



San Martin Horsemen's Association © 2024

San Martin Horsemen's Association



Serving Our Community & Promoting Horses & Horsemanship

Club News	2
Calendar	3
Trailer Clinic	4
Play Day	5
Water Trough/ Classifieds	6
Things of Interest/Support	6
Mules of SMHA	7
Hoof Pics in Parks	8

HAPPY May!

The **General Meeting** this month will be at 7pm on Wednesday 22nd of May at the [Longhouse Restaurant](#) in Gilroy. Topics under discussion should include the June 1st Play Day and the July 4th Parade entry. Please arrive early to order dinner before the meeting starts.

Join us on Saturday May 11th for the SMHA day ride at Harvey Bear, Mendoza Entrance on Roop Road in Gilroy. Ride out time will be 1030 am for this one! Space is limited so people must RSVP in advance for the ride, call or text Kathy Madlem at 408-858-5248 or email kmarn@aol.com.

Our first clinic of the year is the very popular Trailer Maintenance Clinic on Saturday May 18th. See the flier on page 4 and register online.

Our first Play Day is on Saturday June 1st see the flier and registration link on page 5. We always need volunteers for set up, judging and clean up, please contact Toni if you are interested. This is a great opportunity to acquaint your horse with some things you may come across out on the trail. Also there will be a desensitization clinic for riders in the July 4th parade, after the competition.

MORGAN HILL 4TH OF JULY PARADE

SMHA has done very well in the past and we want to live up to our reputation. The theme for this year's parade is "**Red White and You**". We need riders and anyone who has ponies, minis, donkeys, etc. to lead- with or without kids aboard. We have plenty of decorations for all size equines. Participants need to wear dark blue jeans, dark boots, white long sleeve shirt and light color straw hat or helmet. We have sparkly hat bands, wrist bands, neck scarfs, saddle pads, and lots of goodies to decorate horse and rider.

If you are not sure how your horse will do in a parade, we strongly suggest that you come to the clinic coming up, June 1st to work on parade desensitizing. There will also be a walker in the parade for every 2 horses, so there will be someone to help out if a horse gets excited.

We need the following people:

- riders (at least 10 would be great) Please tell us the size of your horse trailer.
- little equines & their handlers - horse walkers - help decorate the horses
- someone to make sure everyone signs a release form
- bring donuts, rolls or? , coffee, hot chocolate

Please respond even if you are not entirely sure at this point but are interested.
This is our chance to shine before our local community – let's WOW them!

San Martin Horsemen's Association Executive Board and Committee Chairpersons

President	Toni Whedon 408-656-8975.	Toni.Whedon@cbnocal.com	Secretary	Carol Abel	408-218-1694
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@cbnocal.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.

April Meeting

In April we met at Saddles & Treasures in Gilroy.

www.saddlesandtreasures.com. Guest speaker Gary Luke gave an informative Trailer Tech Talk before the very popular Trailer Maintenance Clinic coming up on Saturday May 18th.

Photo: KarenLuke



Join us on Facebook!

[SMHA Facebook Group](#)

It's a good place to exchange information, stay up on the latest news, share photos and find a riding partner

Mane Stays & Events 2024 CALENDAR

<p>May</p> <p>11 Club Ride – Mendoza Entrance, Harvey Bear county Park space limited</p> <p>15 Board Meeting</p> <p>18 Trailer Maintenance Clinic - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy</p> <p>22 General Meeting - Longhouse Restaurant, Gilroy</p>	<p>June</p> <p>1 Trail Obstacle Playday & Parade Desensitization - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy</p> <p>19 Board Meeting</p> <p>26 General Meeting - Saddles & Treasures, Gilroy</p> <p>29 Horse Camping Clinic & Chili Cook-Off – Henry Cowell State Park, Santa Cruz Horsemen's Assoc.</p>
<p>July</p> <p>4 Morgan Hill Downtown Parade</p> <p>17 Board Meeting</p> <p>21 Club Ride - Mt Madonna County Park, Pole Line Rd</p> <p>24 General Meeting - Longhouse Restaurant, Gilroy</p>	<p>August</p> <p>3 Bike Desensitization Clinic - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy</p> <p>21 Board Meeting</p> <p>28 General Meeting - Saddles & Treasures, Gilroy</p> <p>31 Club Ride - Calero County Park</p>
<p>September</p> <p>14 Club Ride - Mt. Madonna County Park, Sprig Lake Day Use Area</p> <p>18 Board Meeting</p> <p>21 Trail Obstacle Play Day - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy</p> <p>25 General Meeting - Longhouse Restaurant, Gilroy</p>	<p>October</p> <p>5 Trailer Backing Clinic (Tentative) - Blomquist Arena, Gilroy</p> <p>13 Club Ride - Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space</p> <p>16 Board Meeting</p> <p>23 General Meeting - Saddles & Treasures, Gilroy</p>
<p>November</p> <p>2 Halloween Poker Ride - Harvey Bear County Park</p> <p>20 Board Meeting</p> <p>23 Club Ride - Salinas River State Beach</p>	<p>December</p> <p>4 Holiday Party & General Meeting - Longhouse Restaurant, Gilroy</p> <p>21 Horse Ride & Caroling - Harvey Bear County Park</p>

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!!



San Martin Horsemen's Association Trailer Tech Clinic SPRING IS HERE!

Time to dust off the horse trailer (or any trailer) and join San Martin Horsemen's Assoc. at our popular trailer maintenance clinic.

Gary Luke and Crew will teach you how to prepare your trailer for another season of safe trailering after sitting through the winter, and also show you how to complete trailer projects that you have been meaning to tackle. Tell

the guys what you want to do and they will instruct you on how to do it.

They will supervise to make sure you remain safe and learn the proper way to:

- Change out a faulty light bulb or change to LED
- Fix a wiring problem on your trailer
- Add bearing buddies to your axles
- Fix a sticking tack room door
- Lubricate your jack, hinges, etc.
- Fix a broken tie out ring
- Whatever else you need help with – bring your challenge!

Saturday, May 18, 2024

10:00 am - 4:00 pm

Blomquist Arena

8885 Guibal Avenue, Gilroy

\$50.00 SMHA Members, \$100.00 Non-Members

Click below to REGISTER & PAY ONLINE (or copy and paste link into your browser):

<https://form.jotform.com/toniwhedon/smha-trailer-tech-clinic-2024>

Questions? Contact Karen Luke at kluke@garlic.com or 408-203-5730 call or text





FOUNDED IN 1968
SERVING OUR COMMUNITY
PROMOTING HORSES & HORSEMANSHIP

San Martin Horsemen's Play Day Ranch Trail Competition Saturday June 1st 2024

Registration starts at 8:00am

Practice the course from 9:00 – 11:00

The practice session is important for you and your horse, whether riding or in-hand. It's almost the best part of the day. Don't miss it!

Competition starts at 11:30am

\$40 – member, \$50 – non-member

\$25 age 15 & under

\$5 Discount for early registration by May 28th

use coupon code SMHA5off

Divisions:

Division 1: age 15 & under, Novice & Open

Division 2: age 16 & over, Novice & Open

Judging

Points for Horsemanship, Safety and a calm horse

Ribbons in each division

Come join us for a day of fun on horseback.
The event will be held at the Blomquist Arena:
8885 Guibal Ave. Gilroy.

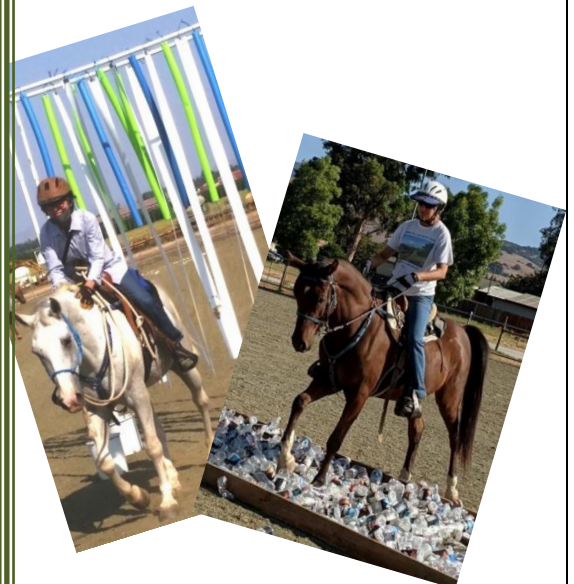
Directions: Take New Ave. to Roop Road and go west on Roop. Then go straight, do not turn on Guibal, and you will pull all the way to the back of the property, where there is plenty of parking.

Please register online at

<https://form.jotform.com/toniwhedon/smha-june-play-day>

Obstacles to include:

Bridge
Rope Gate
Belly Tickler
Tire Maze
Reverse Z Turn
Push the Barrel
Bottle Pit
Picnic Table
Cowboy Car Wash
Spider
Around the World
PLUS SOME SURPRISES



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

Santa Clara County Parks

There are many items on the parks calendar this month.

National River Cleanup Day

Santa Clara County Parks are hosting sites for National River Cleanup Day!

National River Cleanup is a national day of action to protect our rivers, watersheds, and wildlife from trash and debris. Since its inception in 1991, American Rivers have engaged more than 1.3 million volunteers who have participated in thousands of cleanups across the country, covering more than 261,000 miles of waterways and removing more than 32.5 million pounds of litter and debris.

Check the details [here](#) to see where and when they will be

held, just be sure to pre-register since locations fill up quickly and walk-ups cannot always be accommodated.

No special skills are required for this event. Please bring a filled water bottle and sunscreen. Standard adult sized work gloves and pick up sticks are provided but you are welcome to bring your own.



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

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

Horses & Mules of SMHA

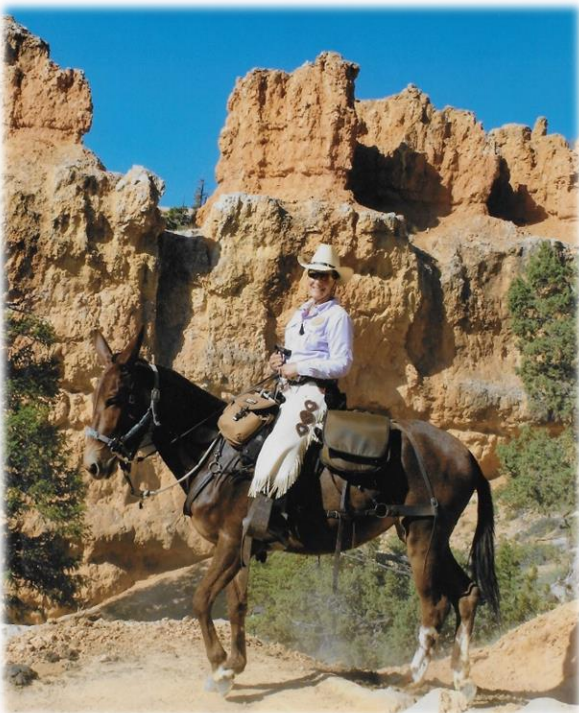
Carol Abel and Sheba

A mule, who knew. I never thought about owning a mule. Then I had an incredible opportunity to ride one on the Red Rock Ride in Utah. For six days we rode some of the most beautiful and amazing park trails, including the Grand Canyon. Most everyone had to change their mounts for the Grand Canyon ride, I did not. This beautiful red mule, Sheba, was already Grand Canyon certified at 5 years old.



presented to them what you'd like them to do, in a way that they think makes sense, they are happy to accommodate you. I keep promising Sheba that I'll get better and I appreciate her patience with me.

Hope to see you all out on the trails.



With the strong encouragement from my loving husband, Joe, I inquired if I could buy Sheba. The response was 'everything has a price'. I decided to go for it. I flew home, drove back with my truck and trailer and brought her home.

What an amazing experience it has been. Did you know, a mule is NOT a horse. There isn't a thing about them that is even remotely like a horse. Even though I had 7 saddles in the tack room, not a one of them fit, nor any bridles for that matter. It took quiet a while to put together the right tack.

Then the real challenge began. I've ridden horses most of my life and worked with a number of different trainers. A horse is trained with repetition and small rewards, a mule is trained with long patience and great logic. They are great thinkers. The expression, 'stubborn as a mule' is misunderstood. They are not stubborn, they are waiting for you to make up your mind. Once you have



Here is a poem I found that I feel represents the difference:
The Difference Between a Bray-Neigh – by Meredith Hodges

A horse can be dominated by man
A mule can be dominated by none
A horse succumbs to aggression
A mule succumbs to affection
A horse looks at you
A mule looks into you
A horse is trained by short punishment and small rewards
A mule is trained by long patience and great logic

To ride a horse well, one must be proud
To ride a mule well, one must be humble

The more one understands people, the more one loves animals
The more one understands animals, the more one loves mules



Hoof Pics in Parks Challenge 2024

#hoofpicsinpark

A Trail Riding Challenge

Seven parks to explore on horseback. Ride out, take a picture at a pre-determined location, and share it on the San Martin Horsemen's Association Facebook page.

Instructions

1. Pick a Park.
2. Take a picture that looks like the sample shown for that particular park.
3. Post your picture to the SMHA Facebook page.
 - o tag your photo with #HoofPicsInParks and #park name
4. If you do not use Facebook, then email your photo with your name and the location where the picture was taken to Toni.Whedon@CBNorCal.com and we will post it for you!
5. Complete all of the parks in the challenge by December 1 and we will celebrate your success with a prize at our SMHA Holiday Party! Club membership is not needed to participate, but membership is required to be eligible for participation awards.



Mt. Madonna County Park
Miller House Ruins (between Upper & Lower Miller Trails)

Park Maps

- Almaden Quicksilver – parks.sccgov.org/santa-clara-county-parks/almaden-quicksilver-county-park
- Calero – parks.sccgov.org/santa-clara-county-parks/calero-county-park
- Rancho Canada del Oro – openspaceauthority.org/preserves/rancho.html
- Coyote Lake Harvey Bear – parks.sccgov.org/santa-clara-county-parks/coyote-lake-harvey-bear-ranch-park
- Henry Coe – coepark.net/planning-your-visit/park-maps
- Joseph D. Grant – parks.sccgov.org/santa-clara-county-parks/joseph-d-grant-county-park
- Mt. Madonna – parks.sccgov.org/santa-clara-county-parks/Mt.Madonna-county-park

Sponsored by:
Toni Whedon, Realtor
DRE #01435156
(408) 656-8975
Toni.Whedon@CBNorCal.com

Bonus!
Park & Location of Your Choice
Pick your favorite park, and share on the San Martin Horsemen's Assoc. Facebook page! Maybe it will get added to next year's #hoofpicsinpark challenge!

Joseph D. Grant County Park
Brush Trail Water Tank



Coyote Lake Harvey Bear Ranch County Park
Lake View



Almaden Quicksilver County Park
English Camp Chimney & Vault



Henry W. Coe State Park – Hunting Hollow
Willson Camp (Wagon Road & Vasquez Road)



Rancho Canada del Oro Open Space
Silicon Valley view from Bald Peak Trail Rest Stop



Calero County Park
Bot Inn





**San Martin Horsemen's
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