



## San Martin Horsemen's Association



### Serving Our Community & Promoting Horses & Horsemanship

Club News	2
Membership Form	3-4
Trail Review	5
Water Trough/Classifieds	6
Things of Interest/Support	6
Chitty Blog	7

### Happy Holidays

Our hearts still go out to those affected by the covid-19 outbreak. Our respect and gratitude goes to our health care workers on the front line and all those providing essential services in grocery stores and throughout our community. These are very difficult times for some in our community, hopefully everybody stays safe over the holidays.

As of today November 30<sup>th</sup>, as you may expect our general meetings are cancelled until further notice. We will not be having our usual end of potluck dinner and party.

### 2021 Membership

Please think about renewing your membership for 2021 as soon as you can. The form is included on pages 3-4. Our membership fees remain unchanged at \$30 per individual and \$40 per family. We have recently started raising the premium for non-members at our events to \$10 so the break even point is even lower than before. Members will receive a directory on a quarterly basis, starting this very month, to help folks stay in touch and find riding partners.

We are looking forward to putting on more events in 2021 and even have some in person general meetings where we can get together and enjoy some good old-fashioned social interaction.

Your membership also provides stability to the club and is a vote to say that SMHA and its activities are important to you and your family. Thank you to those of you already signed up for 2021.

**SAN MARTIN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
Board Meeting November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2020**

The board meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

Present were Toni Whedon, Chere Barger, Tim Alton and Bev Venderweide.

**Treasurer's Report:** Karen sent apologies that she could not attend.

**CSHA Region 6:** we are currently members of California Horsemen's Association Region 6. However this region is being suspended due to lack of officers. Chere will investigate whether there is any benefit to us such as insurance and discounts on insurance.

**Calendar:** While the January will be the formal discussion of the calendar several ideas were thrown around including:  
Halloween Poker Ride  
Play Days  
Horse Camping Clinic, postponed from this summer.  
Trailer Clinics, maintenance, repair and reversing since these were very popular this year.

More camping weekends, Jack Brook with Monterey Bay Equestrians in July, and adding places such as Lake San Antonio, Point Reyes, and locally James D. Grant county park or Santa Cruz County Horsemen's on other weekends.

**Social Media:** Suggestion to encourage members to use the SMHA Facebook page to find riding buddies.

**Activities:** There was discussion of establishing a challenge along the lines of Santa Clara County Parks department's Pix in Parks, with a little incentive prize too.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm.

**Appendix:**  
Based on Chere's research there is no benefit to insurance availability or cost based on CSHA membership and we decided we will not renew in 2021.

---

**San Martin Horsemen's Association Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons**

<b>President</b>	Chere Bargar	408.842.5570		<b>Secretary</b>	Pat Scharfe	408.776.1621
<b>Vice President</b>	Toni Whedon 408-656-8975.	Toni.Whedon@cbnorcal.com		<b>Poker Ride Chair</b>	Chere Bargar*	408.842.5570
<b>Treasurer</b>	Karen Luke	treasurer@smhorse.org		<b>At Large</b>	Steve Oliveira	408 499 8245
<b>Membership</b>	Elaine Alton	membership@smhorse.org		<b>Sunshine</b>	Andrea Caldwell	
<b>Newsletter</b>	Tim Alton 408 623 1845	newsletter@smhorse.org		<b>Media Director</b>	Toni Whedon 408-656-8975.	media@smhorse.org
<b>Historian</b>	Carolyn Tucker	carolynt@garlic.com		<b>Trails Development Co-chair</b>	Chere Bargar	408.683.2247
<b>Trails Development Co-chair</b>	Kitty Swindle	408.842.6215		<b>Jack Brook Camp Chair</b>	Tim Alton	newsletter@smhorse.org

**ELECTIONS:**

No recounts required. The slate of candidates was re-elected unanimously.

form valid for memberships 9/20/2020 thru 12/31/2021

This

membership is

NEW \_\_\_\_\_

RENEWAL \_\_\_\_\_



**Step One:** Family \$40

Individual \$30

Circle one

**Step Two:** List name of **every** person included on your membership

For Family Membership list all children and their birthdates. Children must be born after 12/31/2001 to be included.

FULL NAME of each member	Adult	Child	Date of Birth (minors)
1) _____	_____ or _____	_____	_____
2) _____	_____ or _____	_____	_____
3) _____	_____ or _____	_____	_____
4) _____	_____ or _____	_____	_____
5) _____	_____ or _____	_____	_____
6) _____	_____ or _____	_____	_____

**Step Three:** Contact Information

Mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone \_\_\_\_\_

City-State-Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone \_\_\_\_\_

Home address if mailing address is different \_\_\_\_\_

Work phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Note: Email is used to communicate relevant club information in a timely fashion and as a convenient alternative for contacting you. We'll keep your email private.

NEWSLETTER IS SENT VIA EMAIL UNLESS YOU INDICATE HERE BY **CIRCLING** **SNAIL MAIL**

**Step Four:** Indicate your interests in activities by checking the items below.

\* I am willing to help:

\* I am interested in the following:

- |  |  |   |
|--|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> at events         | <input type="checkbox"/> camping         | <input type="checkbox"/> trails (building)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> pre-events        | <input type="checkbox"/> pleasure trails | <input type="checkbox"/> trails (development) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> on committees     | <input type="checkbox"/> poker rides     | <input type="checkbox"/> trails (planning)    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> club officer      | <input type="checkbox"/> trail trials    | <input type="checkbox"/> junior program       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> committee member  | <input type="checkbox"/> gymkhana        | <input type="checkbox"/> parade/color guard   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> phone tree caller | <input type="checkbox"/> rodeo           | <input type="checkbox"/> team penning         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> newsletter        | <input type="checkbox"/> shows           | <input type="checkbox"/> dressage/quadrille   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fundraisers       | <input type="checkbox"/> endurance       | <input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> snack bar/cooking | <input type="checkbox"/> NATRC           |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> refreshments      |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> set-up/clean-up   |  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> other             |  |   |

For More Information

Website: [www.smhorse.org](http://www.smhorse.org)

Email: [mail@smhorse.org](mailto:mail@smhorse.org)

**Step Five: Must Sign release(s) on back/second page of form. Membership is not complete without all signatures and payment. Family memberships with minors: please sign both parts of the Release of Liability/Hold Harmless Agreement**

**Step Six: Mail signed form with your payment to SMHA, P.O. Box 275, San Martin, CA 95046**

**Step Seven: Now that you are a member JOIN US at club activities listed on [www.smhorse.org](http://www.smhorse.org)**

San Martin Horsemen's Association – Membership Application Page 2 of 2

NOTE: TWO parts for PARTICIPANTS HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT/RELEASE OF LIABILITY Family Memberships. THIS RELEASE CONTAINS IMPORTANT LIMITATIONS OF LEGAL LIABILITY!

Participants

Print names \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City/State \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #'s \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that horseback riding is a sport which carries inherent risks of injury and damage to myself, my horse and property. I knowingly assume all risks, whether known or unknown, of horseback riding.

I hereby release the San Martin Horsemen's Association (SMHA) from all liability for any act of negligence or want of ordinary care on the part of San Martin Horsemen's Association or any of its agents.

In consideration of my participation in events and activities organized or sponsored by San Martin Horsemen's Association I waive, release and discharge San Martin Horsemen's Association, its directors, officers, agents and members, their representatives, heirs, executors and all other persons and organizations in any way connected with the SMHA events from any and all claims of liability for injury or damage to myself, my animals or my property arising out of my participation. This agreement is binding upon my executors, heirs and assigns.

I expressly waive any rights I may have under California Civil Code 1542, which states "A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him might have materially affected his settlement with the debtor."

I agree that I will indemnify and hold harmless San Martin Horsemen's Association, their officers, directors, members and agents against all claims, demand, and cause of action, including court costs and actual attorney fees, arising from any proceeding or lawsuits brought by or prosecuted for my benefit, in which this release is upheld.

San Martin Horsemen's Association, its agents or employees shall not be liable for any damage which may accrue from any cause or as a result of fire, theft, mining away, state of health, injury to person, horse or property.

**I acknowledge that I have read this Release of Liability and know and understand its contents.**

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Additional** Release of Liability to cover minor(s)

PARENT or LEGAL GUARDIAN must ALSO complete this section in addition to the above section. All minors and dates of birth MUST E LISTED on SMHA membership application.

Full names \_\_\_\_\_

of minors: \_\_\_\_\_

I/We, the undersigned parent(s) or guardian(s) of the above minor(s) in consideration of said minor's participation in San Martin Horsemen's Association activities, agree that the terms and conditions of this Release of Liability shall be binding as to damage or injury to my minor(s), his/her animal(s), and property arising out of his/her participation in events. I/We further warrant that I/we have health and accident insurance on said minor(s). **I acknowledge that I have read this Release of Liability and know and understand its contents.**

Parent/Guardian

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address if different than above \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

# Trail Review

## Henry Coe State Park – Hunting Hollow to Wilson Peak

**Route:** Hunting Hollow, Jim Donnelly, Steer Ridge Rd, WILSON PEAK, Middle Steer Ridge, Hunting Hollow Rd.  
**Distance** 7.2 miles  
**Elevation Gain:** 1,720 ft

Located at the southwest corner of Henry Coe State Park, this is a short ride at 7.2 miles but it has a lot of character. Start from Hunting Hollow parking lot, self registration and \$6 fee is required.

This day I chose to ride up the Jim Donnelly single track trail which is the easiest way to the ridge that I know of. It is newly routed to avoid the steep rollercoaster effects found on most trails in Coe park which head straight up a spur. But it is actually a really great descent too. You will ride up from the valley floor along gentle slopes and many switchbacks. It is also popular with cyclists going uphill.

After the initial climb the trail eases into a pleasant meander until you get to Steer Ridge road. Here you are confronted with a steep up hill on a broad ranch road, the first of three. The road is wide and recently scraped level by the activity associated with the fire. It was down to a single track last time I was up here in August.

Eventually you will reach a rise which is composed of exposed serpentine rock. Wilson Peak is off to the East. Take a break and enjoy the view.

The return route is to double back then head down Middle Steer Ridge Road, another single track trail. It starts off fairly gently but as you can see from the elevation chart, which I grabbed from trailforks.com it is much steeper and has some ridiculous drops. I dismounted and lead Maverick down this trail but it was still a pretty awful experience.

Trailforks rates this as black while Jim Donnelly is green. It may be a better idea to do this trail in the other direction or come down the next trail to the south, Lyman Wilson Ridge trail rated a pleasant purple. Either way the views on the way up and down are very pretty. – Tim Alton

On a clear day from Wilson Peak you can see the snow capped peaks of the Sierra Nevada to the east. And to the southwest Monterey Bay and the Monterey Peninsula are visible when not socked in with fog.



Above is the marker for Wilson Peak as Maverick enjoys his reward for getting up there. Right the burned area beyond Wasno Ridge trail.



At the lower levels of the descent these lichen draped oaks always seem like they belong at Point Lobos and not this hot dry park. The mists and clouds that roll in from Monterey Bay at work. I assume.



# Mane Stays

## THINGS OF INTEREST/SUPPORT:

---

### **BENTSON SENSORY TRAINING CLINICS**



Randy Bentson, one of our trailer instructors is also a horse trainer and he is holding three clinics coming up before the end of the year. Some of our members have really enjoyed these clinics in the past.

Randy has been a Mounted Unit police officer for over sixteen years. He is a certified mounted unit instructor and has taught various classes to mounted units throughout the state. He is also the former Vice President of the California Mounted Officers Association is currently serving on the Board of Directors.

The dates are **Nov. 14th, Dec. 5th and Dec. 19th**. The clinics will run from **11am to 3 pm**.

Location: SOUTH BAY HORSE RANCH 290 Masten Avenue, Gilroy CA

These are shorter clinics than the details on the website and the cost is only \$40 per participant. Forms are available on the website. Advanced reservations preferred.

For more details on Randy Bentson and his clinic at his website: <http://www.bentsonsensory.com>

Email: [info@bentsonsensory.com](mailto:info@bentsonsensory.com)

---

### **HORSE RIDING IN A TIME OF COVID-19**

**On trail: give each other at least 6 feet at all times**

- Give people space. That means in parking lots or other gathering areas, but it also means on the trail.
- Respect any trail or facility closures. (And remember, have a backup plan before you leave, in case you arrive to find an area closed or crowded.)

- Be extra cautious. **Emergency responders are very busy**. Please don't take any risks that might mean you need rescue or health care.
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitizer before you eat, and avoid sharing water bottles or snacks.
- **Pack out your trash and any toilet paper**. That means taking it home with you. This is always our advice but it will take all of us doing a little extra to keep our trails in good shape right now.

Here is a link to the full article with more useful information:  
<https://www.trailmeister.com/horse-riding-in-the-time-of-covid-19/>

---

## WATER TROUGH/Club Classifieds

**Animal and Plant Sitting:** Reliable Care for your plants and animals while you are away. 30 years' experience you can rely on! Call Chere at 408-683-2247

**WANTED:** I'm an experienced rider who is interested in either leasing or "joining" someone with multiple horses who wants a riding partner. I've owned & leased horses before and am looking for a new adventure. I'm looking for a sweet, healthy horse with a good disposition as well as the camaraderie of riding with someone. I'm interested in trail riding so I'd like to

find someone who trailers to Calero, Casa Loma, Henry Coe or any trail system, who would like a riding partner. If anyone in our club knows of a situation that might work, please give me a call. Michele Hiatt (408-506-9619)

**FOR SALE:** ton's-o-tack, western/english bridles, bits, draw-reins, stirrups, pads, sheepskin pads, stirrups, make a time to come shop! 408 888 8703

**Classified ads for members are always FREE! Ad space for business services (member or not) as follows: 1/4 Page: \$15, 1/2 Page: \$25, Full Page: \$50, Business Card Ad: \$20/4 Months.** Classified ads run on a space available basis. Non-members call 408-848-3728 for more information. **Newsletter Deadlines:** Five days after Board Meeting or the 20th of the month. Please send articles, classified ads, pictures and stories to: [newsletter@smhorse.org](mailto:newsletter@smhorse.org)

## **Henry Coe State Park is Partially Open:**

Hunting Hollow entrance is open with limited access to trails especially east of Wasno Road, but enough for a good long ride.



Parts of the park are now reopen following the SCU Lightning Complex Fire. The area around

the Coe Ranch Entrance, including the Coe Ranch Campground, is open. The Hunting Hollow Entrance will be open for day use only. The park will remain closed to backpacking until further notice. If you have any questions, contact the park at (408) 779-2728 or email [John.Verhoeven@parks.ca.gov](mailto:John.Verhoeven@parks.ca.gov) Please see the [this linked closure area map for the closed areas.](#)

Previously Coe Park volunteers spent a day hiking and riding on the trails to check out their condition. There are pictures from the day posted on Facebook under the public group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/103644046340421>

The Pine Ridge Association web site <https://coepark.net/>

contains the Ponderosa newsletter on the effects of the recent fire.

[http://coepark.net/images/pineridgeassociation/ponderosa/Fire\\_2020.pdf](http://coepark.net/images/pineridgeassociation/ponderosa/Fire_2020.pdf)

## **Hoof-Pics-in-Parks:**

Next year we are going to promote trail riding by copying an idea from Santa Clara County Parks department and adding an equestrian twist.



A number of local parks and open space areas will be part of the challenge, with a specific location in each one. Ride your horse to that location and take a picture. Horse ears in the

picture are an acceptable submission, it does not have to include hooves.

There will be a reward for completing the challenge, we just haven't decided what it is at this point.

You can help set up this challenge. If you have a park and location you feel would be a good place to ride, the more picturesque or iconic the better, please let us know.



## **San Martin Horsemen's Association**

P.O. Box 275  
San Martin, CA 95046