

MORAGA HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

November 2017

Calendar of Events

November 21 –MHA at Gayle's 7 pm –
social time, 7:30 meeting

1845 Countrywood Ct, Walnut Creek

December 10 – Holliday party at Shivani
and Daniel's



Great News

Amanda, at Stewart Ranch has signed
a lease for the coming year. No need
to send more letters! 😊

MHA Elections for 2018 Board

Please contact one of the nominating
committee members if you are
interested in being on the Board of
Directors next year.

MHA Meeting Minutes

October 17, 2017

Members Present: Corinne Dutra-Roberts,
Laura Fend, Ute Frey, Rob Harrison, Shivani
Rajan Hetschel, Gayle Jackson, Claire Jenkins,
Becky Mertens, Kristin Ojala, Linda Sanders,
Jenni Smith, Laura Stetson

The meeting was called to order at 7:45pm.
President Jenni Smith thanked Laura Stetson for
hosting the meeting and providing the
wonderful food. She asked if there were any

changes or corrections to the minutes from the
September meeting. There was a short
discussion of whether or not Linus Eukel, guest
speaker from John Muir Land Trust, had
intended to have the trust's preliminary plans
(as detailed in the minutes) made public. The
point was raised that the minutes only went out
to MHA members, all of whom had been
welcome to come and hear this information at
the meeting, and that the minutes had in fact
already been emailed out to all members. In
light of this, it was decided that this question
did not need further discussion. Kristen moved
to accept the minutes as written, Ute seconded
it, and the minutes were approved.

President's Report:

Jenni reported that the city of Moraga now says
that on December 15, 2017 the Canyon bridge
will be open. Because of the inconvenience to
students caused by the bridge closure, Canyon
School has put pressure on Moraga to not
further delay reopening the bridge. Kristen said
that work on the bridge is going on six days a
week.

Because of the recent northern California fires,
Jenny went last week to a local fire station to
talk with them about disaster preparedness and
the need for possible evacuation of pasture
horses. She also sent an email to Moraga police
to remind them that our horses are out there,
and that we should be called if there is a fire at
or near the pasture. Jenny Smith and Laura
Fend are the contacts with these organizations
for such emergencies.

Vice President's Report:

Kristen reported that a couple of people have
not paid their board yet, but Gayle clarified that
the missing checks came in today. There are no
membership changes.

Treasurer's Report: The General club account has a balance of \$11,975.78. The only significant transaction last month was our donation to John Muir Land Trust for \$1,000. The Pasture account has a balance of \$28,211.33. Money was withdrawn from this account to pay the workers for the fence work. One of the workers, Nathaniel, reported that he did not receive the first check sent to him. The decision was made to hold off on putting a stop payment on the check, to see if it gets returned or shows up. Gayle has been checking the MHA PO Box and taking care of any checks received, since she is more local than Rob and it is easier for her to do so. Shivani has bought a weed whacker and goggles for pasture use, and needs reimbursement for it.

Pasture Report:

Laura Fend reported that the pasture is poor, but better than last year in October. Water has finally been restored to all of the pastures after some of the pipes had broken or popped apart. Gary put in 15 hours on this project, and replaced the old pipe with metal pipe, so as to make it more durable. The road leading into the pasture recently got graded, but it still needs more work. The new fencing in Homestead has been finished, a lot of coyote brush has been cut down, and it is waiting for chipping.

Old business:

Laura Fend reported that she went to the Carr Ranch Grand Opening on October 14. Unfortunately, most of the scheduled hikes for the grand opening were cancelled, due to poor air quality from the fires. She reported that it was nevertheless a nice event. Linus Eukel was there, and was talking about the possibility of having some sort of horse event there in the future.

Shivani will send out invitations for the MHA Christmas party, scheduled for Dec 10, when we get closer to the date.



New business:

Bay Area Barns and Trails, a group dedicated to "helping save land and trails for horses in the San Francisco Bay Area" has offered to speak to us at a meeting.

We need to form a Nominating Committee for next year's MHA officers, and this committee needs to meet sometime before the next general meeting which will be at Gayle's house on November 21st. Gayle offered to host the Nominating Committee meeting immediately before the general meeting. Laura Fend recommended holding the Nominating Committee meeting the week before the general meeting to allow enough time to contact potential nominees. Corinne, Laura Fend, Laura Stetson and Shivani volunteered to be on the Nominating Committee. They tentatively made plans to meet at 7pm on Nov 14 at a location to be determined. Anyone who wants to be nominated for a position should speak with a member of the Nominating Committee.

Owners of horses in the pasture have discussed disaster preparedness amongst themselves and will get together after tonight's general meeting

to write down their plan of action in the event of a disaster in or around the pasture. Laura Fend pointed out that we have to work within the confines of the Contra Costa Emergency Rescue Plan. Police and fire authorities may limit access to the pasture in the event of an emergency, in order to keep access clear for first responders. Kathy Campbell is willing to get together some evening with MHA pasture committee members to help us refine our plan.



There is a Work Day planned for November 4th, with two groups of volunteers (Christian charity groups, consisting of boys and their parents) each scheduled to come for two hours to help cut and move brush. They will bring some tools but MHA should also provide some tools for brush cutting, and we also need to get a locking box so that tools can be checked in and out by volunteers. Kristin offered to do research and put together a list of tools to buy, such as loppers and saws. On Sunday November 5th MHA will rent a chipper to dispose of the cut brush. Kristen will also bring a chain saw this Saturday at 9am to cut and move brush for a couple of hours.

Claire said that her soccer ends on Nov 2, and after that she will be willing and able to help with feeding horses. Let her know if anyone is interested. She would also love to ride. Becky

sent out an email to members about ordering ID tags for horses. The ID is like a dog tag that is braided into the mane, and is not dangerous like a halter. The point was made that microchipping is cheap, easy, and MHA might be able to do a clinic to get horses chipped. However, during an emergency people might not have a chip reader. ID tags could also be ordered online or at a pet store.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20pm.

The next general MHA meeting will be held at Gayle's house on November 21st.

Minutes submitted by Linda Sanders

Cisco

We are so sad to report that Gayle had to have Cisco put down late in October. He broke a bone in his pastern while spending a couple of months in the pasture at the McKay's. We all have many great memories of our shovel carrying pasture buddy. He was 26 and had a wonderful life with Gayle and the MHA herd.

