative Biosciences. and Bay Hill Equine Veterinary Services, as well as Jen Werbe and Agi Yother.

We are planning on having our next show in the spring.

*"Webb Ranch Dressage put on THE most friendly and supportive rated show I've ever attended. The volunteers never ceased to have smiling faces, even as we were all soaked to the bone. The judging was spot on and constructively delivered."*

**- Emily Conforti**



Lilly Welsh & Fandango. FEI High Point PSG winner.



Venita & LeMieux competing first level



Anje Lueders is High Point Winner



Competitor Emily Conforti



# Hanging In There With a Friend

**By Bonnie Bertetta**

*(Reprinted from the December, 2016 edition of America's Horse)*

"Your horse, Cooper, is down, sweating and rolling. Come quick!" This is a phone call no horse person wants to hear.

The call came at 9 pm. My husband and I had just returned from dinner with friends. Cooper was turning 30 in February. He was loosely related, many generations ago, to the Fabulous Man o' War (TB). He was a sorrel gelding, about 15.2 hands, and very strong, with an engaging personality that captivated everyone he met.

At age 67, I took up horseback riding. My husband and I were buying a ranch in Oregon, and horseback riding was on the top of my list of things to do.

Cooper, registered as Ziggy Double Bar, was my lesson horse. He was 18 at the time. He had been at the barn for several years and was the favorite of all the trainers. He was smart, friendly, and knew all the moves. And he wasn't afraid of plastic bags blowing, and he did not mind me singing, "Happy Trails"-my naive way of warning any deer that were lurking on the trails that we were heading their way. I leased Cooper for several months and ended up buying him from the owner of the barn.

Everyone remarked that he was taking good care of me. Of course, I did not know they were thinking, "What is an older lady doing taking riding lessons, and why is she wandering all over the ranch by herself?" The regulars took me under their wings, and soon we had our morning riding group. I soon became more confident and really enjoyed riding.

Cooper became my pal. He and I had had 12 uneventful years together. I must admit I had the horse bug pretty bad. I got involved with the other horses (I have three others, to be exact), but every day, Cooper and I hit the trail.

Anyway, back to that dreaded day: I rushed to the barn, calling my trainer and the barn owner frantically, asking them to call the vet. By the time I arrived, all were there. We hauled Cooper to the local emergency veterinary hospital. He was in bad shape, looking at his stomach in genuine distress. I was quite hysterical. The ultrasound examination showed nothing, but a test of the belly fluid was ominous. The fluid was pinkish-red, indicating dead intestine.

The veterinary team looked at me with woeful eyes. "Not good," they said. "What do you want us to do? He is almost 30, an advanced age for a horse to have colic surgery."

My trainer took me aside and cautioned me that recovery from abdominal surgery was, at best, hard for a young horse and would be even more challenging for an older horse.

The year 2015 had been a devastating year for me. I lost my son in January. My dog, at age 15, had died. Changes at the barn upset our routine. In short, I was not ready for any more changes. I assessed the situation in my mind and immediately decided that Cooper was strong, energetic, and had never run up a vet bill. I was not ready to let him go.

The answer to the question they posed to me was, "He was fine today; we went on a three-mile trail ride. What happened tonight? We need to figure it out." They said, "Okay, the surgeon is on the way." The surgery started at 1 am. An hour later, the surgeon came out and said he had found the problem: a strangulating lipoma, one of the most deadly things that can happen to older horses. He showed me the fatty tumor that was attached to a long string-like thing called a stalk. The stalk had wrapped itself around the



small intestine and was literally strangling it. The surgeon asked me, "What do you want us to do, proceed or put him down?" My answer was immediate, quick, and short: "Finish it up! We had the answer to what was wrong."

The surgeon said, "Okay, but it will take four hours," his way of saying, "This is going to be a high-dollar commitment." I got the message, but this was my Cooper; my friend, for 12 years. The friend who truly loved me and was always happy to see me. The friend who was always ready to go to lunch (he would graze while I sat in the saddle and ate my sandwich). There was no question about it; he would have done the same for me.

At 6 am, the surgeon called to let me know that he had completed the surgery and that Cooper was standing. He said, "All we can do at this point is wait and see how the recovery goes. There are many obstacles in the way, but we are hopeful." That morning, I went home and told my husband, "I spent a lot of money last night." He looked up at me and said, "I understand. I lost my first horse, and I still haven't gotten over it." Cooper remained at the surgery center for ten days.

The staff at the center was composed of experienced veterinarians and new grads from vet school. Like everyone who met Cooper, they fell for him in a big way. His every need was tended to. They checked on him 24/7. I think they even slept by the stall the first few nights. I think they noticed that even when he was at his worst before the surgery, he still nuzzled my hand when I looked in his eyes to ask what he wanted me to do. They saw the bond between us, and it



was a done deal - they had to save him. They remarked that he seemed to know me even in his worst state and was aware that I was there with him. Ten days after the surgery, Cooper came home.

He slowly recovered, but it was not uneventful. The first few days at home were rough. The vets and my horse trainer were invaluable help. I could not have done it without them. (Remember the older lady who took up horseback riding?) As Cooper continued to recover, I think he believed he died and went to horse heaven because we gave him senior feed three times a day to fatten him up. How it ended was up to the horse gods. But we planned to be out on the trail, singing "Happy Trails" within a few months. Between us, Cooper and I had more than 100 years of experience. We thought we knew it all, but we still had a few things to figure out and many more trails to ride.

The word "colic" refers to any abdominal pain, including the symptoms caused by a strangulating lipoma like Cooper's. It's a condition more commonly seen in geriatric horses, especially geldings and ponies. "The reason for the predisposition of aged horses to lipomas probably relates to the number of years required to form a lipoma with a sufficient length of stalk to strangulate intestine," says Dr. Anthony Blikslager of North Carolina State University's College of Veterinary Medicine, quoted on [thehorse.com](http://thehorse.com). He also theorizes that metabolic changes due to age could be a factor.

## Joan McLaren Wins Wyat Paxton Sportsmanship Award

Because of the heartbreaking unsoundness of the lovely mare Joan McLaren wanted to show this year, she could not enter the Cowboy Dressage World Shows in 2021. So, she put her energy into volunteering to work the entry gate at the 2021 Gatherings. Joan always enjoys helping riders stay focused on when their "ride time" is up and keeping the show "rolling" at an even pace, not to get behind the clock! When anyone has a question about their ride time or tack, she is there for them.

On October 15th, the Cowboy Dressage World group surprised her at the evening performance with the first-ever Wyat Paxton Sportsmanship Award for her volunteer hours helping with the gate, keeping the arena running on time, and assisting the riders who needed support when nervous about their ride.

Wyat introduced himself, and with the Cowboy Dressage Wyat Paxton Sportsmanship Award in hand, he looked over at Joan and called her name. She was so surprised; she burst into tears while fifty-plus people stood up and gave her a standing ovation!

Joan believes that we are all a big family with love for our horses and our fellow riders; that is the way we Cowgirls and Cowboys are....it is the Cowboy Dressage way. Joan is always available to support you and your horsemanship.



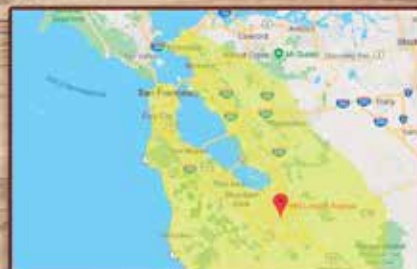
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Billy and John Petro at Pagemill Pastures

## Reds Billy Bar - A Wonderful Trail Horse

*By John Petro with input from Megan Berwick*

Born in Colorado on May 22, 1985, Reds Billy Bar (Bill or Billy) was moved at an early age to owners in northern California. It turned out that he was too energetic for his first owners but was finally placed with Megan Berwick in Los Altos Hills.

Megan got Billy when he was seven and she was thirteen. She already had a very spirited Arabian named Haneenya, and her parents liked the idea of a calmer quarter horse. Little did they know who Billy really was!

She had Billy on a one-week trial and had a lesson at Fremont Hills Country Club with Debbie Sereni. Billy was so energetic that he dumped her and ran off within a few steps of entering the arena. Debbie decided perhaps they should start with lunging.

The next day, the pasture owner where Billy was boarded offered to take Billy for a ride at the beach. Megan had never gone riding at the beach and was thrilled. They trailered over to Half Moon Bay with a few horses and Billy. They galloped up and down the beach, then trailered up to the mountains and galloped through the forest, arriving home after dark.

The following day Megan had her second lesson. Billy was so tired from the beach, he was resting his head on the hitching rack. At the lesson, Billy did everything asked and could not have been a better student. Debbie could hardly believe her eyes.

One week later, the trial was over, and Megan was in love with Billy. It was tough finding the right trainer, though. Every trainer who worked with Billy declared him un-trainable. That was true for an English trainer in Los Altos Hills and a natural horsemanship

trainer in Santa Cruz. The only person who really understood Billy and his energy level was John Sobey, and rides with Sobey were an adventure every time!

With John Sobey, Megan and Billy would trailer over to Crystal Springs to swim in the preserve, to Half Moon Bay to ride on the beach, and up Black Mountain and over the mountains. Billy liked to go, and Megan loved when they went fast together. Some favorite trail rides were at Byrne Preserve and Arastradero Preserve, where Megan and Billy would gallop up the hills and then explore beyond. Megan went riding, sun or rain. In fact, huge rainstorms were her



Megan riding the waves with Billy





Bill hustles for Megan

favorite to go out in. The horses would get frisky with the feel of the wind on the night before a big storm. One day she saw snow on the top of Black Mountain from her high school and called her mom to ask if she could take Billy up to see the snow. They went straight up the mountain, and Billy was so surprised by the snow that he was dancing around to feel it crunch under his hooves.

Billy came into my (John Petro's) life in 2002 when I saw a posting for two trail horses for lease. Both my daughter Alison and I were taking lessons at the time, and I thought that it would be fun to ride trails together. Megan was heading to China to study, and she was leasing Billy and her Arabian mare, Haneenya. I inquired with my instructor at the time about taking on an energetic, smart, and sometimes stubborn horse, and he informed me that was a bad combination in a horse. We took them over anyway, and the trail adventures began. Bill proved that instructor wrong, as he was a quarter horse who also was keen to make sure he took care of his rider.

Early on, my daughter and I took the horses over to Rhus Ridge and, after passing the gate at the parking lot, Billy wanted to run, and we ran without stopping all the way up to Windmill Meadows. At the time, we did not know that it was unusual to run from the bottom to the top.

Billy's natural enthusiasm just made it seem natural.

Bill was a great trail horse, always wanting to head out and go somewhere. He loved exploring, and when we reached a trail choice, he would almost always want to take the trail that we had not ridden recently. He had an exceptional memory and sharp intelligence, and clearly remembered countless trails and other features, even when he had not seen them in years. We explored every trail in Los Altos Hills and had our favorite runs from Page Mill Pastures (PMP), where we kept him for years, such as to Westwind Barn and up La Cresta Drive.

Billy had a twist in his right rear foot when he walked, but it never seemed to bother him at any gait and certainly not when he was going fast. No one quite knew why he was like this, but every time I would ride with someone new, they would comment that my

horse was lame. I would just tell them to wait until we hit a hill, and then they would get to see just how lame he is!

One of Billy's primary traits was his confidence.

He loved to lead trail rides, and he was a natural leader for other horses. He helped many other horses learn to stay calm and steady on the trail through the years, even when they encountered something new and potentially frightening.

Billy would just communicate to a novice trail horse, "That?? Aww, nothing to be afraid of there!"

As an example of his confidence, once, while riding the trail along Purissima Road, we ran into a repaving operation. There was the steaming paver, multiple dump trucks with asphalt, steam rollers, and multiple flashing lights and traffic signs.

Bill took a look and then just walked on by, proving yet again how utterly "bomb-proof" he was.

Bill's favorite activity was running up hills, but he also loved the beach. As a high-energy horse, some of his training was at the beach, where he could run and burn off energy. He loved running in the waves and enjoyed following the water as it receded, which led to some very wet boots when the waves came back in.

When Page Mill Pastures closed, I looked for a pasture for Bill to retire in. I finally settled on a place in Grass Valley owned by his original trainer, John Sobey.

John loved Billy, and Billy loved the pastures there. The first day he arrived, he looked around, trotted over to a pasture fence, and made friends with one of the horses there. He clearly communicated that this was an OK place for him to retire. He stayed in pasture until his last year, and I visited him regularly during this time. He finally passed away on June 19, 2021, and was buried in one of John Sobey's pastures. He had recently turned 36.



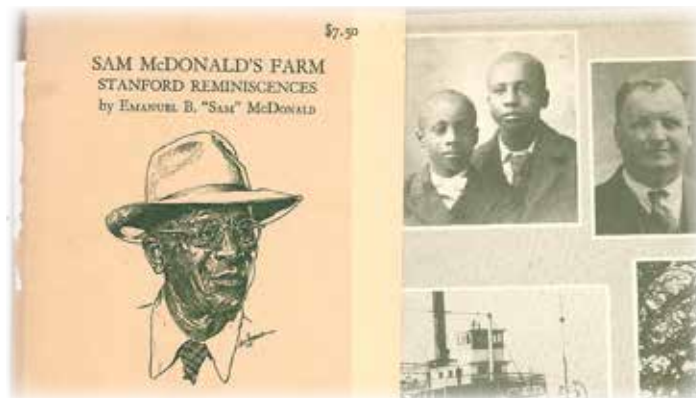


# Sam McDonald's Life and Legacy

"Sam McDonald's Farm" is an extensive autobiography of Sam's life and is available on Google Books to view/read online. It's an interesting read. He started out as a teenager working on local farms, then worked as a teamster hauling gravel to surface the roads around Stanford, then worked his way up to be Superintendent of athletic buildings and grounds at Stanford. Here's a link to the Google version: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=uc1.4572985&view=1up&seq=1&skin=2021>

Sam (Emanuel) McDonald, descendent of slaves, was born in Louisiana in 1884. Moving several times, and working at various jobs, he finally settled in Mayfield (South Palo Alto), and in 1903 took employment as a teamster for Stanford University. This was the beginning of a long and pleasant career with Stanford, spanning some 50 years, with Sam eventually becoming Superintendent of Athletic Grounds and Buildings. While working at the "Farm," McDonald took a correspondent course in law and served as Secret Service Agent for the Treasury Department, as Deputy Constable for Palo Alto Township, and as Deputy Sheriff for Santa Clara County.

McDonald began acquiring the La Honda property in 1917, with the purchase of a two-room cabin and some ground along Alpine Creek in the northern portion of the property. Standing 6'4", he became part of the Stanford legend. He probably had a wider acquaintance with students and faculty than any other member of the Stanford family did. Dr. Ray Lyman Wilbur, University



President, said on one occasion: "I am glad I do not have to run against Sam for office; I would fear the results."

The Stanford Convalescent Home for Underprivileged Children on campus was one of McDonald's pet projects; he planted large gardens for the children during the war years, and cooked barbecues for them. The home was named "Sam McDonald" in his honor.

When he died in November 1957, he left his La Honda property (400+ acres) to Stanford, which had given him so much in opportunity, friendship and happiness. McDonald specifically requested that his heirs use the land as a park for the benefit of young people. San Mateo County acquired the land in 1958 for \$67,000 and dedicated it for public use in 1970. An additional 450 acres were acquired in 1976 from Kendall B. Towne, bringing the total acreage of the park to 867.

For more information, visit: <https://www.smcgov.org/>.

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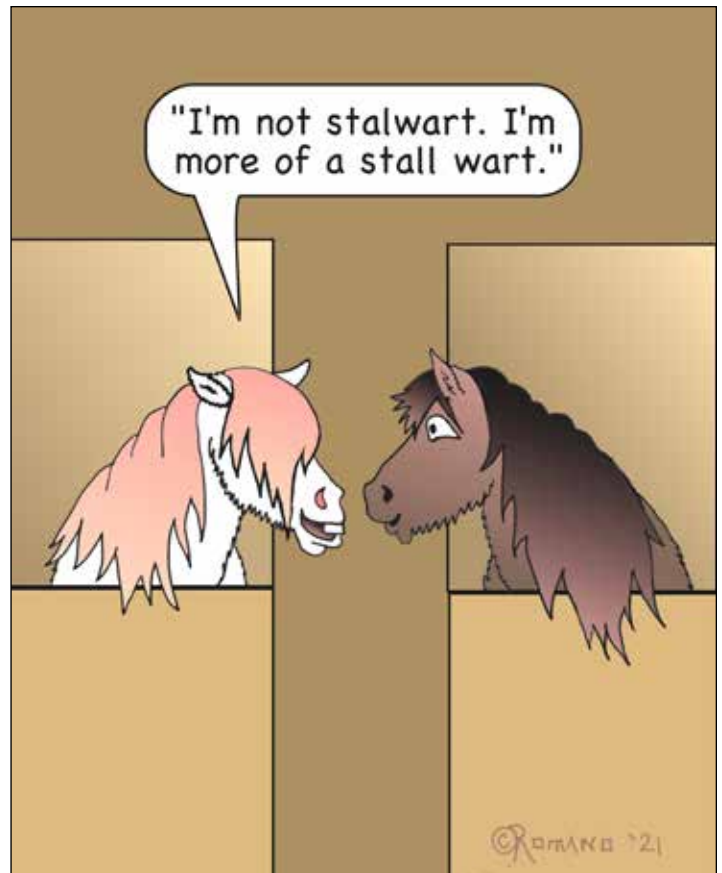
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# SMCHA Free Fall Riding Clinics

*By Noel Moody*

*Photos by Krista Kahl*

Wow! What fun! We are back to riding and not COVID lock-up! Yea!

At every one of the four clinics from September 12-October 3rd, we had good turnouts, and people were excited to see one another and take part in classes.

This year, the clinics were held in two places- the Mounted Patrol Grounds (MPG) and the Chaparral Ranch at Wunderlich Park. Our wonderful Joan McLaren instructed Ranch Versatility and Cowboy Dressage in the upper ring of the Mounted Patrol (MP) with full classes every week. Fiona Bogie, Milpitas Chaparral Ranch instructor, shared the upper ring with Joan, teaching western horsemanship skills. She was great! Everyone learned a lot, and her class was top-rated.

Offered for the first time at the SMCHA clinic were two groundwork clinics given by Justin Nicholson of 180 degrees Horsemanship of Acampo, CA. Many spectators observed from the grandstands. Justin showed ways of getting the horse's attention before being ridden.

Don Pugh, Michelle Goodspeed, Betsy Hart, Lori Grass, and Butch Coggins volunteered their horses for two demonstrations. It was very popular. Justin, a handsome young cowboy, did a phenomenal job. Dana DeFrates of DeFrates Horsemanship in Gilroy substituted for Joan McLaren for the second clinic and worked on speed control. She was excellent. Different this year were the number of children,

six and under, attending. Each week, Noel Moody had at least four participants doing obstacle courses, learning to turn, stop, go forward, back up, all while holding the reins correctly and being in charge of







the horse with the help of their mothers. Being a retired first-grade teacher, Noel enjoyed them all. They were fabulous.

SMCHA wants to thank Sean Mott, owner of Chaparral Ranch at Wunderlich Park, for allowing us to use four of his horses for members who did not have their own steeds. Due to logistical problems with moving the horses to MPG, SMCHA decided to have the class at Wunderlich Park.

Addie Thompson of Garrod Farms did an excellent job instructing the class. Everyone came to the MPG for the after-class camaraderie. This was the first year SMCHA offered horses to members without mounts to be in the clinic. Thank you, Sean Mott.

SMCHA is very grateful to Scott Dancer and Rick Debenedetti for ensuring the rings were in perfect condition. We also thank Sharon Butler for signing in people, Chris and Jen, for the far-reaching publicity on Facebook. Thanks also to Clint Collins for picking up the lunches at the Webb Ranch Taco Truck. Thanks to Cheryl Basin for processing the lunch money desk. Of course, we thank the SMCHA Foundation and the Mounted Patrol Foundation for sponsoring this very successful clinic. Mostly, we thank SMCHA and our community members for participating. YOU made it a success. We also thank Karen Shawback for organizing the SMCHA clinic once again. Thank you for your dedication and hard work.

Last but not least, we'd like to thank Suzanne and Robert Cornelius for their guitar playing and singing at the end of the clinic celebration at the MPG. We already cannot wait for next year!











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WHERE ARE THEY NOW?...

# Gold Country Horse Riches

*By Colleen Combes*

My "Where" is now Sonora, California

In the summer of 2019, after a lifetime in the bay area, it was time to move my horses and myself to the Sierra foothills. My company was allowing employees to work remotely even before COVID. Looking back I can see that I was lucky to make the move before the start of the pandemic and the resulting wave of remote workers looking for rural homes.

The foothills have always been familiar to me. I was actually born in Oakdale and after returning to the bay area as a child, my family continued to have farms and summer places in Oakdale and Sonora.

I looked at a few affordable properties, and as it goes, some places were good, some bad, and some ugly. Good horse property with a nice house at a moderate price is hard to find. The good ones at the right price got snapped up before I could bid. But after a remarkably short time, I found "the one".

A sense of peacefulness and rightness came over me the first time I drove up the gravel drive to the home.

The triangular parcel of well-groomed oak tree stands and small meadows that surrounded the understated ranch house created a sense of harmony I hadn't felt with any other place I looked at. It even had a fenced in garden with apple, peach, pear, and apricot trees. I didn't have to think, I put in a bid the same day, and wonders of wonders, it was accepted. I guess it was meant to be.

The property had no fencing for horses, so I had an acre of the 3.5-acre property fenced even as I was packing to move. And yes, that kind of broke up the harmonious park-like feel of the place, but my joy at being able to watch the horses from my balcony while sipping my morning coffee is the best feeling of all.

Time has passed quickly and after two years here, I feel settled in and am already following the rhythms of the region.

The trade off from the temperate micro-climate of the bay area to the hot summers here are offset by a bit of snow every winter and cool mountain riding. The urban sounds of traffic, construction, and lawn mowers are replaced by the sound of birds, dogs barking, chainsaws, and tractors.

The horses are thoroughly happy. They hang out under the oaks in the summer, and have made peace with the rafters of turkeys that invade their pasture and the groups of deer that roam the neighborhood. My mustang and mule were joined right away by two minis,



Pete and La Reve. They are little in size but big on personality. Both have had training to drive and I hope to have them hitched up and on the dirt roads this coming summer.

Though I can't ride trails right off the property like I could in Los Altos Hills and Woodside, less than an hour up highway 108 there are myriad

mountain trails among pines, firs, and lakes where temperatures are at least 10 degrees cooler than at my Sonora homestead.

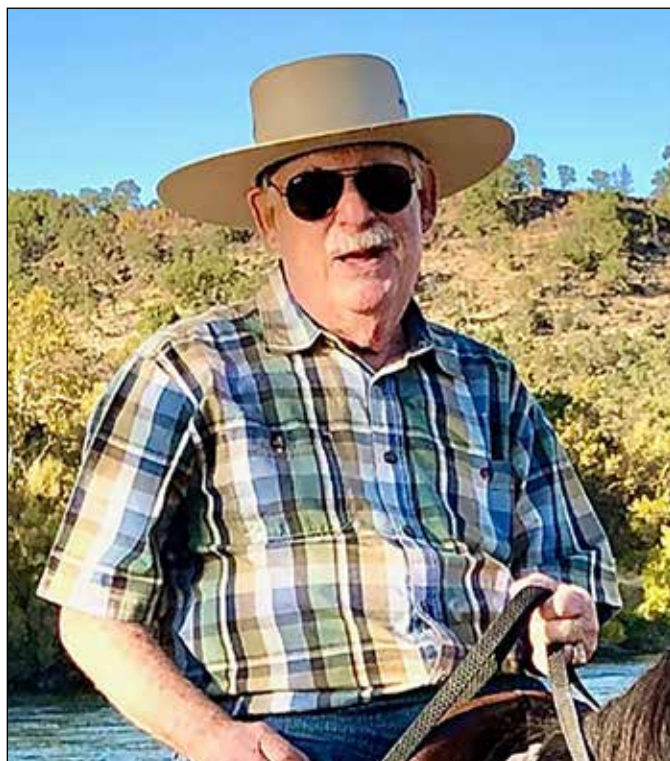
I'm lucky to be surrounded by friendly neighbors, especially the family across the dirt lane from me who have five horses of their own. We bonded over our equines and I convinced them to join the Twain Harte Horsemen with me my first year here. Now we are now happily involved with Twain Harte Horsemen group trail events.

Yup, I'm building a new equestrian network.

That doesn't mean I don't miss my friends from Bay Area horse organizations, including Los Viajeros, the San Mateo County SO Mounted Search and Rescue Team, and the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association. I do. But every now and then we still meet up, and the time and distance apart makes it that much sweeter to see everyone again.

Here's to balancing old experiences with new experiences, and always, the joy of riding a horse.





# Larry Pelzner: The Last Days

*By Danielle Pelzner*

I first met Larry when I was 21, almost 30 years ago. I was incredibly lucky to have such a unique and loving father-in-law like Larry! We had a very close relationship, and from the beginning he welcomed me to this family with open arms. He was not just my father-in-law; we were great friends. We could talk openly and honestly about anything. Although at times exhausting, we shared a very special bond, I knew Larry loved me and I loved him. Larry was a second dad to me. I won't recap the last 30 years because that will take forever but rather, I want to highlight a few special moments the last few days....

I had the honor of cooking Larry his last homemade meal, meat loaf and mashed potatoes! He loved my meatloaf! I always used ground turkey in place of meat, and he still raved about it!

## Testimonials about Larry

Larry was the BEST "Gate Keeper" for the SMCHA Horse Shows and was the BEST Treasurer and/or Sergeant at Arms during the 2 years my husband, Al Filice, was President and the following year that I was President. Larry was ALWAYS someone you could count on to lend a helping hand; he had the biggest heart and was one of the most generous people we've had the pleasure to know. He lit up a room whenever he entered it with his warm smile and hearty chuckle. Happy Trails to you Larry...until we meet again.

*Sarah & Al Filice*

I helped Larry with his horses at Portola Pastures. Like most horse owners, Larry has a shed where he kept his tack. One day, a simple gold horse head

Dave made him his favorite cocktail, a Southern Comfort Manhattan with a slice of orange and we toasted him on the big 79!

Dave and I went to see Larry on his last day. We stood at his bedside, and we held his hand and reminded him how much we loved him, how much he meant to us, how much Ashley and Justin loved him, we even called both kids on FaceTime and Larry chatted with them like all other days, asking about school, friends and telling them how much he loved them. It was then Larry tried to comfort us by saying he is ok; he was ready, and he was at peace and not scared. At the time it was heart breaking but now as I look back, my heart is full, and I feel so blessed and grateful we had the opportunity to remind Larry how much we loved him and how blessed we were to be given the opportunity to say goodbye.

True to Larry's caring nature, Larry was trying to comfort us as he prepared for his next journey. He kept telling us "It's ok, I'm ok, I'm not scared" Such a testament to a man full of love and compassion for others, Larry trying to take care of us, even until the end.

When we were leaving the hospital that night, I turned to Larry and blew him a kiss and said, come and visit. His response was, "oh you bet I will"

A few hours later I called the hospital to check in on Larry as I did for the last 18 days. Boy were those nurses sick of my calls!!! I called the nurses station once again to make sure Larry was comfortable and getting what he needed.

The nurse that I spoke to several times over the last 18 days was on that evening and told me Larry was comfortable and she had just checked on him. She said, I know how hard this is on all of you, but can I tell you something funny? Of course, I told her, wondering what she can possibly say that's funny at this time. She then tells me when she went in to check on Larry, he threw his hands in the air and with a smile said, "what the hell is taking so long? ... leave it to Larry to be a joker even until the end.

The next day, after we received the news of Larry's passing the same Nurse called to check in. She wanted to tell us she was with Larry as he took his last breath, he was not alone, and he was at peace. She also told me All the nurses and doctors were so sad and deeply impacted by his loss, they adored him as a patient. True to Larry's fashion he managed to have the staff adore him, even while battling for his life.

Yesterday, I received a call from the initial doctor who was caring for Larry his first week in the hospital. She wanted to express her condolences and tell me what a special patient Larry was and how the staff has been so impacted by his loss. She and all of the 6-west unit at Kaiser wanted to send their heartfelt condolences.

Thank you, Larry, for being the best father-in-law in the world. I will cherish the relationship we shared, and you will always hold a special place in my heart. I love you so much, Danielle

necklace was hanging on a single nail outside the shed. "What's that for, Larry? It's beautiful, but it's going to rain. Should I put it in the shed?" I asked. "No, just leave it," he said. It belongs to a young girl who died of cancer. I used to visit her in the hospital. She loved horses. When she died, her parents asked me to bring it out here with the horses. Just leave it."

*Caroline Cahmy*

I spent a lovely evening chatting with Larry about his life, his family and his ancestors at Jack Brook's SMCHA event this past summer. I cherished this time getting to know him better, as I've only known Larry for a couple of years, and mostly through Zoom meetings.

Every year, attendees donate items for the raffle. Larry encouraged me to sift through all the goods and with curiosity asked me, "If your name



## Testimonials continued

is chosen, what would you pick out?" Without hesitation, I pointed to a framed stained-glass window with a white Arabian horse at its center. "Well, I knew you had good taste. That's my favorite item too!"

Adeline put her hand in the hat and chose the first winner: "Larry Pelzner!" she yelled. Larry jumped up, grabbed the stained-glass window, turned around and handed it to me. "I want you to have this and every time you look at it, think of me." I tried to refuse, but there was no refusing, Larry Pelzner.

True to my word, when I look at that stained-glass Arabian horse, I think of the kind-hearted and generous man who gave it to me.....my friend, Larry Pelzner.

*Elizabeth Ouellette*

**Larry Pelzner contributed many years on SMCHA's Board of Directors.** We always knew we could rely on Larry as our Compliance Officer to make sure SMCHA was conducting business properly. Larry was very generous and loved sponsoring SMCHA events that would bring fun and enjoyment to our members. I will miss Larry's sense of humor, his caring nature and wisdom.

*Christine Friis*

**My friendship with Larry spanned a period of thirty-plus years.** Though I cannot sugarcoat my dealings with him, I can say he was a memorable character. We all knew Larry could be a royal PITA (Pain in The Ass). Many of those characteristics are what endeared him to us and made the man unforgettable. I will only describe several scenarios to help portray the man I knew and loved.

When we had an IRS Audit about ten years ago, I was terrified I might lose my small horse business. When the auditor had my husband and Larry in her office, like a Jack Russel Terrier with a bone, Larry had that woman eating out of his hand. Larry handled our predicament with his usual aplomb. We ended up with more money on our return, rather than any penalties. Larry knew finances.

I was at the ranch when Larry got his two young Arabian mares, pretty grey Jolie and later, little bay Lena. The mares lived to 32 years each, no small feat for most horse owners. I was there for him when we had to euthanize Jolie, and he cried. Knowing that crossing over is always painful, I knew he didn't want to do it alone, so I stayed with him. Watching a horse die is not a delicate procedure, but we got through it. Later I was grateful to be the one to bring him his last horse, Mocha. I know he really liked her because she is so pretty, not because she's the best horse around, but they got along well enough, even though he refused to put a bit in her mouth.

One of my more recent memories was at the Horse Park within the last two years. Larry would ride around the park on Mocha; giant rowel spurs on his boots, bosal bridle on his mare, cowboy hat, and bolo tie.

That day, Marcus, the dog, was running amok around the property, though the dog never left his side, according to Larry. So, I was schooling my horse, preparing to enter the Dressage Court with the rated judge ready to score our routine, Marcos trotting along beside us. Larry is trying to grab my attention because he wants to chat; I'm trying to stay focused. Next thing you know, I'm barking at him, "Larry, come get your damn dog!" Then the horse and I proceed down centerline to perform. It wasn't my best scoring day, alas.

When friends tell me about heaven and hell and Larry is watching from above, I don't know about the afterlife, only that the man will live on in our memories. I will miss you, Larry.

*Pam Russell-Daly*

**It was the 2011 Western Schooling Show at Webb Ranch.** I was so excited because I had always wanted to ride in shows and had only done two Webb show classes with my wild and crazy pinto, Rocky the previous year. So, when the SMCHA show came to Webb, I entered EVERYTHING, including the schooling/clinic classes which were free and open to all age groups.

The morning of the show I realized that Rocky was wired for sound and thought perhaps I would skip the first class. I didn't know you had to "officially" scratch and I could hear my trainer, Joan McLaren calling me to the arena. I took a deep breath and went for it. There were a lot of horses in the class and Rocky was very excited. We had to lope right away and we made it through a couple of laps. Joan gave me a thumbs up. I breathed a sigh of relief and then the judge told us to reverse and lope again. About halfway around the arena a horse next to us threw a buck and that was all it took and Rocky was hopping across the arena out of control.

Larry at the gate, saw the terror in my eyes and came to my rescue by grabbing my bridle and stopping Rocky. He then attempted to open the gate and let me out of my misery. However, the judge had other ideas and insisted that I stay. After a few minutes of going back and forth with Larry trying to let me out of the arena and the judge telling him NO, the judge said "I am the judge and you have to do what I say". By that time Rocky had calmed down, so I told Larry it was OK and I followed the judge's instructions to ride to the center of the arena and stop. After that class, I scratched all the schooling classes that included a lope for the rest of the day.

*Ceci Ellis*

**Larry turned 79 on August 19, 2021.** In Jewish mysticism,  $8 + 1 + 9 = 18$ , the gematria (Hebrew letters converted to numbers) for ch'ai. Just the week before, a couple of weeks before he entered the hospital, we had e-mailed back and forth with dinner plans to celebrate our August birthdays. Now there is a hole in my heart where Larry, and what would have been The Last Supper, used to be.

As close as we were, and as much beloved of each other, I know he wouldn't mind my sharing Larry's limelight-loving Leo side—outspoken, commanding, attention seeking. This aspect of Larry came out in the many times we shared gate duty at the SMCHA shows at Webb Ranch. Larry love controlling the gate! And he loved walking out to hobnob with the judges, much to everyone's chagrin, as the show must go on.

At the same time, Larry ran a tight ship in getting riders in and out on time for the classes and keeping the show moving.

My most vivid memory of those times is Larry joking with and encouraging the young riders. As the contestants nervously sat their horses, biting their lips, waiting for their class, little girls all dressed up and spotless, Larry's booming voice told them, "Smile! And have fun out there!" The show jitters would dispel, as a line of now-smiling kids (and some adults) entered the ring.

Larry died 9-9. Another 18 for Life.

*Bev Kane*

**It's so hard to believe that such a vibrant, funny horseman** has left us. I will always have fond memories of Larry at our horse shows as "Gateman Extraordinaire." He kept the arena gates running smoothly and was sensitive to the anxiousness and nervousness of the younger competitors. He'd offer kind words of encouragement and was successful at putting them at ease. Larry was very generous and was always donating to one SMCHA cause or another, including our youth programs. Larry was a dear friend and I miss him.

*Cheryl Basin*

**Larry and I met through SMCHA about 14 years ago.** We worked many horse shows and many other events together, and I also worked with him as a fellow SMCHA Board Member.

Larry had stepped off the Board for a few years to help out with other local equine organizations. We all missed his colorful input and his love for what the organization meant to the equine community. My goal was to figure a way to get him back on the Board and liven things up again, in a way only Larry could do.

We both had attended a wedding of a former SMCHA president, and I thought this might be a good opportunity to get the job done. I asked Larry if I could buy him a drink or two (Open Bar-LOL) because I had something to discuss with him. He agreed, so my plan was going well! After bringing him his cocktail, I asked him to consider returning to the Board as our Treasurer, knowing he would shine in this position. It did take a few more cocktails and a LOT of sweet-talking, and by the end of the reception, he agreed to THINK about it. I was pretty sure my plan had worked. Shortly after that day, we had Larry back on the Board in full swing as Treasurer and as the Club's Parliamentarian. Those of you who knew Larry can appreciate that he loved to tell us how to do things and when we were not complying.

Along with all of his family and friends, I am still in disbelief that Larry is no longer with us. I miss him and will always remember Larry for his kindness, generosity, and funny jokes/stories (I can't repeat most). Larry always spoke the truth.

Happy trails, my dear friend!

*Sharon Butler*



# Connect the Dots!



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## Fun Facts: True or False?

1. Scientists are unable to clone horses.
2. Horses can't vomit or burp.
3. Horses have an almost 360 degree visual range.
4. Male horses have the same amount of teeth as females.
5. The average horse's heart is over 10 times bigger than ours.

**Answers on page 38.**

## SMCHA 2021 Calendar of Events

Check website for updates: [www.smcha.org](http://www.smcha.org)

### January

Jan. 22, 2022 – SMCHA Gala – Elk's Club in Redwood City

### June

June 19, 2022 - Tack Sale at the Horse Park in Woodside



# COME VOLUNTEER WITH US!

Want to meet new people who love horses? Interested in helping out with our many activities and events? We are always looking for volunteers! If you'd like to be part of our team, send us an email and a member of our club will contact you.

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Cell: 650.380.1574

## GENERAL MEETINGS

Christine Friis @ 650.704.2996

## RIDES

Adeline Forrest @ 650.743.1665

## PROMOTION & PUBLICITY

Venita Naidoo @ 650.716.8372

## COLOR GUARD

Christine Friis @ 650.704.2996

## 4-H YOUTH PROGRAM

Jennifer Ott @ 650.619.8257

## FUNDRAISING

Christine Friis @ 650.704.2996

## HORSE SHOWS

Horse Show Chair Position – OPEN

## FALL RIDING CLINIC

Karen Rowley Shawback @ 510.432.0368

## FACEBOOK

Beverley Kane @ 650.868.3379 & Jenny Mize @ 650.380.1574

## TRAILS

Adeline Forrest @ 650.743.1665

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## Answers From Fun Facts!

### 1) FALSE

In 2003, a Haflinger filly called Prometea was born to a genetically identical mother in Italy. She was the first horse to be successfully cloned, following the birth of a mule clone earlier in 2003.

There's still a lot of controversy surrounding the cloning of horses and other animals. However, some equine experts suggest the technology could be used to clone successful geldings and use them as breeding stallions.

### 2) TRUE

Over time, horses have lost the ability to vomit or burp. They have a very strong muscle ring called the cardiac sphincter at the entrance to their stomachs. This structure makes sure any food that enters the stomach cannot go back out.

What's more, the vomiting reflex is very weak in horses, which is another reason why they can't throw up. They are also physically unable to squeeze their stomachs with their abdominal muscles to force food back up the esophagus. The only way food is able to escape a horse's stomach is in the event of a stomach rupture, which is usually fatal in horses.

### 3) TRUE

Because of the position of their eyes, horses can see roughly 350 degrees around themselves. This is nearly four times our visual range!

### 4) FALSE

Stallions and geldings are more likely to have wolf teeth, which is why male horses will often have 40 teeth while mares will only have 36. According to thehorse.com, around 70% of horses will develop wolf teeth at the age of 5 months to a year.

But why do only some horses have wolf teeth? As explained by veterinarian Glennon Mays, the ancestors of horses were small



browsers that lived in forests. Their diet consisted mainly of twigs and leaves, and wolf teeth helped them properly chew their food.

However, since horses evolved to be grazers, the need for wolf teeth slowly diminished. When present, horse owners often remove these teeth as they can interfere with the bit and cause discomfort to the horse. This has become a routine procedure in performance horses.

### 5) TRUE

The size of an average horse's heart is 9-10 pounds (4-4.5 kg), whereas a human heart only weighs 10-12 ounces (0.28-0.34 kg) on average. Racehorses have even bigger hearts, and heart size was the key to the success of many racing legends. Secretariat's heart weighed an astonishing 21 to 22 pounds (9.5-10 kg), while Phar Lap's heart was 14 pounds (6.35 kg).

You can easily calculate how heavy your horse's heart is if you know his body weight. Research has shown that a horse's heart weighs around 1% of his body weight.

## EQUESTRIAN WEBSITES

**Bay Area Savvy Players:** [bayareasavvyplayers.org](http://bayareasavvyplayers.org)

**Backcountry Horsemen of California:**  
[bchcalifornia.org](http://bchcalifornia.org)

**Bay Area Equestrian Network:** [bayequest.com](http://bayequest.com)

**BLM Wild Horses & Burros, California:**  
[wildhorseandburro.blm.gov](http://wildhorseandburro.blm.gov)

**California Dressage Society, California:** [dressage.org](http://dressage.org)

**California State Horsemen's Association (CSHA):**  
[californiastatehorsemen.com](http://californiastatehorsemen.com)

**CSHA Region 6:** [csharegion6.org](http://csharegion6.org)

**Disabled Equestrians:** [disabledequestrians.org](http://disabledequestrians.org)

**Horse Park at Woodside:** [horsepark.org](http://horsepark.org)

**Horsensei:** [horsensei.com](http://horsensei.com)

**Into the Light Horse Rescue and Sanctuary:**  
(facebook): [intothelighthorserescueandsanctuaryinc](https://www.facebook.com/intothelighthorserescueandsanctuaryinc)

**Jasper Ridge Farm:** [jasperidgefarm.org](http://jasperidgefarm.org)

**Los Altos Hills Horsemen's Association:** [lahha.org](http://lahha.org)

**Los Viajeros Riding Club:** [losviajeros.org](http://losviajeros.org)

**Mounted Patrol Foundation:** [mountedpatrolfoundation.org](http://mountedpatrolfoundation.org)

**Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County:** [mpsmc.org](http://mpsmc.org)

**San Mateo County Large Animal Evacuation:** [smclaeg.org](http://smclaeg.org)

**National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy (NCEFT):**  
[nceft.org](http://nceft.org)

**San Mateo County Horsemen's Association:** [smcha.org](http://smcha.org)

**San Mateo County Sheriff's Mounted Search & Rescue:** [smcmsar.org](http://smcmsar.org)

**San Mateo County Parks Volunteer Horse Patrol:** [smcvhp.org](http://smcvhp.org)

**Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association:** [sccha.org](http://sccha.org)

**Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Association:**  
[sccha.wildapricot.org](http://sccha.wildapricot.org)

**The BOK Ranch:** [bokranch.org](http://bokranch.org)

**The Square Peg Foundation:** [squarepegfoundation.org](http://squarepegfoundation.org)

**Woodside-area Horse Owners' Association (WHOA!):**  
[whoa94062.org](http://whoa94062.org)



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Please make checks payable to SMCHA or submit payments via PayPal on the SMCHA website: www.smcha.org.  
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If you do not want your name to appear in our membership roster, please check here\_\_\_\_ Annual Dues are for Jan 1 through Dec 31. (Memberships of new members, joining after November 1, will be paid through the following year.)

### Memberships

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\_\_\_\_\_ Youth (17 & Under) ..... \$30

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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**SMCHA always welcomes volunteers! If there are any events/functions at which you would like to volunteer, please check below and we will contact you.**

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\_\_\_\_ Playdays/Gymkhanas

\_\_\_\_ Trail Maintenance

\_\_\_\_ Member Recruitment

\_\_\_\_ Youth Programs

\_\_\_\_ Color Guard

\_\_\_\_ Magazine

\_\_\_\_ Horse Shows

\_\_\_\_ Miscellaneous Events

\_\_\_\_ Hospitality/Promotions

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