

Moraga Horsemen's  
Newsletter  
December 2005



Calendar of Events

January 10 MJHA Party at Jane Jewett's  
at 6:30, Moraga  
17 MHA Party at Susan  
Williams' gallery at 6 p.m.  
Albany Arts Gallery, Albany,  
members only

Moraga Junior Horsemen  
2006 Officers

Congratulations to the new MJHA officers:  
Stephanie Koch - President  
Mara Constantine - Vice President  
Secretary and newsletter person - Victoria  
Henley  
Corresponding Secretary - Grace Ann  
Carrick  
Treasurer - Victoria Shao  
Membership - Nicole Ross  
Historians - Jane Jewett and Morgan  
Landes  
Sergeant at Arms - Sonja Koch

Dear Moraga Juniors,

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to be the club president for the past year! I really enjoyed it! When you elected me president, I didn't feel like I was truly a part of the MJHA, but very quickly after assuming my presidential duties, I stopped feeling like an outsider. I got to know everyone in the club a lot better and you are all such wonderful people.

During my tenure as president, the MJHA welcomed many new members, which is really great, and I hope that trend continues next year.

Other changes in the club included abandoning the phone tree and switching to email as the mode of communication. There were also some not so positive aspects to my time as president. The vice president and historian had serious senioritis and then left for college, for example, so their duties were not fulfilled. In the future, if officers no longer want to do their duties, it would probably be prudent to elect interim officers. Also, future presidents should make sure the other officers are on top of things! In the next year as vice president, I will ensure that our meetings have a speaker, game, or video, and that we do a better job of keeping track of who attends the meetings, who is joining, etc.

I think it's been a really wonderful year for the MJHA. Some of our events included drill team, the holiday party with the gift exchange, the breakfast ride, the Hairy Horse Show (postponed due to weather, but still a success!), lessons at the MHA arena, an overnight, the playday, and the Halloween ride. The next year will most likely include all of the above, in addition to the upcoming event at Susan William's pottery studio, and caroling on horseback.

If there is anything you would like to change about the MJHA, or any ideas for activities or events, please let me and Stephanie know! We want everyone to enjoy the club!!

And a huge thank you to all of the outgoing MJHA officers who did such a great job this year!!



MJHA Holiday Party



When: December 10 at 6:30  
 Where: Jane Jewett's home, Moraga



Bring a potluck dish to share for dinner and a "horsey" gift for the exchange. Gifts should be in the \$10 range.



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

New junior members include:  
 Cameron Pakfetrat  
 Pleasant Hill, CA 94523

Lisa Carrington.  
 Lafayette, CA 94549

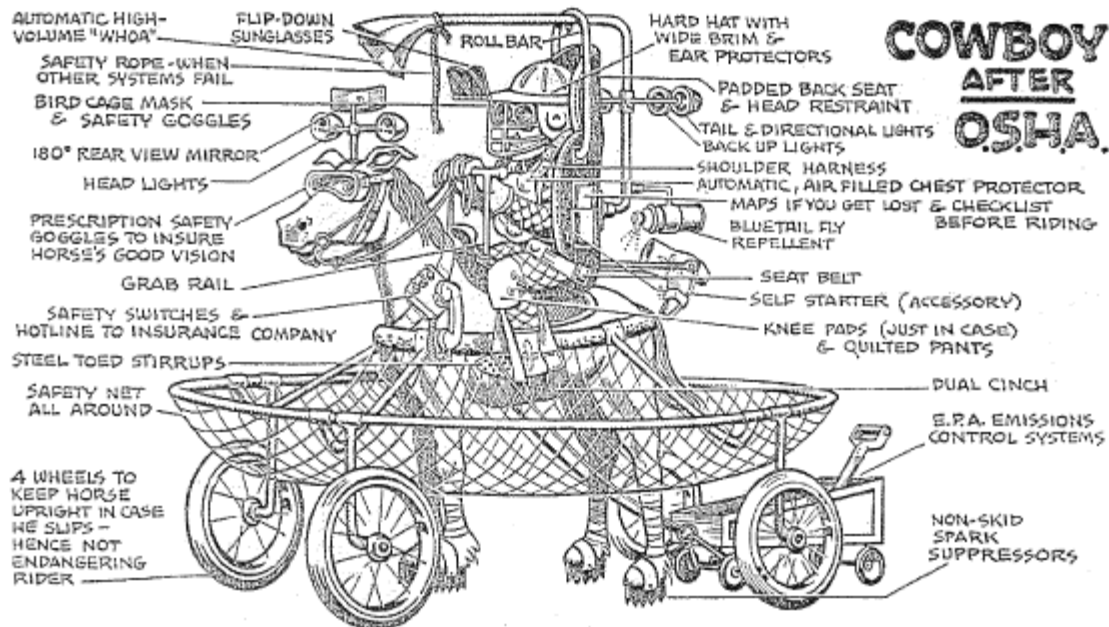
New Senior member  
 Holly Bruce  
 Mill Valley, CA 94941

**Christmas Caroling  
 December 18th.**

The Moraga Juniors have been invited to join a group in Danville on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Caroling on horseback will be encouraged for VERY TRUSTY STEEDS. If a junior intends to ride, be sure to have a responsible adult join you on foot. RSVP to Heidi Koch if you are interested.

**Jane and Sandy**

Congratulations to Jane Moorman and her new steed, Sandy. After a bout of bad luck with horses and hips, Jane is finally going to be joining us on the trail with her new Morgan! She's got a neat new guy, and he's got a great new home!



◇ **Nominations for MHA Officers 2006**

Please join us at the January meeting to elect officers for 2006. The nominating

committee has presented the following slate for nomination:

- President – Zette Theirry
- Vice President – Wisti Nelson
- Treasurer – Marianne McKay

Secretary – Laura Fend  
Sgt. At Arms – John Allen  
Member at Large – Alan Jewett



slightly more palatable than fresh leaves, and the leaves are still toxic when wilted or dried. In one report with horses, it was indicated that approximately 1/4 pound of leaves (about 30 or 40 leaves) could deliver a lethal dose to an adult horse.

Clinical signs may develop rapidly, and the animal may be found dead with no prior warning. In other cases, depression coupled with gastrointestinal distress is evident: vomiting (in those species that can vomit), diarrhea (which may be bloody), and abdominal pain. Irregularities in the heart rate and rhythm will occur: the heart may speed up or slow down, and beat erratically. As the toxicosis progresses, the extremities may become cold and the mucous membranes pale. Trembling and collapse can occur, followed by coma and death within a few hours.

**FIRST AID:** If animals are observed eating oleander, contact a veterinarian immediately. The toxin acts quickly, and is lethal in small amounts. Emergency measures may be used to empty the gastrointestinal tract of remaining plant matter, and medications may be administered to control the effects that the toxin has on the heart. Despite emergency care, the animal may still die, but the sooner treatment is begun, the better the prognosis for survival.

## 52. Oleander

*Nerium oleander*

Apocynaceae (Dogbane family)

**TOXICITY RATING:** High. Ingestion of even small amounts can kill.

**ANIMALS AFFECTED:** All animals can be affected.

**DANGEROUS PARTS OF PLANT:** The entire plant is toxic. Most animals are poisoned by consuming leaves, fresh or dried.

**CLASS OF SIGNS:** Gastrointestinal irritation, cardiac abnormalities, death (may be sudden).

**PLANT DESCRIPTION:** This plant grows outdoors in warmer regions, and in Indiana is grown as a houseplant. Oleander grows as a shrub or sometimes to the size of a small tree. The leaves are lance-shaped, thick and leathery, and grow opposite each other. Sometimes, leaves may grow in whorls. The leaves are 8 to 10 inches long, although smaller specimens will have shorter leaves. Flowers are showy, approximately 1 to 3 inches in diameter, and grow in large clusters at the ends of the branches, and can be white or any shade of pink or red.

**SIGNS:** Oleander contains the toxins oleandrin and nerioside, which very similar to the toxins in foxglove (*Digitalis*). This is a tropical plant, but is grown as an ornamental and as a houseplant in Indiana. Apparently the plant is not palatable, but will be eaten by hungry animals. It is reported that dried or wilted leaves may be

**SAFETY IN PREPARED FEEDS:** Oleander is extremely toxic, even in small quantities, and the toxin is not eliminated by drying. Therefore, feeds containing oleander are never safe for consumption.

**PREVENTION:** Be able to identify oleander and exercise extreme caution when pets (and humans) are in the vicinity of these plants. The plants should never be placed where animals can have contact with them. Extra care needs to be taken in cases where leaves can fall into a pasture or in the vicinity of a confined, bored or hungry animal.

## Poisonous Plants

To research other poisonous plants you can go to:

[www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/navigate.htm](http://www.vet.purdue.edu/depts/addl/toxic/navigate.htm)

This sight allows you to look up plants by name, picture, family, etc. A great source for all pet owners.



## Murphy's Horse / Barn Laws

1. If you do a thorough check of your trailer before hauling, your truck will break down.
  - 1a. And your cell phone will not work. Or, your 'auto/truck plan' will not cover expenses, and you are exactly half way between home and destination. And you left your major credit card -at home.! Of course, all contacts for 'help' are 'stored' in your cell phone contacts list. No service.
  - 1b. Most 'major' home / barn 'problems' will occur when you are away at a Ride: i.e., the well pump fails, the furnace quits. 'Oldie' gets a "bellyache". Your Mother, Spouse, In-Laws, neighbor calls, while you are 'on the road and Wants to know "What to Do !?"
2. There is no such thing as a sterile barn cat. 2a. If you manage to catch and inoculate, spay/neuter 'a stray', something " will 'happen' to it ". Or, it will become a house cat. Guaranteed. ( Same applies to dogs)
  - 2b. Once you feed a 'stray' it is yours.
3. No one ever notices how you ride until you fall off.
  - 3a. You will not 'fall off ', ' be bucked off ', 'unseated'.... unless someone is there watching. If, only they could have seen your 'great skill' (luck) riding Ole Killers' bucks / shys / flights of fancy, "airs above ground" before.
4. The least useful horse in your barn will eat the most, require shoes every four weeks and will need the vet at least once a month.
  - 4a. Sell him, forget it !! , you can not even give him away!! ( See above 3a, 5, 6, and 21 ).
5. A horse's misbehavior will be in direct proportion to the number of people who are watching. Especially, if the horse is for sale!
6. Tack you hate never wears out; blankets you hate cannot be destroyed; horses you hate cannot be sold and will outlive you.
  - 6a. Mice and mold will only attack useful, and liked articles.
  - 6b. Horses you never ride, are never lame, or sick.
7. Clipper blades will become dull only when the horse is half-finished. Clipper motors will quit only when you have the horse's head left to trim.
8. If you're wondering if you left the water on in the barn, you did. If you're wondering if you latched the pasture gate, you didn't.
9. One horse isn't enough; two is too many.
10. If you approach within 50 feet of the barn in your "street clothes," you will get dirty. (You do not own any white clothing.)
11. You can't push a horse on a long line.
12. If a horse is advertised "under \$5,000," you can bet he isn't \$2,500.
13. The number of horses you own increases according to the number of stalls in your barn.( plus one)
  - 13 a. The number of horses you have increases by X 2 -3, to the amount of acreage that you need to support them on.
14. An uncomplicated horse can be ruined with enough schooling.
15. You can't run a barn without baling twine.( and Duct tape)
16. Hoof picks migrate.
  - 16 a. If you thought you put "it" there, you did; and "it" migrated, applies to everything in the barn, including horses.

17. Wind velocity increases in direct proportion to how well your hat fits. And / Or which direction you need to throw that shovel / pitchfork full of

18. There is no such thing as the "right feed."

18 a. If you get the "Right Feed / Hay" - you can bet your horse that needs it most, will not eat it, even if nothing else available. And he will probably prefer the fence.

19. If you fall off, you will land on the site of your most recent injury.

19a This is after you have exhausted all your 'sick leave' at work ( for the same injury), and try explaining that to the Boss.

20. You can not own enough feed tubs / water buckets. Blankets, towels, wraps.

21. The horse you want to keep in, or the one you want to keep out - can always open the stall door. No matter what kind of latch you use.

21a. The one you want to keep in, is let out by the other above.

21b. You have exhausted all means to keep that horse from opening all gates, stall and feed doors, - you give him a stall, and he is happy, but "a stall pig".

21c. The horse that is 'left out', is "stall trained" and only would mess a certain spot.

22. If you're winning, quit. ( FYI - you can't win. It is only an illusion.)

# Day of The Horse Ride

December 13, 2005

DECEMBER 13<sup>th</sup> has been nationally recognized by the U.S. Senate as "THE DAY OF THE HORSE". To celebrate this declaration, horsemen from all over the greater Bay Area will gather for this SECOND ANNUAL RIDE at 9:30 to stage, 10:00 to ride at the Sycamore Valley Road Park and Ride (how appropriate) off 680 in Danville. Horsemen from many different clubs and places will join together to go on a ride up the Iron Horse Trail. Non-riders (hikers) are also welcome! This is strictly a WALKING ONLY ride to show the non-equestrian community how great horseback riding can be, so make sure you ride your best behaved, dead quiet, bomb proof trail horse and make sure to clean up after the tail end of your horse in the parking lot! Bring your own lunch or EXACT CHANGE (6 dollars) to order either a Turkey or Vegetarian sandwich with a drink for lunch at the ride.

For any questions please call Heidi Koch SRVHA at (925) 743 15 76 or e-mail me at [fancyexpress@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fancyexpress@sbcglobal.net) We are also looking for maybe a non-rider to meet us at the staging area shortly after 9 am with coffee and doughnuts. Please call Heidi if you want to do that!

**Directions:**

From 680 going north, take the Sycamore Valley Road exit, and turn right, east, onto Sycamore Valley. Make an immediate left at the Camino Ramon light into the Park and Ride lot. Please park all the way in the back.

From 680 going south, take the Sycamore Valley Road exit. Stay to the left to go east on Sycamore Valley. (The Freeway exit "cloverleaves" under the Sycamore Valley overpass, then takes you up onto Sycamore.) Get left as soon as possible and turn left at the 2<sup>nd</sup> light, Camino Ramon, into the Park and Ride lot. (The 1<sup>st</sup> light is the turn back onto 680 north.)

**Moraga Horseman's Association  
Christmas Party**

***Date:*** *December 17, 2005*

***Where:*** *Albany Arts Gallery  
Albany, CA 94706*

***Time:*** *6:00pm*

***What to bring according to last name:***

*A-G           Appetizers*

*H-N           Salads*

*M-Q           Side Dishes*

*R-Z          Dessert*

***Gift Swap:** Bring a gift (equal to or less than \$25 in value or any horse related gifts that you've received but would like to pass on)*

***RSVP:** Please RSVP by December 9<sup>th</sup> so we can purchase the appropriate amount of meat and provide adequate seating*