

## Moraga Horsemen's Association March 2018

### Calendar of Events

**March 20** – MHA meeting at Gary and Laura's 7 pm social time, 7:30 meeting

**April 17** – MHA at Laura Stetson's

**May 15** – MHA at Ute's



Yay for rain, waaaaa for mud!

### Congratulations and thank you!

The 2018 Installation dinner was held at Michael's in Moraga last Monday. A great time was had by all and appreciation of the Board of Directors needs to be mentioned. Each of the officers donates many hours and we are so lucky to have such dedicated people in our group. Thank you!

And best wishes and thanks to the incoming Board: President Jenni Smith, VP Kristin Ojala, Treasurer Ute Frey, Secretary Jackie Frost, Sgt at Arms Gayle Jackson and members at large Shivani Rajan Hetschel and Gary Fend.

CSHA member Andrew Trumble and his wife attended the event and shared his passion for CSHA and their various programs. He will look into the insurance issue that caused us to drop out of their realm.

Guest, Sally Weare, attended and introduced herself for membership. She was voted into the club.

### **MHA Meeting January 16, 2018**

**Members present:** Gary Fend, Laura Fend, Ute Frey, Jacquelyn Frost, Hannah Liserra, Shivani Rajan

Hetschel, Penny Sinder, Jenni Smith, Laura Stetson, Liz Strauss.

Guest: Sylvia Finger

At 7:42pm, President Jenni Smith called the meeting to order. She thanked Ute for hosting the meeting. Jenni asked if there were any proposed changes to the minutes from the December meeting. No changes were proposed, so Ute moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Shivani. The minutes were approved unanimously without discussion.

**President's Report:** Jenni signed and sent in grazing agreement to EBMUD. Jenni can provide copies to any members who would like to see the agreement. The Christian Boys Group is looking for two days to volunteer, and soon. They prefer Sunday late mornings and afternoons. Jenni asked for suggestions for Work Days. February was suggested, and it is important to make sure we have tools available for the group to use to be most effective.

**Vice President's Report:** Kristin was not present at the meeting, and Jenni gave her report in her stead. She called for anyone who hasn't RSVP'd for the Installation Dinner to please do so soon! Jenni introduced Sylvia as a new member, pending application. Shivani made a motion to accept Sylvia as a member, and Ute seconded.

**Treasurer's Report:** Rob was not present at the meeting, so Jenni continued to give reports. Per Rob, there is \$12,226.78 in the general account, after depositing the proceeds (\$251) from the Holiday Party. There is \$25,197.75 in the pasture account after paying the EBMUD rent of \$3396.

The PO Box needs to be checked regularly – Ute posed the idea of utilizing electronic payments to help with PO Box payments, perhaps also for members' dues. Given that the PO Box is not located in a convenient location for most people to check, Ute posed the idea of adding a forwarding address to the PO Box. If this were set up, then whenever there was a new Treasurer, the forwarding address could be changed accordingly. More investigation on whether this is possible is needed.



**Pasture Report:** Laura Fend reported that the grass is green!

Laura posed the question: should we be promoting the pasture to get more people on the waitlist for the pasture? The herd is 12 horses – if we stay at that number, with our current rent and other costs, the pasture board may need to be raised to cover those costs. Discussion ensued regarding how to best go about finding and/or attracting new pasture boarders: a flyer can be handed out to those trusted contacts to see if they know of any interest/raise interest, we could be more active in the local community to raise interest, there may be some benefit to cross-membership with other local horse clubs. Are we going to do the Dog & Pony event? If so, is that enough?

Jenni voiced the concern around interrupting the good equilibrium of both the herd and the pasture community for the sake of growing the herd to the max capability. It may be beneficial to be cautious. The max for the herd is 16 horses, but we have asked EBMUD to reevaluate the AUMs due to the increasing concern about drought and increased invasive species.

Discussion moved to other Pasture related topics: Please remember arena isn't usable when wet/soggy – use your best judgment. Also, please be sure to lock all gates! We are finding unlocked locks/gates! Given the difficulty of some locks to latch, some research may be helpful to look at other lock options.

Laura Stetson asked if we needed to lock the gate between Tharp and Lakeview. Gary said no – it's not an external, perimeter gate so we can take it down. Membership present agreed.

#### **Old Business:**

Gary said pasture guidelines contains a potential violation in club by-laws. Jenni brings up there are several inconsistencies in the club by-laws, and it is a

larger project to review and renew the by-laws. Additional discussion included concern over the 5 hr work hour credit for board members and the drastic reduction of events hosted by MHA (rides, trials, shows, etc) for fundraising and community involvement. Jenni commented that there aren't as many members with the time and wherewithal to run these events now.

Additional discussion followed about how MHA membership is shrinking and our community outreach is dwindling. Various ideas were posed:

- Have a series of events, and sign up at one event for the next (kids' event, dog event, etc)
- A flyer on the side of the building at the pasture asking the public what they want to know
- Doing a joint event with another local horse group, like TWHA, OHA, SRVHA, etc.

Penny asked a larger question: what is the mission of our club? What events could support that?

Membership present felt the mission included engaging and educating the community on safe trail horsemanship and behavior on multi-use trails, as well as driving continued membership.

Jackie suggested asking brief, basic questions the membership attending the Installation Dinner. After some discussion, the following questions were agreed upon:

- In your own words, what is the purpose of the MHA club today?
- How can MHA accomplish that purpose?
- How would you like to participate in MHA?

Jackie will print out cards, collect and tabulate responses – to be presented and discuss at following meeting, with the goal at that meeting to define MHA's mission and plan events for 2018.



Guess who this leggy kid is

### New Business:

The voting slate was presented for acceptance, as follows:

President: Jenni

Vice President: Kristin

Treasurer: Ute

Secretary: Jackie

Sergeant at Arms: Gayle

Members at Large: Gary & Shivani

Shivani motioned to accept slate, Linda seconded the motion, and motion is passed with no additional discussion.

Additional news: Peg Fuerst passed away ☹

Members were requested to sign up for hosting meetings in 2018.

Meeting adjourned: 9:07pm

Long-time member of MHA, Peg Fuerst, passed away last month. Her memorial will be held this Saturday, February 10 at 11 a.m. It will be held at St Stephens Episcopal Church in Orinda

## Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center



March 17 @ 6:00 pm - 11:00 pm

Xenophon is the brain child of MHA's past member, Judy Lazarus. Over the past 25 years the program has grown from one horse and two instructors to a full blown program with 7 horses, 12 instructors, 50 young students, a young adults program, veterans and a brand new program for people with dementia. The annual Gala will be celebrating the center's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

You can purchase tickets online through the Xenophon website: [xenophontrc.org](http://xenophontrc.org)

