

MORAGA HORSEMEN'S NEWSLETTER

MAY 2006

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY,
MHA

1956 TO 2006

- May 4 MJHA meeting at the Koch's
7 Arena Clean up at 10 a.m
13 Breakfast Ride
16 MHA meeting at Gayle's
June 1 MJHA meeting at pasture
3 National Trail Days *
10 Hairy Horse Show
17 MHA meeting at Pasture
24 Oakland Hills Endurance Ride
July 29 Battle of the Barns

*This year's National Trail Days is to be held at Tilden Nature Area. Registration will be through REI; call 510-527-7386 ext. 259 after May 1.



Arena Clean-up Day on May 7th

John Allen will be directing the efforts to weed eat, tidy the food booth and bring out the picnic tables. Come prepared to dig in and have some fun. Bring weed eaters, pruning shears, and strong backs. 10 am

Breakfast Ride on May 13th

Come one, come all – join in our celebration with a wonderful meal followed by a beautiful ride! Remember to RSVP by May 6th or the cost will be \$15 per person! Rsvp to Zette at 510-841-1010

Oakland Hills Ride

Remember to save June 24th to work at the Oakland Hills Endurance Ride. This is our big fund raiser for the year and requires LOTS of volunteers – no horse experience required! Call Laura Fend at 935-8147 to volunteer or ask questions.

Please take a moment to look at the volunteers needed for the hairy horse show. If you can help in any way, call Anna, Lexi or Stephanie

Hairy Horse Show June 10th, 2006

- **Horse Show Managers:** Anna Allen and Lexi D'Auella
- **Before Show Day:**
 - Sponsor Board:
 - Ordering Ribbons & Trophies: Mara
 - Design Courses: Kathryn Carr
 - Flyer Design/Printing: Steph

- Collect Prizes: [Mara](#)
- **Show Morning:**
 - Signs leading to Show Grounds: [Jane](#)
 - Water/Drag Arena: [Laura](#)
 - Help with Parking:
 - Registration/Entry Desk: [Zette & Karen & Debbie](#)
 - Front Gate Opener:
 - Set up Prize table: [Mara](#)
- **English Morning:**
 - Ring Crew: [Jane & her Dad](#)
 - Front Gate:
 - Back Gate:
 - Announcer: [Mara](#)
 - High point Tally:
 - Ring steward: [Chris](#)
 - Food Booth: [Tami Jewett](#)
 - Front Desk-Announcer Runner:
 - Pass out Ribbons: [Wendy](#)
- **Western Afternoon:**
 - Ring Crew:
 - Front Gate: [Chris](#)
 - Back Gate:
 - Announcer: [Pat & Steph](#)
 - High Point Tally:
 - Ring Steward: [Victoria Henley](#)
 - Food Booth: [Kathy Henley](#)
 - Front Desk-Announcer Runner:
 - Pass out Ribbons: [Grace Anne](#)



Pasture Space at a Premium

It was requested by the Board of Directors that the membership be apprised of Moraga Horsemen's ongoing efforts to obtain more pasture space.

It has been apparent on several occasions throughout MHA's history that there is not enough pasture space to meet the needs of the membership. Approximately 20 years ago, when Ken and Adda Brown left their property to EBRPD, MHA presented a plan to develop a community pasture on that property. EBRPD did not accept the proposal. At that time, however, it also became apparent that thought there were people proclaiming to want to board in a community pasture, there were no members willing to take on the management of a new pasture. Last year it was discovered that one of the local clubs had given up their lease with EBMUD, leaving a pasture in Martinez available. Their reason for releasing this lease is similar; there were no members willing to put the effort into maintaining and improving the pasture. When we contacted EBMUD to inquire about the possibility of leasing this land, we were told that it would no longer be a horse pasture. It would actually be put up for trade with a local developer.

When EBMUD was approached regarding the availability of any pasture leases available for horses, they informed us that there were very few realistic properties available for horses. Most leases are huge and not easily accessible. However, we are welcome to submit a bid for any lease that comes available through EBMUD at any time. It just sounded highly unlikely that a good situation would arise. It has been agreed that we should remind them that we would like to be informed if any lands become available for lease.

If any Moraga Horseman member has a lead on available pasture space that might be appropriate for a cooperative boarding space for our membership, please contact one of the Board of Directors.



Just a Horse!

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a horse," or, "that's a lot of money for just a horse".

They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a horse." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a horse."

Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a horse," but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a horse", and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a horse" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a horse," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."

"Just a horse" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy.

"Just a horse" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a horse" I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future.

So for me, and folks like me, it's not "just a horse" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a horse" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a horse" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a woman/man."

So the next time you hear the phrase "just a horse" just smile, because they "just" don't understand.

You Know You Are an Equestrian Rider When:

1. You maintain three stages of jeans before they actually enter the laundry: Jeans with horse sweat and grime only on the hemline (suitable to wear out to dinner); jeans with sweat stains on the calf and slobber below the knee (okay to wear to grocery store, but not to the bank); jeans with neatsfoot oil dribbled down the front of one leg, hole stabbed near ankle from wayward spur and frayed pockets where your underwear nearly shows through (not fit for public viewing, but perfect for one more ride).
2. You realize that your everyday language is peppered with words like, "whoa," "get up!" "over," and you find yourself uttering clucking sounds to the people in front of you at the checkout line.
3. Your horse's board bill is higher than your rent/mortgage.
4. You're able to save money on disposable razors because the hair on the inside of your calves is perpetually rubbed off.
5. What exactly is fine jewelry anyway? All of your rings are misshapen, flattened on one side from where rein presses against your finger.
6. When people ask how your significant other is, you think they're talking about your horse
7. You tentatively agree to attend family functions such as reunions and weddings only after checking your social calendar (i.e., making sure there's no conflict with any horse show dates.)
8. People often don't recognize you when you clean up for the above mentioned unmounted events...they so rarely see you out of jeans or breeches.
9. You spend half an hour at the hair dresser's, discussing your coiffer so that it fits under your safety helmet.
10. Actually, you spend more time on your horse's hair than your own.
11. "Inside leg! Inside leg!" You find yourself urging your car to change leads around a turn.
12. Through attrition, your silky lingerie is slowly being replaced by cotton sports bras with all the comforts of a boa constrictor.
13. Your car has become a rolling tack room, filled with old boots, saddle pads to be taken home and washed and bits of hay. You forget what color it really is under that ever-present layer of barn dust.
14. "My other car is a horse," and you much prefer the single horsepower, hayburning transport.
15. At any given holiday, relatives make misguided attempts at buying gifts that they think reflect your joy of riding: glitzy belt buckles, funky cowboy hats, and any sort of paperback book or video that has o horse on it's cover or mentioned in it's title. (You have nine copies of The Horse Whisperer).
16. You have more pictures of your horse than you do of your spouse/girlfriend/boyfriend
17. You are constantly sore from falling off that damn horse you took to train



San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association
 May Day Trail Trials
 Sunday, May 21, 2006
 Mt. Diablo State Park, Mitchell Canyon, Clayton
 This is a sanctioned ride

Beautiful riding in both dense woodland and open grassland. Terrain will be fire roads and single track trails over mild to steep grades, mostly rolling hills. Horses should be in good condition. Distance will be approximately 7 miles. Water is available at the trail head and on the trail.

NAME: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number () _____

In case of emergency notify: Name: _____ Phone () _____

Juniors 17 years and under must be accompanied by an adult rider.
 (JUNIORS ONLY) Name of adult rider responsible for the day. _____

Are you a CSHA TRAIL TRIALS MEMBER? ____ Region ____

If not, would you like information on how to become a program member? _____

Name of horse _____

In order to disperse the riders throughout the morning and aid in the forward progress of the ride, please choose a preferred time to start your ride. If necessary, we will call you to reschedule your time.

9:30 ____ 10:00 ____ 10:30 ____ 11:00 ____

Category: Advanced ____ Intermediate ____ Novice ____
 (First time Trail Trials participants are encouraged to select Novice for their first ride.)

Division: Junior (17 & under) ____ Senior under 49 ____ Senior 50 & up ____

Program members: The points gained at this ride will accumulate under your appropriate age group division at the regional level.

Registration Fees:	\$25.00 Adult	\$ _____
	\$20.00 Junior	\$ _____
Drug Testing Fees: (State Required)	\$ 5.00	\$ 5.00 _____
Lunch	\$ 10.00 x ____ people	\$ _____
Late Registration Fee (After 5/12/04)	\$ 5.00	\$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

NO REFUNDS AFTER MAY 15, 2006

Checks should be made payable to SRVHA and sent to:
 Debra Gregory, 451 Montcrest Pl, Danville, CA 94526
 Questions??? Call Debra at (925) 360-1161 or Marianne McKay at (925) 631-1285

Please fill out release form on opposite side before returning this entry form.

Office Use Only: Date Rec'd ____ Amt ____ Ck# ____ Paid ____ Release ____ Refund ____

5-Day East Bay Hills Benefit Trail Ride Thursday, Aug. 31 - Monday, Sept. 4

Ride Labor Day week with members of the Tilden-Wildcat Horsemen's Association and the Metropolitan Horsemen's Association in the East Bay Hills. Ride up to 100 miles, or 14-18 miles each day in small groups at your own pace. The ride will follow and/or parallel the S.F. Bay Area Ridge Trail much of the first 3 days, and then move to Mt. Diablo for the final 2 days. Join us for one, for more or for all 5 days.

Trails and Camps: Camp opens in Tilden Regional Park the day before the ride. On Thursday we will ride in Tilden and Wildcat Parks. On Friday we will follow the Bay Area Ridge Trail Friday through Tilden, Sibley, Huckleberry, and Redwood Regional Parks and EBMUD Watershed to Sequoia Arena in Joaquin Miller Park, followed by a scenic ride overlooking the Bay Area in Joaquin Miller Park. Friday night we will camp at Sequoia Arena and Saturday the ride will wander through Redwood Park. Saturday evening we will move to Mt Diablo and camp at the Concord-Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Association's grounds. On Sunday and Monday we will be riding on Mt. Diablo.

Food and Evening Entertainment: Breakfast, lunch and dinner will be provided for riders and campers, and hay, carrots and water for the horses. Swimming will be available at Tilden and at Mt. Diablo. Evening programs will include some of the following: a visit to the Chabot Space Observatory (5 minutes from Sequoia Arena), campfire classical harp music, trail talk and naturalists, cowboy music and dancing, cowboy poetry and a drill team.



Costs/Benefits: This ride will help raise funds for the Bay Area Ridge Trail, and for equestrian improvements in the East Bay parks. The Bay Area Barns and Trails Trust will match the first \$5,000 raised. The cost will be \$55/day, with a discount for 5 days at \$250. This fee includes camping, food and horse provisions. For visitors, dinner in camp will be \$15/night. This year we also have an optional program allowing riders to solicit pledges from friends, neighbors and other trail supporters to benefit the Bay Area Ridge Trail and equestrian improvements in the East Bay Parks.

Volunteers: If you can't ride, join us in supporting the East Bay Parks and the Ridge Trail by volunteering to help with any of a range of important tasks that will make this ride happen.

Camp Rules: Dogs under control are allowed in camp but not on the trail rides. Riders will be responsible for stabling their horses at each camping area. You may tie to your trailer or bring your own portable corral or picket line. Stallions will not be allowed on this ride and we will enforce restrictions on generators after dark. Helmets are strongly suggested for all riders.



Reserve Your Space Now: before we fill up. We are limited by the available space for trailer parking, and last year we ran out of space. Use the entry form on the reverse of this flyer. If space permits, we will accept last minute entries.

Questions: Contact Morris Older, at 925-254-8943 or at ebhillsride@comcast.net, or Martha Mikesell at 925-833-9279 or at martha.mikesell@sbcglobal.net if you would like to volunteer or have any questions about this ride. More info at <http://www.twha.org>--click on events.

