

MORAGA JUNIOR HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Welcome to the Moraga Junior Horsemen's Association!

MJHA was founded in the 1950's for junior riders and horse enthusiasts, ages 8 through 18.

With the assistance of the Moraga Horsemen's Association the club offers a varied program of shows, playdays, and trailrides in the spring and summer. The club maintains an arena on Canyon Road for these events. The emphasis in all MJHA events is on safety and good sportsmanship.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of every month, the location published in the MHA newsletter. The meetings start at 6:30 p.m. and involve a business meeting followed by a varied array of speakers, games, videos, or other events designed to offer fun and education in regards to our shared interest - the horse. Parents are encouraged attend and join the fun.

Membership is attained by attendance at three meetings or a combination of events and meetings totaling three. At the third meeting the person is voted in by the membership. Dues of \$25, including a \$5 one time registration fee, are due at this time.

Membership is maintained by regular attendance at meetings and payment of a yearly dues of \$25. If you are ill, or away you may get excused by calling a board member before the meeting to say you will not be there. The membership becomes inactive after three consecutive unexcused absences.

The members are encouraged to join various committees and help with the activities that they are not participating in - for example a child that shows in English competition would be able to help out in the judge's booth or food booth during Western competition, or a rider who is not competing in playdays could be a timer for the playday. This is a wonderful way for the members to learn about the various events while helping out their club.

The junior members are encouraged to organize the activities, but parents also play an important and vital role in MJHA. No event can go on without parental help, supervision, and support. The club has several adult 'Junior Advisors' who supervise the Board of Directors, attend every event, and who are available for advise and help.

All parents are asked to help with the activities throughout the year. You will be contacted about how YOU can help your child have a fun, exciting and memorable membership with Moraga Junior Horsemen's Association.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Moraga Junior Horsemen's Association is run by the Board of Directors and supervised by adult advisors. The Juniors elect a new board every November. A brief description is given for each of board positions, however each board may choose to organize it's members in it's own way to meet it's unique personality - these are just guidelines.

PRESIDENT:

The president must have previous experience as an elected officer of the Moraga Junior Horsemen's Association serving on the board of directors. This assures that this person is knowledgeable of the routine and duties of the board. The President organizes the agenda and runs the monthly meetings. The President is also a member of each committee and heads the phone tree, which is the communication method used to inform members of scheduled events or changes. The President takes an active role in as many events as possible. This is a position of dedication and responsibility, and members will look to this person as a role model, so sportsmanship and conduct must always be appropriate.

VICE-PRESIDENT:

The Vice President must also have previous MJHA board experience. This officer is responsible for the program at each of the monthly meetings, be it speaker, games, or video. The Vice President is also responsible for reserving a meeting place (such as the Moraga library) and making arrangements for the use of any facility such as the library or a cafeteria room for the Potluck dinner. The Vice President should be involved in as many events as possible, and will also need to be conscience of sportsmanship and conduct as a club leader. This officer is also a member of the phone tree. If the President cannot attend a meeting, the Vice President shall take over that responsibility.

TREASURER:

The Treasurer is responsible for all the monies that are collected throughout the year as well as in charge of paying all bills received. Strict records must be kept for all checks made out as well as all monies coming in from various activities. This is a very important position and the Treasurer need to be very organized and responsible at all times regarding the accounts. The Treasurer is also responsible for ordering ribbons and awards for all events and is a member of the phone tree. The Treasurer's co-signer (usually a parent) must be available for the monthly meetings. The treasurer should be as active as possible in all club events as a representative of the Board of Directors.

RECORDING SECRETARY:

The Recording Secretary will take a roll at the beginning of each meeting and keep records of attendance at meetings and participation at events for the records. Minutes will be taken for every meeting and read back at the next meeting to remind members of what has happened. The Recording Secretary also keeps

track of Snack Booth sign-ups and makes reminding calls to volunteers one week before the scheduled event. This officer is also a member of the phone tree. As with all officers, he or she should be as active as possible in all club events as a representative of the Board of Directors.

CORRESPONDING SECRETARY:

We frequently have speakers, judges at our shows, or special assistance from people outside our organization. The Corresponding Secretary is responsible for writing thank you notes to these people who help enrich our program. There may be an occasional letter of representation to be written if the club feels they want to be recognized for backing some political, or other issue. This officer should also be active in club events and aware of his/her role as an officer in the program.

MEMBERSHIP:

The Membership Chairman is responsible for distributing dues notices, accompanied by release forms and emergency cards - and collecting them from all members as soon as possible (by March). Once these dues and forms are returned the Membership Chairman compiles a new roster to distribute to the members. As new members are accepted into the club, the Membership Chairman must collect the necessary fees and forms AND relay the names and addresses to the Senior Newsletter person and the Recording Secretary. The Membership Chairman also helps the Recording Secretary with the participation records. This is a very important position and the officer must be extremely well organized and responsible for flowing up on his/her duties. As with all Board Members, the Membership Chairman should be involved in as many club events as possible, work closely with the Junior Advisors, and be aware of his/her position as a leader in the club.

HISTORIAN:

The historian should be at most of the club events in order to collect material for the scrap books the club keeps, Pictures, show premiums, newspaper articles, pictures - any lasting reminders of the year's activities are collected and put into scrap books to pass on through the years.

SERGEANT AT ARMS:

This position is frequently held by more than one person, simply because it is difficult to keep so many young member quiet during some of the meetings. The Sergeant at Arms is responsible for quieting the group down at the beginning of each meeting, and maintaining quiet throughout the meeting. If there are some members talking or creating distractions, the Sergeant at Arms is to quietly get them back in order. Once again, this officer should be an active member, and will best fill his/her office by setting a good example.

SPECIAL EVENTS

THE MORISON SHOW

The Morison Show is probably the biggest event of the year and brings out the competition in all of the members. The Morison trophy and the President's Cup are two perpetual trophies that are presented each year by MJHA at the Morison Show.

The Harry C. Morison Perpetual Trophy:

To be eligible for the Harry C. Morison Perpetual Trophy a competitor must have been a member of MJHA for at least 4 months prior to the show. This trophy is awarded to the High Point for Western Open Horse and Rider combination. Once a rider has won the Morison Trophy they may not compete for it again. Some of the classes that are included in the competition include showmanship, bareback equitation, western pleasure, western equitation, medal and trail class. The trophy is passed on after a year and when the rider relinquishes the trophy to the new winner, a silver buckle is awarded in it's place. The Morison has it's beginning in the start of the club in the 1950's and is a wonderful tradition that wee all need to support.

The President's Cup:

The President's Cup is a perpetual trophy that is received by winning the High Point in English at the Morison Show. As with the Morison Trophy, the rider must have been a member of MJHA for at least 4 months prior to the show. The President's Cup was started in 1983 and it's first winner was Kate Margason. If this trophy is won three times by the same rider it is then retired, otherwise it is relinquished at the next Morison Show and replaced by a smaller trophy the rider can keep. Allison Harvey retired the Cup in 1993 after three very successful years. Some of the classes that are included in this competition are showmanship, English pleasure, English equitation, trail and hunter hack.

MAYDAY AWARD

MJHA holds several playdays throughout the spring and summer with fun competition for all types of riders. The horse and rider competitions often include bubble gum races, pole bending, barrel racing, ring toss, and many more crazy games. At each playday awards are given, however at the final playday of the year (usually in September after the Morison Show) the Mayday Award is presented. This perpetual award is given to that horse and rider team who accumulates the most points toward high point throughout the season. The original award was presented to Amy Watkins and her horse Mayday and has been presented to a new team each year. Once a horse and rider team have won the Mayday Award they are no longer eligible to compete for it again.

BUCKLE RIDE

The Buckle Ride is the club's annual overnight trail ride. This event usually takes place in September and entails a weekend of riding through the Oakland hills, beginning at the MJHA arena and spending the night at Sequoia Arena, and returning to the MJHA arena the next day.

This ride is judged on horsemanship, equitation, courtesy, and trail etiquette. There are two divisions. Open is for experienced participants who have qualified to ride alone at a set pace, following a map and trail ribbons. Open riders are to be totally independent for the weekend, handling their horses completely on their own. Novice is for the newer participants and is used as a learning experience. These riders are led by adults and may ask for assistance or advise at any time.

The ride itself is fairly easy if the participants have been working their horses in preparation, Saturday's ride is usually about 12 miles and the return trip on Sunday runs approximately 6 miles. There are several other opportunities for members to ride the trail throughout the summer and pick up pointers for the competition.

The ride is named for the award given to the winner of the Open division - a silver buckle. The rider who wins the buckle is no longer eligible to ride in the Buckle ride in the future, however that winner traditionally is the point rider the following year. The winner of the Novice division receives a silver plate and must ride in the Open division the next year. Any rider receiving a score of 90 or better qualifies for the Open division of the next Buckle ride. All Participants that finish the ride are winners and receive ribbons.

Aside from the tremendous learning experience, the Buckle Ride is a great weekend of fun. Families join the group at Sequoia Arena for a terrific Bar-B-Que dinner and the juniors have a wonderful time camping out with their friends and horses.

COLOR GUARD

MJHA has a Color Guard team that competes in parades throughout Northern California. Points are accumulated for a High Point award that California State Horsemen's Association presents at the end of each parade year. MJHA was the High Point winner 87-92.

Color Guard members must try out for open positions on the team in spring. The riders and horses must match as closely as possible, so choice are made according to horsemanship, matching sizes, and dedication of riders AND their families. Club members are asked to work as grooms at various parades, however families must always be a vital part of the team when it comes to parade preparation/The parade year usually ends with a final showing at the Opening Night of the Grand National at the Cow Palace. The team has a great time and learns a lot about 'team work'.

MORAGA JUNIOR HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION RULES

1. Members must complete liability release and emergency cards and return to Membership Chairman before competing in any MJHA events.
2. Members must pay yearly dues.
3. Membership must be active in order to participate - 3 consecutive missed meetings deactivates membership.
4. Tack must be checked prior to participation in events each season.
5. Assume responsibility for your own horse.
6. Tie your horse with halters and leadropes to the hitching posts in the parking lot, leaving plenty of space between horses. If you tie to your trailer, make sure there is ample room between horses and cars.
7. Ride your horse at a walk up hill to arena area.
8. Enter the arena from the far right gate at the back of the arena.
9. Horses are not allowed near the food booth area.
10. If your horse kicks, tie a red ribbon to it's tail.
11. In the event of unknown injury, DO NOT move the person, call 911.
12. Leave the access road open at all times; do not park in the road.
13. Dogs are allowed on leashes only.
14. Leave the gate on Canyon road closed at all times - there is a \$75 fine if the police see it open. If there is not an event at the arena, the gate should be kept locked.
15. Two responsible adults (18 and over) must be present during all scheduled events. If one adult must leave, a replacement must be named or the activities must cease.
16. Boots are required at all events.
17. Helmets must be worn by all riders at playdays and trail rides, and by English riders at shows.
18. Non-members may not ride on MJHA property, including the arena unless they are competing in an Open event.
19. The adults in charge have the authority to disqualify a rider at any time for unsportsmanlike conduct, cruelty, or bad behavior. A horse will be disqualified from competition if it shows any lameness or appears to be a danger to it's competitors.
20. Participation in the Spring and Fall clean-up is mandatory, there is a \$25 fine for non-compliance.