

Moraga Horsemen's Association

December 2016

Calendar of Events

December 11 – Holiday Party at Shivani's and Daniel's 5 pm
Please RSVP to Shivani
*directions on last page
January 17 – Meeting at Fend's



MHA Meeting Minutes-11/15/16

Attending: Linda Benson, Karen Bottiani, Corinne Dutra-Roberts, Gary Fend, Ute Frey, Betty Halliday, Rob Harrison, Gayle Jackson, Claire Jenkins, Mo Livermore, Heather O'Donnell, Kristin Ojala, Shivani Rajan, Linda Sanders, Penny Sinder, Jenni Smith, Laura Stetson, Ashley Tobin, Jim Watters.

Guest: Jackie Frost, a friend of Kristin's who has a partial lease of a horse and is interested in joining MHA and getting on the pasture waiting list.

Minutes from the October Meeting were approved with the correction that the Nominating Committee met directly before the November general meeting this evening, not last week.

President's Report: None.

Membership: Jenni passed around the Pasture Waiting List and Activity sheet for any updates or corrections.

Treasurer's Report: Rob reported that the General Account has a balance of \$13,176.71 including receipts from Ponies and Pumpkins but not all the expenses for that event. The Pasture Account has a balance of \$25,484.88, which does not include payment on the EBMUD lease.

Pasture Report: The pasture is beautiful and green. Pasture representatives had a recent meeting with EBMUD to be discussed under New Business.

Old Business: Ponies and Pumpkins yielded a net income of \$323.64, assuming that the club reimburses Larry \$400 for the pumpkins he obtained.



New Business: The committee to decide what to do with the Mad Dog Saloon (Gary, Jenni, Kristin, Corinne, John, Larry) had an internet meeting and decided that it needs to be removed. EBMUD has agreed to demo it and haul it away. They are open to letting MHA put a shipping container in its place, and expressed

a willingness to grade the area for this. A motion was made by Gayle, seconded by Karen and approved by all to remove it, possibly next spring. A suggestion was made to keep the Mad Dog Saloon sign.

The MHA holiday party will be at Shivani's house in Canyon on December 11th at 5pm. An invitation/RSVP request will be sent out by email. It will be a potluck of vegetarian foods (dairy foods are OK). Attendees can park up at the top of the property, and should use the elevator to avoid slippery steps. Members are asked to bring gently used horse-related (or not) items for the silent auction and raffle.

Mo said that Eric Stormer, the EBRPD Trail Supervisor for Contra Costa County, mentioned to her that the all-volunteer "Trail Dogs" were scheduled to work on the Rancho Laguna end of the Old Moraga Ranch Trail on Tuesday, Nov. 22. If volunteers are needed for the repair of the Bollinger Canyon end of that trail, Mo will put the word out to the club after she meets with Eric post-Thanksgiving.

Mo also announced that Walt Tibbitts, who was instrumental in getting Moraga Horsemen's Association started, passed away this month at the age of 93. Walt made many contributions to the Western States Trail Foundation and to the Tevis Cup Ride. Stories of Walt and his horse, Banner, were fondly remembered.



Tomorrow (Wed November 16th) the East Bay Regional Parks District will be holding a follow up planning meeting at 6:30pm at the Richard Trudeau Center, to discuss alternative ideas for the use of the McCosker property which will extend the Sibley Regional Preserve, near Canyon. Dee Rosario, recently elected to the EBRPD, ran on a platform that was pro-equestrian, and supports some of Canyon's concerns about the development of the property. Shivani encouraged others who are interested to also attend the meeting.



Ashley brought up the topic that there may currently be inconsistencies in pasture policies and the way in which new pasture spaces are offered to members, and suggested the desirability of providing clear communication of these policies, particularly to new members. Corinne commented that the pasture occupancy agreement, pasture occupancy application, and pasture use guidelines are not as clear and consistent as desired, and that these documents should be reviewed in an effort to make the pasture wait list and the decisions that are made about the pasture as clear and transparent as possible. Gary pointed out that individual circumstances of horses being in/out for various reasons and lengths of time make it difficult to develop policies to cover every possible scenario. Jenni stated that open pasture spaces have been offered by going down the wait list as spots open up.

Karen pointed out that the EBMUD lease specifies 240 AUM's (Animal Unit Months) for the pasture, which can be filled any way the club decides, but that 16 horses has worked well. The pasture briefly supported 17 horses in the past to use all the AUMs, but current pasture conditions are such that supporting 17 horses is not realistic. She also pointed out that EBMUD gives horses a preferred rental rate, compared to cattle. Gayle suggested putting together a committee of pasture and non-pasture people to review pasture policies and discuss clarification of them. Corinne named Ashley, Kristin and Jenni to a committee to discuss clarification of pasture wait list policies.



The nominating committee proposed the following slate of officers for next year:
President--Jenni Smith
Vice President--Kristin Ojala
Secretary--Linda Sanders
Treasurer--Rob Harrison
Members at Large--Gary Fend and Rachel Rezos
Sergeant at Arms--Shivani Rajan.
The meeting was adjourned.
Submitted by Linda Sanders

MHA Party

The party will be Sunday, December 11 at 5 pm. We will have a great potluck feast and "gift exchange". The Rajan's are vegetarians and request that no meat or fish be brought to the potluck dinner. Please RSVP to Shivani with your choice of entrée, salad, appetizer or dessert. The gift exchange is actually a combination of raffling off gifts or silent auctions for the more valuable gifts brought. Please bring an unwrapped gift of a gently used or re-gifted item that you would like to share. "horsey" items are most appreciated, but you never know what else might show up☺
And be sure to bring some cash to buy your raffle tickets:~)!

Directions to Shivani's home in Canyon:

Directions to Canyon

GPS might get you the whole way there--address is 35 Pinehurst Rd Canyon, CA 94516, but if it doesn't, call Canyon landline: (925) 376-7796

From Orinda:

Go West on Camino Pablo--turns into Moraga Way.

Turn R at "T" on Moraga Rd.

Moraga Rd becomes Canyon Rd.

Continue past the Valle Vista Staging area on L and enter the redwoods.

Veer right at the "Y" onto Pinehurst Road.

Pass a mailbox marked "24" on your right.

Turn right at the next driveway--look for a "35" sign posted on a big eucalyptus tree.

(If you pass Canyon School or the Canyon Post Office on your right, you've gone too far.)

Wind up *paved* driveway passing big steel water tank below on L, look for tall rough-shingled house at top of driveway to R.

Please park at the top of the driveway by the house, though be aware that you'll have to backing down in the dark; turning around is tricky up there. Feel free to park at the small parking lot with the steel tank in it and walk up too (good option if you prefer not to back down!)

Directions from Oakland:

Take 24 E towards Walnut Creek

Merge onto CA-13 S

1.0 mi

Take the Moraga Avenue E exit toward Thornhill Drive

0.3 mi

Merge onto Moraga Ave

0.6 mi

Continue onto Mountain Blvd

364 ft

Turn left onto Snake Rd

0.2 mi

Snake will turn into Shepherd Canyon Rd.

Stay on Shepherd Canyon, curving up the mountain, *always staying with road with the double yellow line.*

1.8-2 mi

At the top at a five-way intersection veer slightly right onto

Pinehurst Rd- *if you aren't going down a steep hill, you're going the wrong way.*

Stay on Pinehurst, winding down into Canyon

3ish mi

Pass Canyon Post Office on the left, the pass Canyon School on left.

Next driveway on left will be a sharp left -- easy to miss-look for signage--35 Pinehurst Rd.--35 sign posted on big eucalyptus tree. If you pass a mailbox with "24" on it, you've gone one driveway too far.

Wind up *paved* driveway passing big steel water tank below on L, look for tall rough-shingled house at top of driveway to R.

Please park at the top of the driveway by the house, though be aware that you'll have to backing down in the dark; turning around is tricky up there. Feel free to park at the small parking lot with the steel tank in it and walk up too (good option if you prefer not to back down!)