



# THE NEW HORSEMAN

Publication of the California State Horsemen's Association, Inc.

July 2008

## Western States Horse Expo

This year the CSHA booth focused on Trail Trials. There was an effective display of photos depicting various trails and their obstacles. From the relative even terrain of the lower elevations to the ruggedness of mountain trails the pictures told the story well. They also showed the fun everyone has and the camaraderie that exists among the competitors. The stacks of flyers for upcoming trail trials disappeared rapidly.

Every visitor who stopped at the booth was given a CSHA brochure and a quick summary of other programs available.

Miss CSHA, Zoe Williams, represented the royalty. She was a success with all the children who admired her poise and the accessories that come with being Miss CSHA.

Ambassador Sean Daly and Junior Advisor Tyler Daly were in great demand for their expertise in assisting other exhibitors as well as attending the CSHA booth.

We can be very proud of our young members, they did a good job.



## KUDOS TO THE KIDS

The *Riverside Rancheros Junior Equestrian Team* performed for Governor Schwarzenegger at his campaign fundraiser held at their arena on May 20th. This is the second Flag Entry they have done for him in the last two years.

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**ONLY HORSE PEOPLE BELIEVE IN THE 11TH COMMANDMENT: INSIDE LEG TO OUTSIDE REIN.**

## It's the Law

In January of 2005 a new State law became effective that extended the defensible space clearance around homes and structures from 30 feet to 100 feet. Proper clearance to 100 feet dramatically increases the chance of your house surviving a wildfire. This defensible space also provides for firefighter safety when protecting homes during a wildfire.



Effective July 1, 2008 a new law regarding the operation of cell phones is going into effect. It will be considered an offense if a cell phone is used in a vehicle, unless the cell phone is a "hands free"



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## AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL

Your Unified Voice in Washington

***ACTION ALERT:*** Action Needed in Support of Emergency Agriculture Relief Act

***ACTION ALERT:*** Action Needed in Support of the Save Our Small and Seasonal Business Act

AHC Legislative Update: Explanation of Benefits in Economic Stimulus Act

AHC Legislative Update: Congress Overrides Veto of Farm Bill, Provisions Beneficial to Horses Become Law

AHC Legislative Update: Congress Passes Farm Bill with Provisions Beneficial to Horses

AHC Legislative Update: Benefits in Economic Stimulus Act for Horse Industry

AHC Regulatory Update: AHC Supports Tightening of Slaughter Horse Regulations

AHC Legislative Update: Senate Bills Include Horses in USDA Emergency Disaster Program

These and many other Regulations and Bills can be accessed on the website of the American Horse Council, [www.horsecouncil.org](http://www.horsecouncil.org).



### *The 2008 Horse Industry Directory is Now Available*

The national directory of breed and sport organizations, equine publications, site resources and racing and gaming organizations is now available for purchase. The American Horse Council's 2008 Horse Industry Directory is a yearly effort to bring to you a definitive source that puts the equine industry at your fingertips.



## On the Trails

by Diane Offutt, Trails Chairman

On April 12, 2008 I went to a meeting at Concord Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Association facility. There were about 150 people in attendance. Lorrie Thomas Dossett, District Maintenance Chief, office in Petaluma, from the State parks chaired the meeting. Wendy Martin, former Bay Sector Maintenance Chief and Sue Schwartz, Park Maintenance Supervisor at Mt. Diablo were also there to lend support and answer questions. Lorrie gave a slideshow presentation, explaining that Mt. Diablop has not had a revised General Plan since 1979 and has limited numerical documentation for Mt. Diablo's 22,000 acres and 187 miles of trails. This process will take a couple of years, at least two. The plan is needed to help measure and quantify what condition the roads and trails are in, who is using them and what repairs or rehab work is needed, as well as develop a budget for the ongoing maintenance needs. Trails are considered facilities and must be documented in the Park's computerized maintenance program. They are hunting for money in the way of grants from all sources, public and private. Surveys need to be done by all concerned parties and this process is also just beginning. This process is NOT number driven but is being done to establish, who, what, when and where all the different facilities are in this park. A facility can be road, trail, water trough, restroom facilities, and a park bench. By documenting all facilities, the budget can be more accurate, maintenance and/or deferred maintenance can be planned and projected more realistically. Lorrie discussed the "demand on trails" which comes from many different and diverse groups, including but not limited to local, federal government agencies, equestrians, mountain bikers, hikers, native plant society members, adjoining ranches and neighborhoods, animal groups, geo trackers, etc. She maintained repeatedly that the project was starting with very little information with no prejudice for any one group or "stakeholder". Her staff was working on this project unfunded, working on weekends to present the slideshow to as many groups as possible, striving to inform the public. She also needs to identify the natural and cultural resources of this area. Once all the area has been mapped and all facilities listed, she is hoping to have Karl Knapp create a document for Mt. Diablo State Park to assist in obtaining grants and funding for deferred mnaintenance, normal maintenance and improvements.

There was discussion of trail corridors, the Alameda Whip Snake and how USF&G Wildlife Services-get involved. The park staff is also looking into future mitigation. There was discussion on the trails themselves, what the natural land was like prior to trails, how trails play a part in changing the landscape due to usage and erosion. Comments were made about grading the trail, trail width, alignment in relationship to slope, geologic and/or soil capabilities.

The survey was handed out and reviewed by the participants in the meeting. It was explained that the survey was simnilar to the one used up in the Sierras for the Master Plan done there. It was pointed out that equestrians were NOT listed and it was suggested to write it on the frm. The form asked what was liked and disliked about the park. Many different individuals spoke up that safety is a monumental issue, sharing experiences where equestrians and mountain bikers met on trail, incidents occurred, people were hurt. Many are looking for strict enforcement of safety on the trail and keeping the narrow, single track trails for hikers and equestrians only. Attendants to the meeting also want to keep the riding experience positive, not be put off by mountain bikers that are looking for the thrill of a technically challenging ride without regard to personal or public safety as well as what is best for the environment and public as a whole. Multi use trails are great as long as they are done with all users involved, each respecting each others issues, educating the public on what is required for each user group. This is a special park with diverse terrain where many can enjoy its natural wonders and no one wanted it to turn into a "theme park" for wheeled recreational users, with or without motors. It is also a park used by local people, especially with the price of fuel and the fact that it is slowly being enclosed by development.

Lorrie went over the process of the town meetings, the surveys being done and handed out at the park itself. The compiled feedback will be used to control agency conflicts and create conflict resolutions on the final plan report. The Road and Trail plan will show the trail system, including some of the volunteer trails. It will have which trail is to keep, which to close during the two year process. Volunteer groups can always "adopt a trail". Next they will have a monitoring system and prioritize the workload. There will be a new Sector Superintendent and Sector Maintenance Chief coming to Mt. Diablo in the next few months to fill the current vacancies. The new Road and Trail Plan will be more objective. Everyone works for a common goal. There will be multiple goals completed.

So the process is to collect the data (project initiation and data collection), create the plan (draft resource inventory of existing conditions), have a preliminary plan with workshops, the plan then begins the Environmental Review process and other government mandated reports to make sure that all is safe, protected and available to everyone within the perimeters of the Road and Trail Plan, there is more public review and finally adoption of Road and Trail Plan.

This process was sparked by the mountain bikers requesting 19 different trails for their use in addition to equestrians and hikers. It is important to note that **NO ONE GROUP** is being singled out but that the desires of each stakeholder group is being taken into consideration based on the objective data explained above. There was discussion on obtaining a questionnaire from East Bay Regional Parks District who has been reviewing trails annually for this specific purpose.

This meeting is one of four coming up this year. Please send me your comments and let me know what is going on in your area. Please contact me at [dianeocr@sbcglogal.net](mailto:dianeocr@sbcglogal.net) or 925/525-1123.



## Thank You

The Georgetown Fire Department (El Dorado Co.) has designated an equestrian/pedestrian trail behind the fire station in Spanish Dry Diggin's. The fire station is located at the corner of Sliger Mine Road and Spanish Dry Diggin's Road. The purpose of the new designated trail is to avoid the dangerous intersection in front of the station, and route the horses and people behind the station. The firefighters assigned to that station did the fundraising to purchase the fencing and donated their time and effort installing the fencing. The Fire District is purchasing the signage to direct the trail users.

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## *Trail Manuals*

Two publications concerning the design, construction and maintenance of equestrian trails, trailheads and campgrounds are now available.

The *Equestrian Design Guidebook for Trails, Trailheads and Campgrounds*, written by Jan Hancock in conjunction with U.S. Forest Service, has been released by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). This manual provides trail design and construction details, while explaining the particular physical and psychological needs of equines and their riders that necessitate them. The information in this guidebook is applicable to trails at all levels of development and locations.

*Recreational Horse Trails in Rural and Wildland Areas: Design, Construction and Maintenance*, was written by Gene W. Wood, in conjunction with 16 contributing authors. This guidebook concentrated specifically on horse trail development in rural and wild land areas. An emphasis is placed on trail design, construction and placement that will make long term use by equestrians possible.

## Am I Prepared ?

by Bonnie Davis

We had a fire about 50 miles from our barn. It burned about 3,000 acres; including houses, barns and corrals. Two hundred horses had to be evacuated along with other critters. Fires seem to be more often now. With people spreading further and further into the "wilderness" and the coming of drier weather, fires are going to start being headline news on TV and in the newspaper. So the question we all have to ask ourselves is: Am I prepared?

Ideally the answer is "yes" but after closer inspection, I wasn't!

The pasture grass is well-grazed so I don't have to worry about a fire across the pasture; but around the barnyard, high grass had grown up around the horse trailers. Horses aren't turned loose into the barnyard to graze so the grass just sort of got matted down in traffic areas but grew 10-12 inches high around trailers. It's still green but will become dry soon. So we had to cut it down and remove it.

Secondly, water. I hadn't filled a few extra containers with water and put 'em by the back of the barn. A few extra containers can stop a spot fire in a flash, that way you don't have to drag a hose around, turn the water on ... just open the can and pour on the water. We also keep a shovel standing by the cans so it can be grabbed.

After chopping grass and filling water cans, things were in pretty good shape. But I'd like to pass on a few tips that I've found helpful....

### Halters and Lead Ropes

All emergency halters and ropes are red. Each is hung on a stall door and everyone knows that **the red halter** is for emergency use only. There's even one for each pasture horse kept on the wall outside the tack room and the lead ropes are permanently attached to halters, so they can't be taken off .. it's frustrating grabbing halters to move horses and can't find lead ropes!!

On each halter is a tag with the horse's name, phone number and vet. The tag is one of those sealed luggage tags you see on suitcases. It's snapped into the ring on the side of a halter so it doesn't get in the way of putting a halter on - quickly.

A couple of our older horses are on medications so with the tag, instructions on what medications the horse is taking. Inside the tack room on a clip by the door is a little sealed baggie striped in red tape with each horse's name on it. The baggie is one of those industrial strength ones and it's taped tightly shut so it can be grabbed and taken with the horse.

Also in the tack room, a can of yellow spray paint and a bright, glow-in-the-dark orange paint pen. If a horse has to be moved, spray paint a phone number on the side of the horse. Then write the same number on the neck with the paint pen. If on medications, add the words "Rx Req". Don't be shy - spray the whole horse! Paint won't wash off, but it will come off when the hair sheds. You'll always be able to find your glow-in-the-dark horse from a herd. Emergency personnel at a shelter may not be able to tell a bay from a sorrel, but they will remember the horse painted with bright orange paint.

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Thank you to all members who contributed to this issue. This is the first try after many years, and with YOUR information, input, news, articles, etc. we'll keep going. The deadline for submission is the 15th of the month for the following month's issue. Please send your items to Greta De Graeve, 7717 Vista Verde Way, Sacramento, CA 95828.

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# Calendar of Events

## July

- |           |  |                          |
|-----------|--|--------------------------|
| 3         | Benicia 4th of July Parade<br>Judge: Thornton                    | 707/745-9791             |
| 4         | Willits Frontier Days Parade<br>Judge: Thornton                  | 707/498-2034             |
| 4         | Huntington Beach Parade<br>Judge: White                          | 310/537-4240             |
| 4         | Pacific Palisades Parade<br>Judge: White                         | 310/537-4240             |
| 4         | Fairfield 4th of July Parade<br>Judge: Cipro                     | 707/422-0103             |
| 4         | Manteca 4th of July Parade<br>Judge: Lawellin                    | 209/612-6954             |
| 5         | Clearlake Parade<br>Judge: Cipro                                 | 707/994-3070             |
| 6         | Region 18 Trail Trials at Paynes Creek<br>contact: Staci Workman | 530/347-1159             |
| 12        | Lake Co. Rodeo Parade<br>Judge: Cipro                            | 707/995-2515             |
| 12        | Escalon Parade<br>Judge: Lawellin                                | 209/838-7064             |
| 12        | Region 11 Trail clean-up<br>contact: Janet Baker                 | 951/360-0434             |
| 12        | Region 7 Gymkhana City of Industry<br>contact: Jonathan Schultz  | 909/394-0066             |
| 12        | Region 1 Trail Trials Lake Sonoma<br>contact: Lori Cleveland     |                          |
| 19/<br>20 | Salinas Rodeo Parade<br>Judge: Cipro                             | 831/444-4494             |
| 20        | Open Schooling Shows<br>contact: Pamela Hartley                  | Paradise<br>530/872-3625 |
| 30        | Horsemastership Written Test<br>contact: Rebecca Gage            | 530/533-8891             |

## August

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|-----------|--|--------------|
| 2         | La Habra Parade<br>Judge: TBA                                  | 310/537-4240 |
| 2/3       | Trail Trials at Cuneo Creek<br>contact: Renel Nordeman         | 707/768-2003 |
| 16/<br>17 | Region 3 Trail Trials at Euer Valley<br>contact: Lynn Matranga | 916/927-1016 |
| 17        | Open Schooling Shows, Paradise<br>contact: Pamela Hartley      | 530/872-3625 |
| 17/<br>22 | Silver Lake Trail Ride Plasse's Resort<br>contact : Judy Meeks | 209/532-5858 |
| 24        | S.Clara Co. Trail Trials<br>contact: Norma Tucker              | 408/268-0318 |
| 31        | Newman Fall Festival Parade<br>Judge: Lawellin                 | 209/862-3612 |

## September

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|----|--|--------------|
| 1  | Norco Labor Day Parade<br>Judge: Miller                        | 951/737-2531 |
| 7  | Region 2 Trail Trials at Meadowbrook<br>contact: Patty Walters | 530/345-3028 |
| 14 | San Jose Patrias Parade<br>Judge: Machlan                      | 408/288-9470 |
| 14 | Mendocino Co. Fair Parade                                      | 707/895-3071 |
| 20 | Simi Valley Days Parade<br>Judge: Machlan                      | 805/581-4280 |
| 20 | City of Duarte Parade<br>Judge: White                          | 626/260-0993 |
| 27 | Madera Old Timers Parade<br>Judge: Lawellin                    | 559/673-5871 |