

# MORAGA HORSEMEN'S NEWSLETTER

## SEPTEMBER 2006

### HAPPY ANNIVERSARY, MHA 1956 TO 2006

#### September

7 MJHA meeting at 6 pm at  
Julie Gibson's house  
1917 Magnolia Way, Walnut Creek  
16 East Bay Elevator Ride and  
Fun Ride  
19 MHA meeting at Bob Cox's  
home 1380 Bollinger Cnyn Rd  
Moraga 6pm potluck 7:30  
meeting\*  
24 Dollars for Davis Poker Ride

#### October

5 MJHA meeting  
7 Anniversary celebration  
16 MHA meeting  
17 Halloween Ride and Arena  
Clean-up

#### \*Directions to Bob's:

From St. Mary's Rd., turn onto Bollinger  
Cnyn Rd. Where the road forks, keep  
straight (the right side) and follow the road to  
the white fence. Turn left at white fence.  
There is plenty of parking at the cf ranch.  
Cory Soltau will be giving a presentation  
directly after the potluck.  
People may want to carpool to keep the traffic  
down on Bollinger.

### DOLLARS FOR DAVIS POKER RIDE SEPTEMBER 24<sup>TH</sup>

Come Ride, Come Help, or just make a  
donation. But don't let the Dollars for  
Davis Benefit pass you by.  
For information, to volunteer or an entry,  
contact Karen Bottiani at 943-7351.

### MHA at Tevis

Moraga Horsemen's Association was well  
represented at the Western States 100 Mile  
Endurance Ride this year. There were 5  
Moraga horses in the competition, 4 of whom  
completed the grueling 100 mile ride.  
Blues completed his 6<sup>th</sup> Tevis ride with Karen  
Bottiani.  
Smokey completed his 5<sup>th</sup> Tevis with Jamie  
Fend.  
Bartali BL completed his first Tevis with Jenni  
Smith.  
Annie completed her first Tevis with Gary  
Fend.  
Piper made a fantastic attempt at his first Tevis  
with Brenda Benkley, but pulled at the 75 mile  
point.  
Congratulations to all these amazing horses and  
riders for a wonderful job!! Moraga's  
completion rate is well above the ride average  
of 45%!!

### Welcome new MHA member

Please add this contact information to  
your rosters.  
Bob Cox, Moraga 94563

### 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Bash

We are gearing up for our big celebration on  
October 7<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for volunteers to  
help with the following activities:  
Playday Chairperson  
Awards  
Food preparation  
Clean-up before and after  
Decorations

If you'd like to help out, call Zette at 510-841-  
1010 or email her at [zthierry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:zthierry@sbcglobal.net)



### Pt Reyes Overnight

Point Reyes Camping Trip: Katie's Perspective

We have some fun members in our group! Six of us MHA women loaded up our horses Thursday morning and spent two nights at Stewart's Horse Camp in Point Reyes. Karen brought Blues, Gail brought Cisco, Susan rode Breezy, Liz rode Riva, and Laura rode Zinny! Laura also brought a horse for me to ride... and not just any horse... Annie the famous Tevis horse!

Having arrived mid-morning on Thursday, the camp was relatively empty and we were able to snag a great camp spot. Laura brought hie tie equipment and panels so the horses camped happy. After the horses were situated and our tents were set up (including Karen's spiffy truck-bed-tent!!) we grabbed a bite to eat and hit the trail.

I'm convinced that all the horses confided together to be troublesome on our Thursday ride. On several occasions, none of the horses (not even my trusty steed Annie, the quarter horse Cisco, or Blues- the horse that's seen everything) would gather the courage to cross a bridge or creek, or pass 'horse-eating' cattle equipment without a fuss. Silly guys! But even when the horses weren't putting one foot in front of the other it was a wonderful ride. Tall green alders, Bey Laurels and a few Furs shaded the dirt trail that lead to the Visitors Center. We passed ponds rich with cattails and willows, crossed meadows of tall golden hay, and spotted a few completely white-colored deer!

Before we reached the Visitors Center (which was 4.3 miles north of camp I think) we

passed more than a few groups of riders enjoying the trail as well.

It was obvious that horses are often ridden through there, because when we passed through cattle fields the cows were completely docile and looked at us like we were just part of the herd. The tiny little calves didn't even bother to wake up from their naps. On the way back we spotted six large turkeys sharing the cow pasture, too.

I was sure pleased with Annie- what a great trail horse she is; very strong, forward, and level-headed. Annie does her job and does it well! We had a few conversations when we were riding in the back of the group... (she has a slower walk than the rest so we had some quiet time on the trail together) I let her know it was a privilege to spend the trip with her.

Stewart's sure is a nice camp. After an allergy sneezing attack and a few dust clouds on the trail, a hot shower felt great :). We had a nice evening with dinner around a campfire that night.

The next morning we left a foggy camp and were on the trail around 9:30 and didn't return until nearly 5:00 PM. Riva and Breezy lead the way out of camp with the beach as our destination.

The horses carried us up a mountain where we reached a damp forest, and then we declined gradually to the ocean through brushy hills with wildflowers and bright red poison oak. There were numerous ponds where we saw a few ducks and the occasional heron. It was a very peaceful morning ride. The horses were extremely forward and on their best behavior. By the time we reached our lunch-stop the fog had risen high so we had a great view of the coast.

Riding north on the coastline offered some great vistas. We didn't see any horses on the trail, but quite a few hikers.

Friday was sure a fun successful day. It was delightful to spend seven hours on horseback chatting away with friends, enjoying the views, and then having quiet time with Annie. I think that ride might have extended my life-span by a day or two. It was just great :).

you perfect distance: sore/hungry/tired... know you've gone the My legs didn't think they were treated very well by the end of the ride, and I sure was hungry... but that's when these

are all signs that let you know you had an awesome ride. We ate well again that night and told stories around the camp in the middle of camp. That was surprising- I first thought one of the mules in camp had the flu! The morning ride on Saturday was just as spectacular as the previous days. If you haven't had the chance to take your horse to Point Reyes... I recommend it. Most of the trails we rode on were single track, well groomed, and very safe too. What a great Park.

Thanks to Liz, Susan, Gail, Karen and Laura for such a wonderful time! Thanks SOO much to Laura for taking me with her, and Gary for loaning me his precious Tevis horse, and to Annie herself who let me ride her for nearly 40 miles. That was fun!

By Katie Azevedo

### ANOTHER VERSION

This year's overnight trail ride turned into a "chick trip". Or another title might be Old Geezers and the "Younguns".

As it turned out, six women set off for 3 days at Pt. Reyes. Karen and I trailered the six horses, with trucks and trailers packed to the gills with the essentials for a good horse trip. Great horses, food, tents, wine, food, sleeping bags, food, chairs, food and water - WHAT ELSE COULD WE NEED?

Did I mention we had great food?

Day one we trailered over to Stewart Ranch and set up camp and ate lunch. Then we took a nice 4 mile ride to the visitor's center to check on any trail closures and to procure more maps. Then we rode back and ate again!



Day two started very leisurely for those of us used to 6 a.m. ride times. Gayle fixed bacon and eggs, and we all sat around eating and chatting. After packing lunches we took off on the 20+ mile ride, making a beautiful big loop over to the coast and back. Enjoying every mile of the amazing trails (even with the aching muscles and sore seat bones).

Another great evening around a camp fire with the added bonus of a celebration! A chocolate cake to celebrate Susan's 50<sup>th</sup> birthday was just what we all needed! That's when we divided into the geezers and the young-uns...Susan is dangling between the two for a couple more days. And Katie has the honorable title of "geezer in training".



We also decided we needed to compare stories on our adventure...did we all agree on what we saw and did? Although there were some different viewpoints (Katie saw a lot of rumps and butts all day), we all agreed that it had been an awesome day with great horses, beautiful trails, and very cooperative riding partners.

The third day we took our last loop out and had another beautiful ride through the misty mountains. Four hours later we were back loading up the trailers and horses. Wished we had more time; there were still a few trails we hadn't ridden. and we had enough food left for another week!

Personally, the other riders made my 3 days on a young horse a delight. They all went out of their way to make it a positive experience for both of us. Zinny learned a lot, and gained some great trail experiences. It was a perfect

trip, thanks to my horse and riding buddies (young and old)! And there couldn't be a more beautiful place to spend 3 days riding!  
Laura Fend

### **Camping at Point Reyes: a very short review**

by Karen Bottiani

This was a really fun club event! I am only sorry Zette was unable to join us. The six horses got along fine. The riders were able to adapt to what our group required. All three rides we took were beautiful (see the pictures), we had great food and wonderful campfire camaraderie. Stewart Ranch is a good base camp for a number of loop rides. The cost is very reasonable, it has better than average facilities, including real restrooms and free showers. I would definitely go on this trip again.

### **Horse Trailer Faire**

The Sacramento Sheriff's Posse will be hosting the much anticipated Horse Trailer Faire.

Dates and times: September 23 and 24, from 10:00 am to 4:30 pm. Location: Sacramento County Regional Public Safety Training Center, located at the former McClellan Air Force Base, near the corner of Watt Avenue and Peacekeeper Way. Site is approx. 3/4 of a mile from Hwy 80.

This event is for sellers and buyers, and at least 22 different trailer manufacturers have been invited to participate in addition to other vendors offering a variety of trailer and tow vehicle supplies. Also offered will be FREE safety inspections or your horse trailer by the CHP, used trailers for sale, and trailer safety classes. The event flyer has been posted to our website: [www.sachorsemen.com](http://www.sachorsemen.com)  
For more info please contact Bob Lorbeer at (916) 207-0888.

### **Things You Shouldn't Say To a Horse Owner**

Riding isn't a sport, the horse does all the work. If you kept the house as neat as you do the barn, we wouldn't have to look for things. Sure, I can ride. I went riding on

my vacation two years ago. Your horse is only worth what someone will pay you for him. Oh - you're going to breed her... how long will it take her to have a litter? Gosh - your horse trailer cost more than your house! Shouldn't that saddle in your front room be in the barn? Why do you have so many horses? You can only ride one at a time. Geez- It's ONLY a horse! How much did you say you paid for those shoes? \_\_\_\_\_ is old and you don't ride him anyway, why don't you sell him? Did you know that your horse is foaming at the mouth? The way you treat that horse, you'd think it was part of your family. I heard that Dr Phil said that owning a horse is good exercise - for the horse. Haven't you outgrown that horse "thing" yet? Any phrase containing the word "hayburner" If you spent as much time with your husband as you do your horse, you'd have a happier marriage. My car/boat/motorcycle just sits in the garage until I need it. You have a Quarter Horse? Where's the rest of him? Did you step in something? Your boots stink. Should you still be riding at your age? When can we come to ride? You have to buy hay? Can't they just eat grass? What, I shouldn't wear flip-flops out to your barn? Do you have any clothes besides jeans & horse t-shirts? Why do you take lessons? I thought you knew how to ride. The baby horse is so cute - (when referring to an aged PONY) You should show that horse who's boss, then he'll do what you want! My teen is so lazy. I'll send him/her to your place-maybe you can get him/her to work! How many more times are you going to let that horse throw you off before you give it up? Do horses really have a personality? Eew! Horse poop. How do you walk around here? So where do you get all of your money? I know you have money, cause you've got horses. Doesn't it hurt when you fall off? Your barn is cleaner than your house.

Imagine how much money you'd have if  
you didn't have all these horses to feed!  
Why put your vet's/farrier's kids through  
college? You could be taking a vacation!  
Your horse's only talent is stimulating the  
economy. **You have horses... you must be  
RICH!** Are you sure he can breathe with  
that thing (girth) wrapped around his gut?  
Why don't you train him to go outside like  
a dog, instead of in his stall? **You paid  
HOW much?**