

Moraga Horsemen's Association

May 2018

Calendar of Events

May 15 – MHA at Ute's - 6018 Valley View Road, Oakland, CA. House phone: 510-339-2640
7 pm – social time, 7:30 meeting.

May 16 – Arena Clean-up 9 a.m.

June - MHA at the Arena

July – MHA at the Arena

August – MHA at the Arena



MHA riders heading down to the Zen Center in Marin

ARENA CLEAN UP

Wednesday May 16th we will be working on the arena area in preparation for the Dog and Pony Show.

We can use all the help we can get!

Show up at 9 with gloves, weed eaters, hammers, and a strong back!

MHA Minutes April 17, 2018

Present: Laura and Gary Fend, Jenni Smith, Shivani and Daniel, Ute Frey, Kristin Ojala, Linda Sanders, Corrinne Roberts, Laura Stetson, Penny Sanders,

Guest and new member: Myrna Johnston

Thanks to host Laura S. and her lovely soup

March Minutes approved without corrections

President's Report--Jenni:

Bay Area Barns and Trails fundraiser and grant opportunity. We plan to apply for a grant. Moraga Fair coincides with Breakfast Ride Road report from Jenni: ice and snow on Pinehurst going south the day prior, hail all the way up Redwood Road. Chaos near the Redwood/Skyline intersection. Hail also under bridge to MHA.

VP/Membership Report--Kristin:

Introducing Myrna as a new club member. Myrna is originally from Boston, came to CA 9 yr ago. She has two quarter horse geldings (8 and 10), temporarily stabled at Hossmoor pasture and moving to Las Trampas shortly. Horses are used to pasture and sure footed. Myrna used to ride dressage as a kid. Has done some natural horsemanship clinics. Loves trail riding. Lives off Redwood Road in Oakland. Myrna filled out application and paid fee. Club approved Myrna as a new MHA member. Myrna is also interested in applying for two pasture spots for her horses.

Total 32 members this year. Kristin to order more 2018 liability forms.

Jenni suggests tabling at Pony Show to woo new club members, but we need to think about for what purpose.

Treasurer Report--Ute:

Pasture Account: \$26,521.13

Club Account: \$12,952.78

Paid out insurance \$400 and \$154 in gear/lights reimbursements for the Fends plus monthly PG&E. Club agreed to spend \$3 once so Ute can view deposited checks to update her records.

Pasture Report--Laura:

Grass is very potent but not very tall. Horses are getting fat and feeling mighty good.

Food booth is cleaned out except for sink.

EBMUD is working on the fence charger. Laura is asking EBMUD to do a permanent road fix.

Horses are moving to Stoneridge Wednesday.

Belle is coming home, rejoining the herd, on Friday around 3 pm.

Dogs off leash: Call police at non-emergency number if we have dog issues. They will come out and walk around if they are not dealing with an emergency.

Call to membership: MHA is looking for a small, energy efficient fridge with freezer shelf for the barn for meds, drinks, ice for emergencies.

Old Business:



We met the NICEST bike riders

Bay Area Barns & Trails sent fundraising letter but also mentioned that it gives grants. Jenni will submit grant proposal for arena upgrades (incl. fence and creek sand for footing). Grant could benefit roof to cover compost bin constructing new food booth.

6/12/18: **Breakfast Ride** is confirmed, lunch at Pelican Inn and horse parking are reserved. Let barn know one week prior how many horses will come. Share rides and meet at Tennessee Valley Beach at 8:30 am to secure rig parking.

6/12/18: **Moraga Community Fair** invited us to have a table for \$60, but date interferes with MHA Breakfast Ride. Trying to find MHA member who will not attend ride to promote Dog & Pony Show on July 1. Could we provide flyers.

7/1/18: **Dog & Pony Show** will replace Pumpkins and Ponies: Jenni is leading volunteers. Hot dogs, pony petting, dog agility activities. Could use more organizers, and definitely needs volunteers on that day. Laura F has a connection to service and agility dogs.

No New Business

Adjourned at 8:45 pm.

Next meeting at Ute's on May 15.

6018 Valley View Road, Oakland, CA. House phone: 510-339-2640



An "unposed" picture in front of Pelican Inn☺

The Livermore's Packing Race

- Mo Livermore

- Our daughter, Whitney, is a teacher at the Thatcher School in Ojai (southern California), where a robust horse program underpins the foundational values of the School. A Big Gymkhana is held each spring for the students, involving 80-90 horses and two days of events, culminating in a packing race in which anyone can enter. Nori, Whitney

and I were a team this year, competing against the retiring head of school and his hand-picked team, as well as others. Exciting!

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- Each packing race team consists of three people, a horse, and a mule. The mule gets a huge load tied on its back by the two packers - in our case, Nori and Whitney. Then the rider - me, on the headmaster's wonderful palomino, Sundance - leads the mule on a crazy route and must cross the finish line with the load still safely on!
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- With the horses pretty jazzed and the pack mules not quite with the program, the flag went down. Go! Nori and Whitney did their part, tying on the load faster than the other four teams; my job was to then lead the loaded mule across the Gymkhana field, up a narrow trail, down another narrow trail, and make it home with the load still on! With a bit of a head start on the other teams, Sundance and I and Jake the Mule (and in the packing race, it's ALL about the mule!) trotted calmly across the field (to finish is to win, right??) like we did this together all the time....Up the narrow trail, over and across and down the other steep one and back to the field, still in the lead, UNTIL.....the crowd started cheering and the microphone blared and thundering hooves came up behind us!
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- The junior boy (great rider) who was part of the headmaster's team came roaring up behind us on his big bay Quarter Horse, black mule in tow, to try to pass us on the home stretch --- I asked Sundance to gallop to hang on to our lead, figuring that Jake the Mule would come along too, but.....ol' Jake had other ideas!
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- Starting to buck and fuss as we rocketed along, Jake declared, "I'm outta here!" and veered away...more...and more...as I clung to the very end of his rope (a new take on endurance!). Just as we reached the finish line, the rope yanked out of my hands (you win, Jake!), and the mule hung a hard right to go show off for the crowd (with his load still safely on :))
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- Passed in the last moment! Second by half-a-length! It was a perfect ending for the day, as the headmaster's team won in an exciting finish, in his last Gymkhana as Head.
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Jenni and Claudio...on his first trip to the beach I think.



Liz and Reva contemplating body surfing

The MHA Breakfast Ride to Pelican Inn

Ten riders set out for Tennessee Valley Staging area last Saturday at the crack of dawn, hoping to find parking spaces! HA! We ended up parking on the road. Who would guess there are that many crazy people rushing to the coast on a “drizzmal” day?! Fortunately we called the local stable ahead of time and found out that our usual ride was not gonna happen. Creek crossings are still impassable, so the ride was shortened significantly. We did get to try out some new trail for some, traveling through the beautiful Zen Center. I thought it was beautiful, Nahlee thought it was a bit frightening with tarps and sprinklers and stuff along the road☺

Since we had spare time, the horses cruised down to Muir Beach....along with MANY crazy beach goers and their dogs and wagons ,etc. The horses were a big hit with the others on the beach, thankfully! Three more joined us for a delicious lunch (and adult beverages) at the Pelican Inn. Delicious and much appreciated.

The good news is we all made it to and fro without any issues! A very fun day with a great group of horse friends☺



Our happy group of riders enjoying a relaxing moment



Ute was bummed she forgot to bring Huck's swim wear.



Liz and Kristin about to head down the Coast Trail