

# The San Mateo HORSEMAN



SUMMER 2011

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**Magazine:** Janine O'Neill  
**Mailing:** Express Printing (408-400-0223)  
**Advertising:** Bee Brown  
**Layout/Design:** Janine O'Neill  
*j9oneill@comcast.net*; (650) 771-1797  
**Printing:** Express Printing (408-400-0223)  
**Club Photographer:** Sue Winslow  
**Cartoons:** Chris Romano-Puckett

**COVER**

SMCHA 2011 Western Schooling Show  
 High Point Winner Katie Nachtsheim  
 presented by Cheryl Basin

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



The first day of summer is upon us and your board members are gearing up for various events for all of you to participate in. Unfortunately our Western Riding Clinic was cancelled due to the EHV-1 virus. I have heard so many different opinions about the virus and what can or should be done about it. I know many of you were disappointed that many rides, shows and clinics were cancelled but I firmly believe it is better to err on the side of caution. Karen Rowley is in the planning stages to still have a riding clinic of some sort for you this year.

Our second General Meeting was a huge success due to the great idea by Laurie Greenblat our 1st VP to educate us on horse trailering. Guest speaker Casey Terrebelini is very knowledgeable and did a great job explaining so much and answering all of our questions about the safety of our horse trailers.

I wonder how many of you go to the San Mateo County fair and how many of you are aware that every year SMCHA puts up an exhibit. I would like to thank our board members Sue Sheehan, Ginger Bushue and especially Adeline Forest who have made this happen year after year. The exhibit is educational in nature and enjoyed by many.

We will once again have the English Riding Clinic at Springdown Equestrian Center starting on Monday, July 18. It was such a success last year it is back by popular demand.

If you are thinking of joining us this year at the Jack Brook horse camp don't dally. The horse camp has been known to sell out and Sharon Butler our 2nd VP has a great event planned including fabulous food, good rides and activities. This is a great opportunity for everyone and I look forward to seeing new and familiar faces from near and far this year.

Two SMCHA horse shows are coming up in August. First the English Schooling Show on Sunday, August 7, at Webb Ranch and then the Open English/Western Show on Sunday, August 28, at the Horse Park. Cheryl Basin and her team of volunteers work very hard to put on class events. Plan on either entering the horse show or at least come out and enjoy the day watching fine horsemanship in action.

Over the past few months we have had many new members join SMCHA; and I thank all of you that have renewed. Janine O'Neil is in the process of upgrading our registrar database. I will be sending out an email urging you to reply and help us define our members and correct any errors in the systems with regard to names, contact and member information. Your assistance is greatly appreciated.

I want to thank Anne Whitten, Color Guard Captain, and all the members of the Color Guard including Chris Friis, Patty Walsh, Kristi Eifert and Cheryl Basin, who have given so much of their time and courage to represent SMCHA. They have been asked to perform at several events, one being the Redwood City 4th of July parade. It is a great place to see them or join them. Have you ever

## San Mateo County Horsemen's Association

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### DEADLINE

**FOR ADS AND ARTICLES  
for the Summer 2011 issue  
is September 15, 2010**



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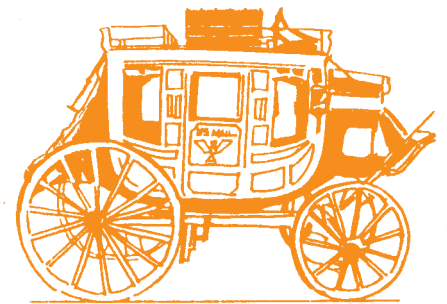
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## The San Mateo HORSEMAN

Summer 2011

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

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



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(Application on back cover)

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President's Message, continued

ridden in a parade? It is so much fun and rewarding to see all the smiling faces when the spectators watch the horses. Our Color Guard will also be at the Driscoll ranch rodeo on Saturday and Sunday, July 30 and 31, and the Grand National Rodeo at the Cow Palace on Saturday, October 15.

Remember to check out the calendar of events and various fliers throughout the magazine so you won't miss out on any of the fun events.

Have fun and be safe in the saddle this summer.

Cordially yours,

*Nancy Kouchekey*

SMCHA President 2011



# SAVE THE DATE!!

## SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSEMAN'S ASSOCIATION

### PRESIDENT'S RIDE SEPTEMBER 25TH, 2011

Come join us on this honorable ride to celebrate both past and present President's of SMCHA.

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Lyndie Tanklage - Half Moon Bay

John & Jenny Sant - San Francisco

Maggie Mah Johnson - Woodside

Wendy Millet - San Carlos

Jennifer Ott Cameron - Half Moon Bay

Holly Winnen & Family - Woodside

## SPRING RIDE - APRIL 2011

by Sharon Butler

Well there it is, my first ride for SMCHA as 2nd VP and Ride Chair is complete. I could not have asked for a better turnout by our members and their guests. One of our guests had so much fun, she signed up as a new member of SMCHA.

The weather worked out great. As we all know this time of year is hit or miss on Skyline Ridge. I was "white knuckles" all week hoping for good weather. As Laurie Greenblat and I drove down Skyline the morning of the ride in the fog, I was still concerned only to have the fog break and the sun shine through. Thank you, Laurie, for your support with the Spring Ride and for all my future events. LOL

We started the morning with coffee and donuts as everyone was registering and tacking up to ride out. As people were checking in there were a lot of new faces that I have never seen on our rides before. By the time registration was complete, I had met many new people. We had 38 riders and 10 non-riders for lunch.

A special thank you to our Trail Leads for doing such a great job and making sure everyone returned safely. The first group of riders (the more adventurous ones) was led by Holly Whinnen and Nancy Kouchekey. As the riders in this group came back, they had smiles from ear to ear and could not stop talking about what fun they had. The second group was led by Tanya Rebarchik. If you have ever had the pleasure of riding with Tanya, you are guaranteed you will never get lost. I think she has a built-in compass. The third group to go out was led by Sue Winslow, our Club Photographer. Sue's group was the one to be with if you are not camera shy. As you see Sue took some extraordinary photos of her group, the awesome scenery and anyone who might have crossed their trail. Great job, Sue, and as always thank you for your beautiful photos and everlasting memories.

While the riders were enjoying the trails, a few of us, including Laurie Greenblat, Barbara Stogner, Nan Daly and Laura Raposo stayed back to either hike a bit or just sit around and chat and wait for Luis the owner of Taquizas, Los Chuvi's aka Taco Truck. Yes that is correct, I bowed out of cooking for this event and left it up to Luis and his wife, owners of Taquizas. I thought it would be fun to shake it up a bit and have this event catered. This turned out to be a great decision because Luis and his wife did an amazing job. He rolled up with his trailer in tow and set up a great meal for us. Lunch was all you could eat tacos...beef, chicken and pork. They included all the fixing and Spanish rice that was yummy. Even the vegetarians were able to make up a great plate of food. I would definitely recommend Luis and Los

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Chuvi's for other club or private events. Let me know if you would like his number. His website is [www.tacosloschuviv.com](http://www.tacosloschuviv.com) Thank you, Luis!

The end of a perfect day was to celebrate birthdays for two very special ladies. Sue Sheehan brought a cake and we sang Happy Birthday to Cheryl Basin and Nola Masterson.

Thanks to everyone who helped make my first ride as Ride Chair a great success. Without the help and support from our members, these fun events would not happen. THANK YOU and see you at Jack Brook!

Our President, Nancy Kouchekey & Tango get ready for the ride.



Everybody is ready for the ride



Tanya Rebarchik gives a smile



Giselle leads the pack

**MORE SPRING RIDE PIC'S!**

*Junior riders getting ready*



*Mr. Bean....King of the Mountain*



## GENERAL MEETING - ON THE ROAD AGAIN

By Laurie Greenblat

April 27th offered us another pleasant evening at NCEFT! Thankfully, Old Man Weather agreed to give us a reprieve from the prior few weeks of rain, allowing for clear Spring skies for SMCHA's Trailing Talk. NCEFT again graciously hosted our presentation in the outdoor arena.

I'd like to give a HUGE thank you to Casey Terribilini for his time and expertise! Casey is a veteran leader of MSAR (San Mateo County's Mounted Search & Rescue - www.smcmsar.org) and past Captain of the San Mateo County Mounted Patrol. He has had several years experience in hauling his own horses in various style rigs, hosted trailer classes for MSAR, and has received training in Large Animal Rescue. Casey not only entertained us with his charisma and enthusiasm, he provided a lot of useful information for both veteran and novice horse-haulers alike.

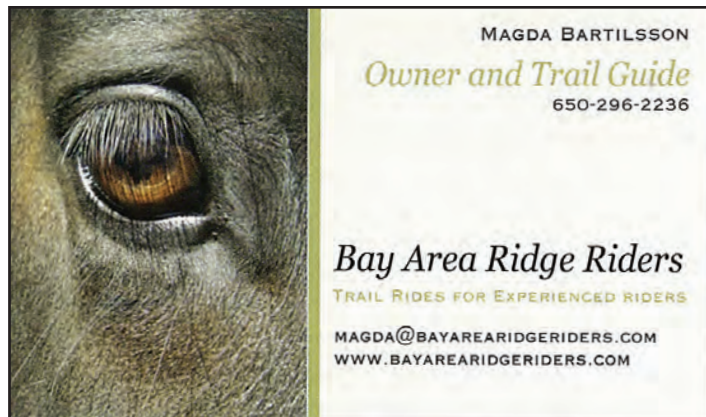
Using both a bumper pull slant, and a gooseneck with living quarters as examples, Casey reviewed safety basics for both rigs, pointing out items so easy to overlook like a dead trailer battery, sun damaged tires, faulty spare tire, or rotting floor boards. He also provided a great outline to review prior to hauling your trailer

(attached for reference – great document to keep in your trailer for review!).

Even for those of us who have hauled trailers for years, this demonstration was a fantastic refresher of the basics, and challenged us on how well prepared we really are vs. how prepared we THINK we are! As always, SMCHA member in attendance participated with enthusiasm in the question/answer portion. Some of the questions from the crowd, and shared stories offered up, really demonstrated how precious our Horse Cargo really is. And? What a great reminder of how important we, as Horse Enthusiasts, must consider our job in keeping our equine friends safe on the road.

The feedback and emails received after the evening presentation were fantastic! Folks really did leave feeling they had learned something, which is after all, the whole point!! Thanks to all who attended and to Lyndall Erb for making the haul over & the use of her trailer!

*Next General Meeting:  
September 15th  
Save the Date!*



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# English Riding Clinic

All levels of riders can participate



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**Who:** Instructor will be Carol Goodstein.

**When:** Monday evenings  
July 18, 25 - August 1, 8, 15, 22  
6:30pm - 8:00pm

**Cost:** \$35 per session  
Or \$180 if rider signs up for the entire series.  
Please make checks payable to SMCHA

**Contact:** Robin Whalen 650-851-2411  
robin@hollyhock.com

**\*\*\* All participants MUST be a members of SMCHA.\*\*\***  
Membership forms will be available  
at registration at the first session.

Riders are to provide their own horses.  
**Juniors MUST wear a helmet.**

Carol will provide Spring Down horses for \$40 per session. This is in addition to the clinic fee. She will address each rider at their ability level.

Reservations for lesson horses must be made in advance and by the Friday prior to the clinic date to ensure a horse has been reserved. English saddles available for participants to borrow at no charge. Please ask Carol.



SMCHA is pleased to offer an English Riding Clinic to our members once again.

## SMCHA COLOR GUARD KICKS OFF BANNER YEAR!

SMCHA Color Gurard 2011

By Anne Whitten

Can it get any better? That's what I keep asking myself, and the answer seems to be a resounding, "Yes!" This year we have a full calendar of events that carries us through the entire summer and into fall. It seems word has gotten out about one of SMCHA's best kept secrets, which has been my goal since I resurrected it back in 2008. Incredibly, I have been receiving requests from several local special events and had to actually "close" our date book to avoid team burnout! In total, we are booked for 15 mounted events along with our 2 Color Guard Café standing dates at our schooling shows held at Webb Ranch. I would like to invite all club members to check out our calendar and come see us. We will be at the Redwood City 4th of July Parade and will be performing both nights at the Driscoll Ranch Rodeo to name just two. We'd love, love, love to see you there! A side note: Livermore is on hold due to the Equine Herpes Virus.

We have three new riders this year as two veteran members moved on. Noelle Rodolari and Nancy White left vacancies for Patty Walsh, Chris Friis and Kristi Lee Eifert. Sad to see Noelle and Nancy go, but am thrilled to welcome Patty, Chris and Kristi. They are all huge assets to the team as are their trusty mounts.

As of this writing, we have already performed three times and have one Café date behind us. We love kicking off the year in our hometown of Woodside at the annual May Day Parade. As has been my experience, it's wise to always allow for extra prep time just in case the unthinkable happens.... well, it did. Of all things, I totally forgot to pack the flags! Isn't that what Color Guard is all about?? Thank God for Barbara Strogner. I have no idea what route she took, but she got to my house in Palo Alto and back in record time with the flags with 5 minutes to spare. I heard later she nearly brought us snow boards instead since the bags were so similar looking!



Middle: Captain Anne Whitten and Board of Director Liz Sullivan gear up

*SMCHA Kicks Off Banner Year, continued*

I have the feeling I will never live this faux pas down...

Our next event was held at NCEFT and we rode for the Peninsula Volunteers' annual fundraiser which had a western theme. Since we practice there every Tuesday night it felt like old home week. The difference being that Gary Marendino let us use stalls for prep time which was a treat. My daughter, Andrea Whitten, who is in the movie business made a video of the event, complete with a story board, script, and even did our make-up. She will edit, dub music and send forth for us to share on our web site and You- tube! How cool is that? Sue Sheehan deserves an extra special shout out for feeding us all at her home after the event with a pizza orgy. Pizza never tasted so good! I think we inhaled it in record time as we laughed and shared horse stories. Thank you Sue!

Our third event was the 2nd Annual Memorial Day Parade in Hillsborough. I heard from Adeline Forrest that she saw our picture and an article on the front page of the San Mateo Daily Journal. We carried 4 American Flags for this event to honor our military on this special day, and the spectators were clearly touched by our presence. Our banner carriers were fabulous in announcing who we were.

As you can imagine, it takes an army of dedicated volunteers to help get this show on the road, on time, and looking top drawer. I want to give special recognition out to all who ground crew and ride for SMCHA Color Guard ensuring we present a professional image while we represent our club throughout the area. We couldn't do it without you! The list is long, which is amazing in itself... Susie Stewart, Liz Sullivan, Barbara Strogner, Adeline Forrest, Larry Pelzner, Caprice Tennefoss, Sue Sheehan, and all our riders: Yours truly, Cheryl Basin, Patty Walsh, Kristi Lee Eifert, and Chris Friis. I am pleased to say that even our retired riders, Noelle and Nancy are only a phone call away if we need them, thank you ladies.



*Adeline and Barbara carry the club banner*

It never ceases to amaze me how each event has its own special memories. Some are laughable, some are worrisome, but all are endearing. This amazing group of people always seems to pull it off no matter the obstacle. All memories I will treasure the rest of my life.

As a final note, our door is always open to any members that would like to join our adventures as riders, ground crew or simply spectators to see what it's all about. We practice most every Tuesday evening at NCEFT at 6:00 pm for the curious at heart.



*Maria Fonseca*

*Lower Left: SMCHA member Mike Raynor represents for Mounted Patrol;  
Lower Right: Noelle Rodalari suits up*

## BITS OF HISTORY



by Sue Sheehan

### The Tozi Fund

How many of you remember Donna Tozi? She was my best friend for almost thirty years. Donna was one of the first people I met when I moved to Woodside many years ago.

Donna was a devoted horsewoman from the time she was a teen when she became a Junior member of the San Mateo County Horsemen's Association in 1954. In 1996 she served as SMCHA president.

Throughout her life she loved Paint Horses and was a participant in horse shows and rodeos. As owner of B&D Tack, she spent many weekends setting up shop at rodeos and horse shows. She was a financial and enthusiastic sponsor for many cowboys, cowgirls and show events. Donna loved to have fun and always seemed to provide lots of it. She rode her paint horses on our local trails and greeted other riders with a big "Howdy."

Donna passed away in January 2005 from a three-year battle with ovarian cancer. Her request before she died was that donations in her name be made to SMCHA Juniors. A scholarship fund was set up to be used just for the Juniors. So far, two Juniors have received riding lesson scholarships and one is going to a clinic with her horse in July.

The main reason I am writing about this now is let people know that they can still donate money to this fund, which will be used to sponsor Juniors only. All Junior members may apply to the SMCHA Board of Directors by submitting a request for sponsorship for horse related activities. I know Donna would love to see this fund go on for a long time and used often.

## Call to Membership:

*If you have an educational or horse related photo, article or topic that you feel would be beneficial to have included in this SMCHA magazine, please feel free to submit to: [j9oneill@comcast.net](mailto:j9oneill@comcast.net) and those submissions will be considered.*

*We welcome your input!*



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## DRISCOLL RANCH RODEO NEWS

Driscoll Ranch Rodeo Queen, Anna Machado and ????

by Anna Bavor

This year, the Driscoll Ranches hosted the Miss Driscoll Ranch Rodeo Queen and Princess Contest on June 4, 2011 at the Driscoll Ranch Event Center in La Honda. The contest drew in 8 contestants who competed for the coveted title of Miss Driscoll Ranch Rodeo Queen and Princess 2011. All of the young ladies were between the ages of 12 and 24, have never been married or pregnant and live in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, San Jose, or San Francisco counties. Contestants were judged by four judges in several categories including horsemanship, personal interviews, public speaking, and a written exam.

Along with the prestigious title of Miss Driscoll Ranch Rodeo, the Queen receives a \$1,000 scholarship and the Princess wins a \$500 scholarship. Sponsors provide each contestant with a gift bag as well as awards for winners in each category-horsemanship, written exam, poise, personality and appearance, public speaking, and highest rodeo ticket sales. Other prizes include perpetual crowns and chaps, along with personalized belt buckles for the Queen and Princess.

Results for the 2011 contest:

Queen: Anna Machado

1st runner up Queen: Cassie Themelis

Princess: Leandra Steenkamp

1st runner up Princess: Nicole Fava



We hope you will come and meet all of the winners at the Driscoll Ranch Rodeo happening July 30th and 31st. For more information please visit our website at [www.driscollranches.com](http://www.driscollranches.com). Also, if you wish to book the Queen or Princess to be at your event, please contact Anna Bavor, Driscoll Ranches Queen and Princess Event Coordinator (RodeoRoyalty@driscollranches.com).



# DRISCOLL RANCH RODEO



July 30th & 31st, 2011  
La Honda, California

Enjoy a family friendly ranch rodeo filled with fun and excitement for all ages. Western vendors, western entertainment, kid friendly activities, plus great food and shops. Come join us in a beautiful setting of majestic Redwoods where strangers meet and leave as friends.

Tix: Adults - \$20.00 Seniors (59+)/Vets - \$15.00 Children 10 & under FREE when accompanied by an adult Parking FREE

Tickets available at:

Half Moon Bay Feed & Fuel  
331 Main St., Half Moon Bay

Driscoll Ranches Event Center  
La Honda Rd., La Honda

Alice's Restaurant  
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Olsen Nolte Saddle Shop  
1580 El Camino Real, San Carlos

Info Call: (650) 747-9704 or [www.driscollranches.com](http://www.driscollranches.com)

GATES OPEN - 12:00 P.M.

GRAND ENTRY - 1:30 P.M.

California Cowboys Concert & BBQ Saturday Night - Admission at Gate  
Driscoll Ranch Foundation - Keeping the Western Way of Life Alive



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August 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>

Point Reyes "Chick Ride" at Stewart Ranch

\$45.00 (not including camp fee)

Each lady must make her own camp reservations  
for horse & rider with Stewart Ranch, and supply  
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This area has a lot of beautiful trails to ride, including one to  
the beach as well as a ride to a local restaurant if you want to  
tie up and have lunch.

I have some really great ideas for this ride  
including healthy food and a yoga/stretching  
session for those who'd like to join in!

If you have any questions call Sharon Butler at

## WESTERN SCHOOLING SHOW 05.15.11 @ WEBB RANCH

By Cheryl Basin, Co-Chair; Sharon Butler, Co-Chair; Noel Moody, Honorary Chair

It was touch and go whether we would be able to have our show because the forecast for Sunday was thunder and lightening, but our show went on without a hitch...except for the hail storm and a few downpours, which had the participants running for cover. Mike and Ginger Bushue came through with the "saran wrap" and a heater for the announcer's booth to provide a toasty respite for the chilly day. It was terrific to see all the blue SMCHA logo jackets.

Sharon Butler arrived very early with the coffee and donuts, which were a welcome sight on this morning with a temperature of 45 degrees.

Adeline Forrest, Joan McLaren and Justin Osieja set up the challenging but fun trail course on Saturday evening. Karen Rowley-Shawback, Ann Kirby, and Ginger Bushue did a great job of running the office and Aleta Reed has become that calming, professional voice behind the microphone. Speaking of microphone, a big thank you to Mike Bushue for once again providing an awesome sound system.

Sarah Kennedy, our very popular judge, provided helpful feedback during clinic classes to explain what was expected of horse and rider. Adeline was our capable Ring Steward and Judge's Assistant. Everyone learned a lot.

Larry Pelzner with the help of Bonnie Bertetta kept participants organized at the gate, which provided smooth transitions between classes.

Anne Whitten and Patty Walsh did an amazing job of warming up our team, participants and gallery with hot soup and other goodies from the Color Guard Café.

Sue Winslow had her prize camera wrapped in plastic to protect it from the rain, but that didn't stop her from getting some awesome photos. Check them out at [www.smcha.org](http://www.smcha.org).

In spite of the stormy day, 25 brave participants entered a variety of the 29 classes. Here are a few of the award highlights:

Daily High Point halter donated by Joan McLaren was awarded to Katie Nachtsheim riding Espuela Bay Drift.

Walk/Jog High Point halter donated by SMCHA was awarded to Katie Nachtsheim riding Espuela Bay Drift.

Maiden High Point halter donated by Olsen Nolte Saddle Shop was awarded to Karen Buehler riding Brandee.

Western Equitation 13 & Under halter donated by Olsen Nolte Saddle Shop was awarded to Katie Nachtsheim, riding Espuela Bay Drift. What a day for Katie...she stole the show!

Congratulations to our special winners, Katie and Karen.

Each of our First Place winners received Goody Bags of brushes, Vet Wrap, Shampoo, Sweat Scapers, and hoof picks, all provided by Western Saddlery.

Portola Valley Feed provided horse treats for the Goody Bags.

There are so many details that go into producing such a successful show and all the volunteers, sponsors and participants deserve a huge THANK YOU! We look forward to seeing you all at our next two shows, the English Schooling show at Webb Ranch on Sunday, August 7 and the Western/English Open show at the Horse Park on Sunday, August 28.



Mele Afu and Two Socks in Halter



Working the course - Trail 14-17



Trail 14-17



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SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2011  
HORSE PARK, WOODSIDE**

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**Cheryl Basin, Horse Show Chair  
650-364-3020, [c-cheryl@sbcglobal.net](mailto:c-cheryl@sbcglobal.net)**

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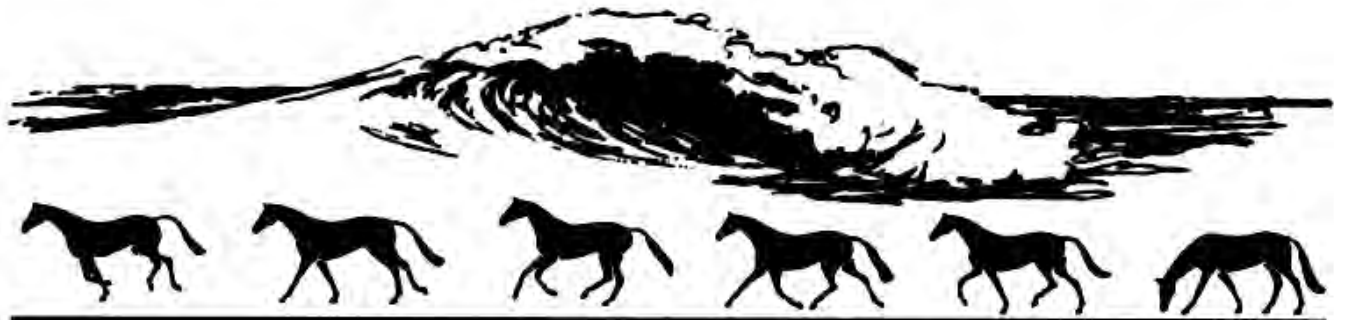


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## I REALLY LOVE MUSTANGS!

By Corey Pierce

Hey Everyone! I'm Corey Pierce, the 11-year-old SMCHA member who loves Mustangs and is fostering the wild Mustang filly named Penny.

I want to say HUGE thanks to the Board for the SMCHA grant and all who have sent cards, emails and donations to help me help Mustangs. Here's a bit about our progress since my talk at the April Meeting (plus a little background for those don't know about my 'Mustangs are America' project):

Last September, I had an accident while jumping my leased Mustang and got a severe concussion that forced me to be home-schooled and stop riding until all the symptoms clear up.

Then, a week after my accident, my Dad was hit by a car while riding his bike on Edgewood Road. The 40 mph impact double-fractured his neck. That was very scary, because the doctors said those fractures usually paralyze or kill, but he's almost 100% now! Both my parents are Pastors and the doctors and our family believe his recovery is a miracle.

Still, it's been a very hard year for my family. It's been hard for me to give up school with my friends and to stop riding, and see my Dad so badly hurt with a neck brace with stitches all over his face.

I was becoming really depressed when I got a very special Birthday present...to foster a Mustang Foal!

In early December a cute strawberry roan arrived at Dwight and Joy Sommerset's barn in Portola Valley.

It was fun seeing how really wild Mustang foals are. Their quick actions and sudden panics scared me. Then for Christmas another wonderful gift: SMCHA member, Becky Witter, offered to coach me in Parelli Natural Horsemanship.

By learning Parelli my confidence level started growing. Soon, I wasn't scared anymore and I'm learning so much.

Then, Becky had this crazy idea! She found out that Pat and Linda Parelli are putting on a Wild Horse Taming Clinic in Reno Nevada the last weekend of July and thought that we should show people how an 11-year-old and a Mustang filly take to Natural Horsemanship... in front of thousands of people! Even though we thought she was a little crazy -- we trusted her since she'd become our Alpha Mare!!

So, I wrote them a letter and guess what? They invited us to do a demonstration in Reno!!!

Since then we've all been working hard! It's a lot of work to get Penny trained and try to raise 3,500 dollars to pay all the expenses of keeping her for six months and traveling to Reno.

I've learned so much, more than I could ever tell you in one

article! I've learned to do a website, speak in front of people, raise money, create a logo, make and sell my own products, gather a 'Herd' of supporters, open a bank account, track money, do a YouTube slideshow and blog, write articles, plus create a demo (to honor Wild Horse Annie and the 40th anniversary of the Wild Horse and Burro Act.

And, all you horse owners can imagine how challenging (but fun!) it's been to train a young, wild Mustang filly! It's SO amazing 'cuz she's not the scared, wild foal she was when she arrived! In January, we could barely get near her without her running away bucking and kicking. Now, she runs TO me!

I play with her online and at liberty and teach her not be afraid of balls, or dogs or anything loud or moving. She stands quietly when tied, loves being groomed, lifts all her feet nicely, takes treats politely, waits for permission to graze, walks over tarps...and she trailer loads on her own! She's smart, exuberant and playful – and really loves people now! If you'd like to see some of our progress – please take a look at the photos, videos and blog on our website: [www.pennyfromheaven.us](http://www.pennyfromheaven.us)

Given my situation when I got her, I really believe God sent Penny from Heaven to help me heal and grow. The sadness and depression are gone, so it's really changed my life!

Kind of like my hard time, Mustangs are having a hard time now due to budget cuts, so we've decided to give everything above expenses to organizations that support Mustangs.

I want to invite all of you who can come to Reno to join us July 29 – 31 at Pat Parelli's Wild Mustang Taming Event!! We are hoping to make SMCHA and all our supporters proud and make Penny such a good horse that someone will adopt



*Penny at seven months*



her to love as their very own. I'm hoping she will be adopted locally so I can visit her, but she may end up far away in Reno if we don't find a home before the Event.

If you know of anyone who might want to adopt Penny, please call me at (650) 594-2177.

The last thing I'd like to tell you is this: Thank you! Thank you very, very much for all your encouragement, support and for taking time to read my article!

God bless you,

God bless America, and her Mustangs, too!

P.S. Penny's buddy, the other Mustang colt, Cody, that was being fostered by my friend, Victoria Garmen, was adopted by 16-year-old SMCHA member, Hannah Modesitt of San Carlos. She LOVES him and is having fun learning Parelli and teaching him to be the best horse he can be, too!

Corey Pierce



Good Job Corey!



Penny and me playing 'Mirror Me'

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## GARI MERENDINO: USING THE HEALING POWER OF HORSES TO IMPROVE PEOPLE'S LIVES

by Linda Hubbard Gulker - In Faces of Menlo

Sometimes mysteries get solved when you're least expecting it. People who walk along Vine St. in the University Heights neighborhood in Menlo Park have undoubtedly noticed sculpture scattered amidst the plants. Who is the artist and how did they get there? The answer is Gari Merendino, who's lived there for 27 years — and, we would learn, is something of a jack of many trades.

"It's a great little neighborhood and it was a wonderful place to raise kids," he said, sitting on the spacious second floor of the barn at the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy in Woodside, where he's Executive Director. "When we moved in, there were tons of families with kids our kids age. Now we're seeing the next generation of families, carrying on neighborhood traditions like the summer Friday Frolics."

How the part-time sculptor and former retail executive — he worked for both Levi Strauss and Mervyn's — finds himself running a non-profit that involves horses is a mini mystery of another sort. Like many in the economic downturn that followed the dotcom bust, Gari found himself unemployed. Finding that he could only do so much job hunting in one day, he started volunteering at NCEFT. When he found other employment, he continued to volunteer.

"I'd gotten introduced to horses when I was in my 20s and liked them, and the idea of helping kids be safe on horseback appealed to me," he said. "So I started to volunteer and immediately found it really fulfilling."

The non-profit NCEFT, which Gari joined as a full-time employee in 2008, is celebrating its 40th anniversary this year. The organization helps children and adults with special needs move beyond their boundaries through the healing power of horses. Riders improve their balance, posture, mobility, coordination, and strength on horseback. For those unable to sit astride a horse, carriage driving is utilized, so they still get the sensation of having a pair of reins in their hands.

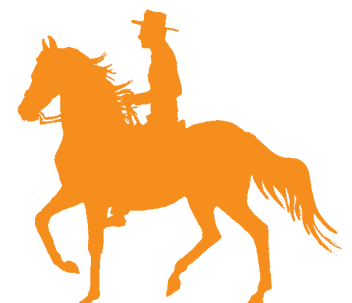
While NCEFT now has special programs for military veterans as well as developmentally disabled adults, children make up about 90 percent of its clients. "We aren't just treating the kid, we're treating the family," said Gari. "A child with special



needs requires care 24/7. So when the caregivers come here, they can relax and read a book while the child is riding. If there are siblings along, they can go pet the donkeys. Our goal is to create an environment where they whole family gets treated."

*"As most of you are aware, I have the distinct privilege of serving on both the SMCHA and NCEFT boards. As such I have grown to know Gari Merendino very well over the years. His devotion to the community both as a community leader, horse aficionado, non-profit guru, and a friend to all must be highly applauded. He has had to endure much, but has never wavered in his goal to assist those who are less fortunate and have special needs, as well as our injured armed forces soldiers. We are truly lucky to have Gari champion our projects and stand beside us at SMCHA in our efforts to better the equine community and make all aware of the need to have animals available for therapeutic treatment.*

Thank you Gari,  
Larry E. Pelzner, on behalf  
of SMCHA board of trustees



## WHEN LIFE GIVES YOU LEMONS... MAKE LEMONADE! NCEFT POKER RIDE & WALK 2011

by Barbara Stogner

And that's just what NCEFT did with this year's 40th annual Poker Ride. Something new was put in place this year by changing the venue from the long standing tradition of departing from the Mounted Patrol Grounds for a ride through Huddart Park. This year's wonderful plan would now include WALKERS as well as equestrians and having everyone depart from NCEFT's home on Runnymede Road. The new route had all participants enjoying the picturesque trails through the sculpture farm at Runnymede Farm followed by a special opportunity to tour the recently renovated historic barn on the neighboring property. This year's event also included carriage rides and was topped off by a delicious catered lunch on the NCEFT grounds.

The tragic outbreak of a contagious viral disease known as Equine Herpes Virus (EHV-1) threatened the success of the popular NCEFT Poker Ride. In order to ensure the health of our local horses, NCEFT made a tough decision and asked rider to leave their horses at home and join the Poker Walk. Champions rise to a challenge and that's just what happened for NCEFT and their supporters. SMCHA made a concerted effort to encourage riders to still come and walk the trails. Gari Merendino, Executive Director, says, "Personally, after deciding to eliminate the horses this year, I was concerned about our ability to make the event a success. I am very grateful to the SMCHA Board of Directors and membership for helping us reinvent the NCEFT Poker Ride this year, bringing in the needed support. We depend on our fundraising events to survive and the success of the Poker Ride this year was a community effort."

And a real success it was. With approximately 160 participants, this year's event was one of the best attended Poker Rides in years - and that's without horses! Approximately \$17,000 was raised. All of which will go directly towards supporting all NCEFT programs. The event was supported by over 50 volunteers from all over the community. With so many participants from all over the community - horse-related or not - had this year's event take on an inclusive fell for the surrounding community.

For many years, SMCHA has been the proud recipient of the Poker Ride Challenge trophy as the organization that raised the most donations. This year we were knocked off our perch by Monterey Bay Equestrians. SMCHA came in second place. So, my fellow SMCHA members, let's be sure to increase our riders and the donations we raise at the Poker Ride 2012 so we can have this trophy return to us - where it belongs! And all for the benefit of NCEFT.



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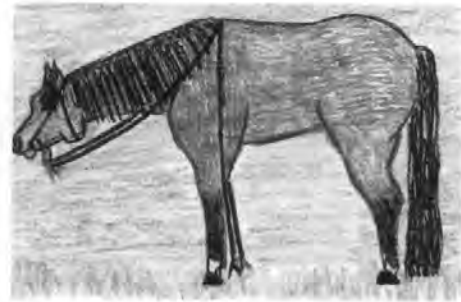
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## BETTE JO MACLELLAN NOVEMBER 12, 1936 - MAY 17, 2011

By Laurie Greenblat

To know Bette Jo MacLellan, affectionately known as our "BJ", was to have known a true friend, and a vivacious lady who always shared a bright smile, and held a positive, gracious personality, no matter what the challenge.

One would never guess that the classy little lady we knew once tied a pesky neighborhood boy who irritated her a little too much one day, to a tree before continuing along on to school, leaving him captive! Although always a bright, eager student, she was often grounded as a youngster for such antics. BJ was the eldest of 3 sisters, and the daughter of a pediatrician whose Navy medical assignment finally settled the family in Spokane in 1943. Before entering the world of horses later in life, she enjoyed waterskiing, hiking, swimming, and was a competitive diver. Throughout her life, BJ was the quintessential outdoor enthusiast.

BJ attended the University of Washington in Seattle, where she was not only a Beauty Queen for some of the fraternities, but also posed for Marlboro magazine ads. After graduating college, she went on to become an O.R. Nurse, changing her career a year later for work as a Flight Attendant for Northwest Airlines and then Western Airlines. Her final career change would happen after she passed her exams to become a CPA and settle in with the Lieberman Family as a Controller; first working for Richard until his death, then continuing on with his son Michael until her retirement in 2010.

BJ, divorced, never had children of her own. As a result, her love was shared with various dogs and cats throughout the years, and finally on to her greatest love, horses. She began as a pleasure rider before entering and competing in the world of Cutting. Tachita's Cat, a horse she purchased as a 2 year old, had many achievements during his career. "Cheeta" won the National Cutting Horse Assoc. World Champion \$3,000 Novice Open Class in 2006. He went on to win the \$3,000 Novice Open Championship for the Pacific Coast Cutting Horse Association, and was chosen 'Horse of the Year', winning BJ a beautiful trophy saddle and buckle in 2007.

BJ also competed with her horse Lotsa, winning her even more trophy's and buckles, though her biggest reward came in the form of Lotsa's filly, "Peanut". Petite and feminine, just like BJ, the flashy Golden Palomino would be Bj's riding partner for the rest of her life. A true Cowgirl, BJ rode Peanut for the last time only a few weeks prior to her passing. When not with Peanut, her little dog Barney was her faithful companion. BJ was an enthusiastic member of the NCHA, PCCHA, The Shack, Los Viajeros, and SMCHA.



Though diagnosed with cancer in 2007, BJ never let it affect her life, thoughts, or behavior. It would be untrue to say she was 'beaten by cancer'. Cancer did not 'beat' BJ, she truly beat cancer. BJ would never let cancer be the topic of discussion. Her most precious example of a full life was to continue to live exuberantly and speak of life and the future. While so many may toil over their illness or question 'why me', BJ never took pity upon herself, as she simply continued to choose happiness and gratefulness for all she had accomplished and experienced during her life. Truly a graceful woman, with only love to share with those around her, Bette Jo MacLellan was a beautiful lady, inside and out. May we all learn her lesson and choose to rejoice in life, no matter the situations we face. Rest in Peace my Dear Friend...I know we'll meet on the Trail again someday....



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Enjoy the ride!

Sandy Greenblat, Publisher  
Marin Equestrian Trail Guide.



## THE DREAM OF ALL-WEATHER TRAILS IN WUNDERLICH PARK IS COMING TRUE

by Don Pugh

All this winter, during the rainy days and sunny days, equestrians, pedestrians and runners have been enjoying the beautiful smooth footing of the new All-Weather Trails in Huddart Park. Over the last two years, the equestrian community donated \$83,000 to support construction of 5.5 miles in Huddart Park. The success and enthusiasm encouraged us to develop a plan to build All Weather Trails in Wunderlich Park and continue to fulfill that dream

Phase 1 is done. We were able to finish this 1.37 miles phase the end of May, thanks to the generosity of the equestrian community who donated \$18,450 and the County's contribution of \$7,950 in-kind services and base rock. The trails will be compacted over the summer and remain open next winter. This has created two Lower Loops.

- Bear Gulch Trail, from the Barn to the Loop Trail – The slippery mud holes are gone.
- Bear Gulch Trail, from the Loop Trail to the Madrone Trail
- This is a new loop for winter riding.
- Alambique Trail – Barn to Loop Trail. There is a now a new loop with the Loop Trail.

Phase 2 is scheduled for Oct/Nov 2011. This will open up all the Upper Loops in the Park We need your help for this phase.

- Bear Gulch Trail –Continue from the Loop Trail, to Redwood Flat, and then to the Meadows
- Redwood Trail – Redwood Flat to Salamander Flat

This will provide several upper loops. The trails will be allowed to settle in for the winter 2011/2012, and will then be open all year after that. The total length is 1.95 miles and will cost approximately \$36,150. The County will provide \$11,250 of in-kind services and purchase of the base rock. The equestrian community must provide the remaining \$24,900.

What better way to escape momentarily from our difficult

economic times than riding under a crisp winter sky, hearing the creeks bubble, and breathing the fresh mountain air? We believe the equestrian community will support this project and will provide funding for it.

We need to have the funds for Phase 2 by Sept 30. Any additional funds will be used for future trail maintenance and improvements in Huddart and Wunderlich.

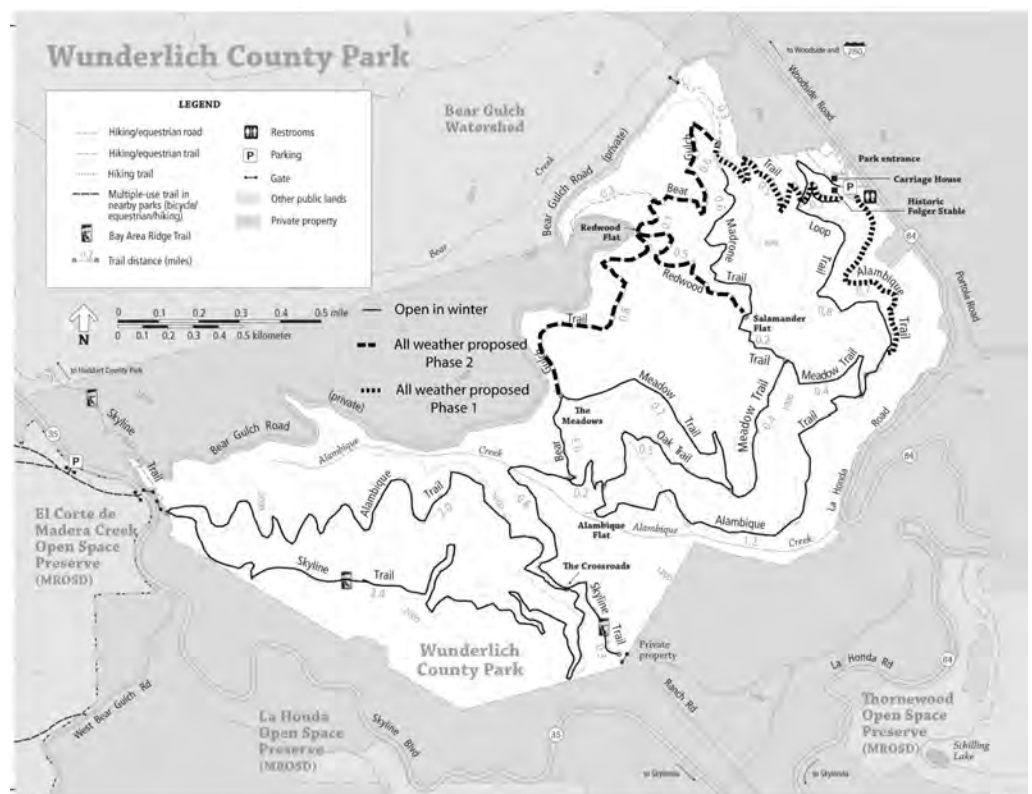
The Mounted Patrol Foundation is leading the fundraising effort. Information on the construction of the Huddart Park trails is on the website at

[www.mountedpatrolfoundation.org](http://www.mountedpatrolfoundation.org)

The Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, and tax-deductible checks can be sent to:

Mounted Patrol Foundation  
 ATTN: Wunderlich/Huddart Trail Fund  
 521 Kings Mountain Road  
 Woodside, CA 94062-4209

Thank you for your support. Call Don Pugh at 650-851-8343 or email [don@sandon.com](mailto:don@sandon.com) with questions.



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## Wunderlich County Park Stables

Woodside, California



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## Spring & Summer Western Camps

Join us for Spring and Summer Western Camps. Spring Sessions will run 4/11-15 & 4/18-22. Summer Camps begin 6/13-17 and will follow through mid-August. Camps are one week sessions from 9:00am-2:00pm for campers ages 8-15. Each camper is assigned their own horse for the week. Daily educational lectures with video, teachings on horse care, bathing & grooming, hands-on techniques & practice, tacking/untacking, basic riding fundamentals and fun arts and crafts. Horse camp includes arena lessons and trail riding. Equipped with professional staff and well trained horses. Registration open now. Space is limited, call to reserve your campers spot today!



**Bay Area Equestrian Connection LLC**  
is your source for professional  
equestrian services.



## Trail Rides

Join us on the trails in the beautiful Wunderlich County Park, a 942 acre preserve nestled in the horse friendly town of Woodside. Riders of all ages and experience levels are welcome and accommodated. Enjoy the local wildlife, trees and flowers on your ride. A unique and unforgettable experience not to be missed!



[www.BayAreaEquestrian.net](http://www.BayAreaEquestrian.net)

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## 2011 Calendar of Events

Subject to change - please check website for updates

### July

- 3 Mounted Patrol: Rodeo Dinner & Dance
- 4 Fourth of July Parade – Redwood City & HMB
- 4 Mounted Patrol: Junior Rodeo
- 14 Board Meeting
- 18 English Riding Clinic (Springdown Equestrian Center)
- 20-24 Reining by the Bay (Horse Park at Woodside)
- 20-25 Jack Brook Horse Camp
- 25 English Riding Clinic (Springdown Equestrian Center)
- 31 Driscoll Ranch Rodeo

### August

- 1 English Riding Clinic (Springdown Equestrian Center)
- 7 English Schooling Show (Webb Ranch)
- 8 English Riding Clinic (Springdown Equestrian Center)
- 11 Board Meeting
- 15 English Riding Clinic (Springdown Equestrian Center)
- 22 English Riding Clinic (Springdown Equestrian Center)
- 28 Open English/Western Show (The Horse Park at Woodside)

### September

- 8 Board Meeting
- 15 General Meeting
- 24 NCEFT Heroes & Horses Gala
- 25 Presidents' Ride
- TBA Clarkia Trail Clean-up Day (Fall)

### October

- 8 Woodside Day of the Horse
- 13 Board Meeting
- 29 Play Day & Halloween Extravaganza (Mounted Patrol)

### November

- 10 Board Meeting
- 12 General Meeting - Elections & Bingo Night

### December

- 2 Board of Directors' Dinner
- 11 Holiday Barn Party



**PLEASE CHECK WEBSITE FOR CHANGES AND UPDATES • [www.smcha.org](http://www.smcha.org)**  
**Listings in italics are local events**

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SAN MATEO COUNTY HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
A Non-Profit Organization

President Nancy Kouchekey  
Summer 2011

**SAN MATEO  
COUNTY HORSEMEN'S  
ASSOCIATION**

**Membership Application**



_____ JUNIOR MEMBERS (17 OR UNDER)	Annual Dues \$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/> New	<input type="checkbox"/> Renewal
_____ SENIOR MEMBERS (18 OR OLDER)	\$25.00		
_____ MR./MRS. MEMBERS	\$40.00		
_____ FAMILY MEMBERSHIP**	\$45.00		

[Parent(s) and unlimited number of children 17 or under]

I would like to contribute to the following events or functions (see listing at right) in the following amounts:

B \$ _____	E \$ _____	H \$ _____	L \$ _____
C \$ _____	F \$ _____	I \$ _____	M \$ _____
D \$ _____	G \$ _____	J \$ _____	Other \$ _____

I would like to help with the following events/functions:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Board of Directors      | <input type="checkbox"/> H Junior Members     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B Trails                | <input type="checkbox"/> I Playday            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> C Western Riding Clinic | <input type="checkbox"/> J Hospitality        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> D English Shows         | <input type="checkbox"/> K Membership         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E Western Shows         | <input type="checkbox"/> L Junior Color Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F Magazine              | <input type="checkbox"/> M Senior Color Guard |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G Trail Rides           | <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____          |

\*\*Please list names and ages of children:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS \_\_\_\_\_ TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

NAME(S) \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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