



San Martin Horsemen's Association © 2023

San Martin Horsemen's Association



Serving Our Community
& Promoting Horses &
Horsemanship

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HAPPY February!

The **General Meeting** this month will be at 7pm on Wednesday 28th, at Saddles & Treasures in Gilroy. Arrive early to browse and shop, www.saddlesandtreasures.com. Guest speaker, and SMHA member, Sarah Luke will give a talk on the subject of equine massage, see page 6. Check out the Saddles and Treasures Saddle Cleaning Clinic on page 8.

A clinic to make a mohair cinch coming up February 9 & 10, please check out the flier on page 4.

Our February Club Ride is in Harvey Bear County Park on Saturday 24th but please check our [Facebook](#) page for any weather related updates or call Kathy Madlem

Sadly we lost longtime SMHA member Kitty Swindle in January. A message from her family is on page 5

Membership for 2024

Please think about renewing your membership for 2024 as soon as you can.

The membership application is available [online](#) including payment method, easy as a few clicks.

Our membership fees remain unchanged at \$30 per individual and \$40 per family. Non-members pay at least \$10 more at each event, so being a member is definitely worth it.

We are looking forward to putting on our calendar of events for 2024 and all 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 2024.

San Martin Horsemen's Association Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons

President	Toni Whedon 408-656-8975.	Toni.Whedon@cbnorcal.com	Secretary	Pat Scharfe	408.776.1621
Vice President	Kathy Madlem	408-858-5248.	Poker Ride Chair	open	
Treasurer	Karen Luke	kluke@garlic.com			
Membership	Bev VanderWeide	510 304 5884	Sunshine	open	
Newsletter	Tim Alton 408 623 1845	news@smhorse.org	Website	Christine Amber	amber@equestriantraining.com
Historian	Carolyn Tucker	carolynt@garlic.com	Trails Development Co-chair	Chere Bargar	408.683.2247
Trails Development Co-chair	open		Camp Chair	Toni Whedon 408-656-8975.	Toni.Whedon@cbnorcal.com

Feel free to contact Board Members directly, or at news@smhorse.org – we look forward to hearing your ideas and having your input!

If you want to serve as chairperson in one of the open positions listed in the table above, please contact any board member.

January Meeting

Anyone who missed the January member meeting at Saddles & Treasures missed out on a super educational presentation by Amy (Owner of Saddles & Treasures) on tack safety. We spent at least an hour going over reins, bridles, western saddles, english saddles, girths, cinches, breast collars...you name it, she covered it! We all left with a long list of items to check on our equipment when getting ready for Spring riding. It was so informative, that Amy has agreed to go even deeper at a future event with us with a few horses saddled up for demonstration, so stay tuned!

Photos: Toni Whedon



Mane Stays & Events 2024 CALENDAR

	February
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Cinch Making Clinic #1 - San Martin Lions Club 10 Cinch Making Clinic #2 - San Martin Lions Club 21 Board Meeting 24 Club Ride - Harvey Bear County Park 28 General Meeting - Saddles & Treasures, Gilroy
March	April
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 9 Club Ride - Almaden Quicksilver County Park 20 Board Meeting 27 General Meeting - Longhouse Restaurant, Gilroy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Club Ride - Grant Ranch County Park 17 Board Meeting 24 General Meeting - Saddles & Treasures, Gilroy
May	June
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 11 Club Ride - Henry Coe State Park, Hunting Hollow 18 Trailer Maintenance Clinic (Tentative) - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy 15 Board Meeting 22 General Meeting - Longhouse Restaurant, Gilroy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Trail Obstacle Playday & Parade Desensitization - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy 19 Board Meeting 26 General Meeting - Saddles & Treasures, Gilroy 29 Horse Camping Clinic & Chili Cook-Off – Henry Cowell State Park, Santa Cruz Horsemen's Assoc.
July	August
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Morgan Hill Downtown Parade 17 Board Meeting 21 Club Ride - Mt Madonna County Park, Pole Line Rd 26 General Meeting - Longhouse Restaurant, Gilroy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 Bike Desensitization Clinic - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy 21 Board Meeting 28 General Meeting - Saddles & Treasures, Gilroy 31 Club Ride - Calero County Park
September	October
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 14 Club Ride - Mt. Madonna County Park, Sprig Lake Day Use Area 18 Board Meeting 21 Trail Obstacle Play Day - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy 25 General Meeting - Longhouse Restaurant, Gilroy 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 5 Trailer Backing Clinic (Tentative) - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy 13 Club Ride - Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space 16 Board Meeting 23 General Meeting - Saddles & Treasures, Gilroy
November	December
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2 Halloween Poker Ride - Harvey Bear County Park 18 Board Meeting 23 Club Ride - Salinas River State Beach 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 4 Holiday Party & General Meeting - Longhouse Restaurant, Gilroy 21 Horse Ride & Caroling - Harvey Bear County Park

Join SMHA for fun events held throughout the year!
Have new ideas of things to do or places to ride? Let SMHA know! We LOVE your ideas!!

Two CINCH MAKING CLINICS

Brought to you by the San Martin Horsemen's Association

TrailMeister
Cinch Clinics
Feb 9 & 10



After going through the course, when you see a beautiful cinch, you'll say to yourself, "I could make that myself!"



Each of these full day cinch-making clinics include all materials and tools for your first custom cinch.

Comprehensive Topics Covered:

- Cinch Materials
- Correct Cinch Size
- Knots to Know
- Cordage Length
- Building the Cinch
- Details & Designs
- After Build Care
- Resources



Clinic Location and Time
San Martin Lions Club,
12415 Murphy Ave, San
Martin CA 95046
8am to 5pm



Friday FEB 9th Clinic



Scan or visit the link to register.
<https://www.trailmeister.com/product/cinch-clinic-deposit-sanmartin-ca-feb-9-2024/>

Saturday FEB 10th Clinic



Scan or visit the link to register.
<https://www.trailmeister.com/product/cinch-clinic-sanmartin-ca-feb-10-2024/>

Seats are limited, secure your spot
today! Clinic Fee - \$350 / person

**Pick a clinic and
REGISTER TODAY**

Kitty Swindle

Longtime SMHA member, Kitty Swindle passed away on January 19, 2024.



Kitty was a lifelong horsewoman who joyfully rode thousands of miles of trails, preferably on a fast horse. She competed in many NATRC and AERC rides, winning awards and making friends.

A dedicated volunteer, Kitty was a 30 year member of the Pine Ridge Association Mounted Assistance Unit with 12,000 hours of service doing patrols, putting on and assisting in hundreds of events such as Raincoats and Rubber Boots, Ranch Days, Tarantulafest, Mother's Day Breakfast and many others.

She was also a member of the Santa Clara County Mounted Assistance Unit and San Martin Horseman's Association.

Many hours were spent Square Dancing with friends and Kitty crafted hundreds of backpacks and pencil bags as a volunteer seamstress for Operation Christmas Child.

Hiking both Half Dome in Yosemite and the Grand Canyon were proud accomplishments.

A Celebration of Life will be held on February 10, 2 pm at the Gilroy High School Student Center.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to: The Pine Ridge Association (Coepark.net) – In Memory of Kitty Swindle

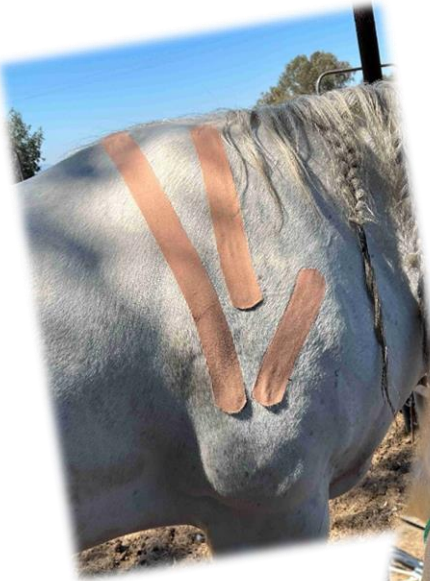


Photos: Sue Dekalb

February Meeting Speaker: Sarah Luke

I am a certified equine sports massage therapist. I made a career change in 2020 when I received my certification. As a massage therapist, I specialize in performance horses, but I work to help all horses feel their best in and out of the arena. Our horses are athletes, and my ultimate goal is to ensure they have the ability to perform to their highest potential by helping to relieve body soreness!

Photos: Sarah Luke



Mane Stays

THINGS OF INTEREST/SUPPORT:

A Call for Newsletter Articles

Please think about contributing to some of the regular columns I started last year.

Horses of SMHA: a few paragraphs on your favorite steed or even your second favorite. You can tell us your best riding or training tale. Along with some photos this makes for an interesting read for your fellow members. I am using the word steed to be inclusive of all you folks with mules and ponies

Trail Reviews: write up a review of a recent trail ride,

include length, elevation, degree of difficulty, shade, mud, water crossings and especially whether you enjoyed it or not. Add some description of the trail, the trailhead location and a photo or two. Other members may have never been before and we all like to go to new places that are recommended by our friends. But it doesn't have to be a positive review a warning to others is very useful too, although some may take it as a challenge!

Email your article, in simple text with pictures attached, to news@smhorse.org, or just let me know if I can put you on the list for future editions of the newsletter

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

FOR SALE: Brand new in the box riding helmet for sale.

Its a white Classico brand. Sells new for \$70 asking \$45 obo. Call Bev VanderWeide 510 304 5884

FOR SALE: Logan 1989 2-horse, straight load trailer. Malibu model, 2 axel, unladen weight: 2600, original owner. Best reasonable offer accepted. Located in the Santa Cruz Mountains. Contact: sfrancy1@aol.com



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 408-623-1845 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: news@smhorse.org

Saddles and Treasures are having another Saddle Cleaning Clinic. Here is a [Link](#) to the sign up.

Saddle Cleaning Clinic

February 22nd
6:30-8:30 pm

Learn how to Clean and care for your tack

In this clinic, we will cover the tack parts, and step by step instructions on how to best care for your leather.

*

Included with participation each attendee will receive a workbook of the information presented, and a product kit.

*

Product Kit includes *Bucket
*Sponge*Scrubber*Soap*Awl*Oil*Sheepskin(X2) *Conditioner

\$45 Per Person

\$20 Non-refundable deposit
Purchase Bellow Balance is due at clinic.



7641 Monterey St
Gilroy, Ca 95020
(408) 337-1446



**San Martin Horsemen's
Association**
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