The California State Horsemen’s Association was foaled in October of 1941. The Santa Clara County Horsemen’s Association hosted a meeting in San Jose for representatives of riding clubs and associations from throughout California for the purpose of forming a state-wide federation of horsemen for legislative strength in order to preserve equestrian riding and hiking trails and camping facilities within publicly controlled forests and parks. However, with the declaration of war a few weeks later, the concept of a state-wide organization was put out to pasture for a while.

Despite the fact that the first convention was held at the De Anza Hotel in San Jose in 1942 and CSHA was incorporated on March 3, 1942, the organization nearly became a casualty of World II. With most people focused on civil defense work, military service and managing day-to-day living during war time, there was not too much done about plans for the new organization. However, the Board and the first member clubs were able to keep CSHA alive during the war years.

President and Chairman of the Board: Ed Fellows of Morgan Hill
Board Members: William Strauss of San Francisco, Robert Mitchell of Santa Rosa, Flood Morse of Escalon, Paul Abert of Lafayette and Dr. Walter Cress of Sacramento

The first member clubs, known as the “Eight Ss”, were:

- January 2, 1942 Santa Clara County Horsemen’s Association
- January 16, 1942 Sonoma County Riding and Driving Club
- February 19, 1942 Sonoma Cavaliers
- February 19, 1942 Sonoma County Trail Blazers
- February 19, 1942 Santa Cruz County Horsemen’s Association
- March 28, 1942 Sacramento County Horsemen’s Association
- June 30, 1942 Sacramento County Mounted Sheriff’s Posse
- July 5, 1942 San Francisco Horsemen’s Association

Since that first Board, the ranks of CSHA’s membership have been swelled by people from every walk of life, every equestrian discipline and every geographic area. Change became a way of life in CSHA to meet the needs of the membership. John (Jack) B. Costa became the first member elected to the position of State Vice President when he was elected at the February, 1964 convention. Numerous women held elected office at Region and State levels and Denzil Gallaher became the first woman elected to a State of office in CSHA when she became State Vice President in 1965. However, it was not until the 2002 convention that the first woman, Nadette Raymond (2003-2004), was elected State President.

The term of office for CSHA officers has always been one year. In 1959 a resolution was passed prohibiting the State President from serving more than 2 consecutive terms. However, the Presidents served one year until Jack Costa was elected to a second consecutive term for 1966. Steve Herrera was the first President to serve 2 consecutive terms (1981/1982) and then be elected to the same office again in 1988 and 1989. Jim Real was the first President to be elected to a third consecutive term (1992-1994). As of 2016, Jim Hendrickson has held the office of State President for 7 consecutive terms.
Recognizing that the use of a “local” concept would allow CSHA to better serve such a diverse membership in a state-wide organization, a region concept was implemented with 5 geographical regions but that grew to the official 19 regions we see today that between creating new regions as new clubs joined and shifting boundaries to better balance membership.

- In 1945 the first expansion was proposed creating 8 regions.
- Between 1948 and the early 1950s re-structuring continued;
- Region was 7 split and Ventura, Santa Barbara and San Louis Obispo creating the new Region 9.
- Region 2 ceded Modoc, Lassen, Plumas, Butte and Glen Counties to the newly created Region 13. Glen County was later re-absorbed by Region 2.
- Then San Bernardino County was split from Region 11 and became Region 14.
- Next, Region 4 split and Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare, Inyo and Kern Counties formed Region 15.
- In 1974, Kern County formed Region 16 and held their first meeting in May 1975.
- Later Region 17 was formed from Kings and Tulare Counties.
- In 1976 Region 6 was divided and Region 10 was expanded to include San Benito, Monterey and San Louis Obispo Counties.
- In the North, boundaries were drawn again with the creation of Region 18 encompassing Siskiyou, Modoc, Trinity, Shasta, and Lassen Counties.
- In 1975 Region 16 was created.
- The last Region was created when San Louis Obispo and Santa Barbara Counties became Region 19.
- In recent years, Region 10 (Monterey and San Benito Counties) became inactive and was combined with Region 6 until such time as there is sufficient membership to support a separate Region.

At the 1966 convention, the Regions were grouped into two areas; i.e. Southern and Northern, with an Area Vice President for each in addition to the State Vice President. In 1968 the Board of Directors instructed the 1969 Executive Committee to review the establishment of the position of Central Area Vice President. In 1969 Laurence Lyles became the first Central Area Vice President.

As of the end of 2016, the organization is spread throughout 19 Regions divided into the Northern Area (Regions 1, 2, 3, 13 and 18), Central Area (Regions 4, 5, 6, 10, 15, 17 and 19) and Southern Area (Regions 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14 and 16). While some Regions are inactive, CSHA continues to serve all members by providing programs and services through neighboring Regions.

During the early years resolutions were submitted to a committee; i.e. one for by-laws and one for program rules. Each committee conducted a review and presented recommendations to the Board of Directors at the annual convention meeting. If the recommendation of either committee was negative, the resolution could be presented to the Board by a delegate but then a two thirds majority vote was required for passage of the resolution. By 1975 program committees had been established and resolutions were handled through these committees for submission to the Board of Directors meeting at convention.

In the early years the Board of Directors appears to have scheduled meetings every other month. In June 1945 the concept of an Executive Committee was first introduced so that the Board could meet annually but the practice was postponed until after World War II. The first Executive Committee meeting was held on September 21, 1946 but it appears that the Board continued to meet more than once a year until 1948.
At this point, CSHA’s officers consisted of an elected President, an appointed Treasurer and elected regional vice presidents. In 1955 the regional vice presidents were “promoted” to regional presidents and each Region was permitted to also elect a vice president if desired. The position of State Vice President was created at the October, 1953 convention but we have not found any reference to the position being filled until 1964.

The Executive Committee was developed to conduct the day-to-day business of the Association. However, its schedule seems somewhat sporadic based on early calendars. In 1966 the concept of meeting in January, April, July and September was established. The September quarterly was eliminated and then re-instated. As a direct result of the growth of the Show of Champions (held in October) the September meeting was again eliminated. Finally, in its voting members were the elected state officers, standing committee chairs and Region Presidents. The Board of Directors met annually at convention for the purpose of reviewing/ratifying by-laws and rule changes and conducting other business that did not fall under the Executive Committee. The Board was comprised of the Executive Committee members, club representatives and the Region President/representative who represented all the direct members of that Region. The House of Delegates met at the annual convention for the purpose of electing the state officers. The House was comprised of all direct members and the member clubs. In the House, each club was allotted votes based on the size of their membership. Direct members were given 1 vote each.

There was no limit as to the number of clubs a person could represent at the annual meeting nor any deadline as to when that representative had joined the club. These 2 “loop holes” led to some interesting political maneuvering during conventions with individuals controlling large blocks of votes by representing multiple clubs and people joining clubs at the convention itself to carry the club’s votes. In the mid-1980s the by-laws were changed to ensure that a person could represent only one club and had to be a member of record in that club as of September 1. Beginning in 2009, the “vote by size” in the House of Delegates was replaced with a “1 club, 2 votes” concept.

In the days before skype, teleconferencing and email, communication was a little slow and calling a special meeting expensive. Therefore, for a number of years an Emergency Committee existed for the purpose of dealing with “emergency Association business” which arose between Executive Committee sessions. One example of that was the process to appoint a new Executive Secretary with the resignation of Ray Stone in 1958.

Originally CSHA was comprised only of member clubs. An associate membership was available to commercial organizations and other associations. The concept of direct memberships to CSHA with a vote first appeared in 1953 but was rejected. Gary Stewart, then Region 6 Vice President, later revived the drive to establish the direct membership concept and the first direct members were accepted in 1960. The first Life Member was James Frazier of Fillmore and by 1972 there were 22 Life Member. The first Life Commercial memberships were offered in 1981 or 1982. The purchase of life memberships was discontinued by resolution at the 2010 annual convention. A life membership may now be conferred by the Council of Members on an adult member who has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to CSHA.

While direct membership became a reality in 1960, it wasn’t until 1975 that the question of granting direct members a vote in region government came up again...the resolution was rejected. In 1976 Region 4, under the leadership of Gary Gustafson, stepped forward and initiated a test program wherein region meetings were held with all classes of membership voting. This was followed by a traditional Region Board of Directors meeting to approve all actions of the first
meeting to keep things “legal”. In the late 1990s, direct members were finally given a vote in the Board of Directors and in Region government.

By resolution of the 2009 Board of Directors, the position of Chief Financial Officer was established in order to bring CSHA in line with the requirements of the California Corporation Code. The first CFO serving in 2010 was Paul Gilman. He was succeeded by Linda Quattlebaum who continues to serve in this position as of 2016.

In 2009 a major change occurred. The Council of Members was created for the purpose of approving all rule and by-law changes at convention and conducting certain aspects of business that require a general membership vote. The Executive Committee was abolished and the Board of Directors assumed its duties and meeting schedule and became responsible for conducting the general business of the Corporation and affirming the rule and by-law changes approved the Council. As of 2016, the Board holds full business meetings 3 times a year and meets during the annual convention to conduct business, generally limited to the ratification of the passed resolutions. In 2015 the House of Delegates was declared redundant by resolution and the election process for state officers was moved to the Council of Members beginning in 2016.

CSHA is primarily an organization of volunteers but the sheer size and scope of the Association dictated the need for some sort of staff. Ray Stone (State President 1943) became the first “employee” of CSHA serving as Executive Secretary until 1958. Until about the late 1960s, the Executive Secretary served as CSHA representative and handled the day to day operations of CSHA from either his/her home or a small office. In the 1970s a building was purchased in Santa Rosa and served as the office of CSHA for nearly 25 years. The State Office was moved to Clovis in 1995. Today the “secretary of the corporation” is the First Vice President and CSHA has a formal business office site with paid staff.

Communication has always been one of the most important issues for CSHA. To that end it appears that the first formal CSHA publication was the “Horsemen’s Bulletin” followed in 1948 by The Horseman”. Both were stand-alone publications. Beginning in the mid-1960s CSHA worked with other publications to produce our newsletter. In 1987 CSHA returned to its own publication christening it “The New Horseman”. Later CSHA again utilized an outside source for the newsletter before finally returning to publishing its own newsletter in a combined hard copy and electronic format.

The first Blue Ribbon Horse Show was held in 1946 in conjunction with the annual convention held in Santa Barbara that year along with a parade featuring 1200 horses. By 1963 both the show and CSHA had grown to the point that it was difficult to find a quorum for the Board of Directors without first raiding the arenas and a decision was made to separate the two events. Shortly after that the show was home based in Santa Rosa and became known simply as the “Santa Rosa Show”. The show carried sanctions from AHSA and up to 10 other organizations through the years.

One of CSHA’s first “public appearances” was at the Grand National Horse Show & Livestock Exposition at the Cow Palace in 1948 with a Gymkhana speed event during the tenure of President Warren Richardson. Later an honorary color guard was added. This eventually grew into the longstanding “CSHA Opening Night at the Cow Palace”.

A committee met at the home of President Ray Stone in 1944 to begin development of the Horsemastership Program. The first Horsemastership state level competition was held in 1948 offering junior competition in English and Western for the All-Around Boy and All-Around Girl titles. The Program’s goal since inception has been to promote education. The desire to have a
better vehicle through which to offer scholarships was one of the major forces behind the creation of the CSHA Charitable Trust in 1969.

Drilling was a big deal in early CSHA. The first junior mounted drill team within CSHA was organized by Warren Richardson for exhibitions and in 1949 the first state competition was held. State competitions continued but eventually the Drill Team Program was basically inactive for nearly 7 years until it was resurrected with the help of Robert Lorbeer of Region 3. Many new teams have come to the forefront in the succeeding years with the CSHA championships held in Ceres and the introduction of the Coto Cup competition in 2012.

In 1961 the Humane Awareness Committee was formed as a special purpose committee. The Committee continued functioning into the 1980s.

As evidenced by the early rule books, CSHA did not have program committees as we know them today. It appears that “special committees” were formed as needed and then disbanded. Among the first “permanent” committees formed was the Equestrian Trails Patrol (ETP) in 1964. The Program was later re-organized in 1972 into its present format.

In 1964 President Clarence Simons suggested a “Day at the Races” to serve as a fund raiser in lieu of a grant that did not materialize. CSHA’s Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields was born. Within 7 years the event had raised $2,756.68 for the scholarship program...a lot of money considering that the scholarships ranged from $100 to $500. With a very short trip out to Bay Meadows, the event has been held at Golden Gate Fields serving as a fund raiser for CSHA and an opportunity for members to gather by the Bay for over 50 years. Eventually, the event was assigned as a Royalty fund raiser and is now chaired by the current State Royalty Chair each year.

At the 1966 CSHA Convention the High Point Program was introduced as a state level youth program and later expanded to include amateur adult and “open” divisions. The Program was originally offered for English, Western and Gymkhana but later Gymkhana took control of its own high point program. The High Point Program was enormously popular for many years. In the late 1980s a core group put a new twist to the old program; i.e. English and Western region-level competition earning the right to attend a championship show versus a state-wide high point program.

At its 1969 convention CSHA agreed to create the California State Horsemen’s Association Charitable Trust for the purpose of promoting education and the general welfare of horses. The Trust was developed as a non-profit charitable organization to hold scholarship and research funds which needed to be kept separate from normal Association funds and might need to be held for long periods of time and to provide a tax-deductible vehicle for donations.

While CSHA members had strutted their stuff on the parade route since that first Santa Barbara convention and each rule book unearthed has contained about a quarter page of parade rules, 1970 saw the “formal” birth of one of the most visible CSHA programs, the Parade Program, as a state-level high point program, with licensed CSHA judges, culminating in a yearly championship parade. At about the same time Gymkhana was beginning to formulate their own rules and develop a procedure to license judges. Since then, the CSHA Gymkhana Program members have consistently proven that they are horsemen on par with any other competitor in CSHA and are dedicated to the success of their program in particular and CSHA as a whole.
In 1971 an Endurance Riding Committee was formed when CSHA recognized the importance of distance riding and horsemanship and in 1972 the Executive Committee authorized steps to make Endurance a standing committee.

In the early 1970s, CSHA decided it needed to have a program to provide a youth representative for CSHA and to prepare young ladies for competition in other horse and rodeo pageant events. The CSHA Royalty Program was the result. Barbara Naranga (Region 5) was chosen as the first CSHA Queen and reigned in 1975.

Although CSHA events were judged by “CSHA member judges”, this was actually a “complimentary” list of individuals deemed knowledgeable and recommended by various entities as proficient to judge specific events. In the late 1960s CSHA took steps to license its own judges, beginning with Parade and then Gymkhana. In 1978 the existing Parade Judges Commission was officially disbanded in favor of the all discipline Judges Commission of today. The first order of business assigned to the new Judges Commission was to establish procedures to enable CSHA to license its own horse show judges. As of 2016, the Commission is comprised of judges from Parade, Gymkhana, Trail Trials, Drill Team, horse show (English and Western) and any pilot program utilizing judges.

The Santa Rosa Fairgrounds, home to CSHA’s yearly horse show from 1964 into the early 1980s, was massive stretching from a campground across the street to the horse show facilities, barns, a race track and up to Founder’s Grove with horses, people and possessions spread throughout. Unfortunately, security had to become a prime consideration as the years rolled on and a team of volunteers provided patrol services. This nucleus eventually became the State Patrol.

In 1986 a push came out of Region 4 for a different type of program...a program dedicated to the amateur competitor whose interest lay primarily in working cattle. Stock Competition was born at the 1987 convention and referred to as the “newest game in town” by Chairman John Souza.

In 1988 the Trail Riders Awards Program was established to provide encouragement to trail riders in a non-competitive environment. The Program also provided the additional benefit of compiling trail usage data while members earned chevrons, plaques and buckles based on miles ridden.

In 1990 the first Show of Champions (SOC), with Linda Quattlebaum as chair, was held in October at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in Turlock. The concept was to provide a joint venue where the various Programs within CSHA could showcase their year-end competitions. Today the SOC features Gymkhana English/Western, Royalty and Horsemastership and is the largest annual gathering of CSHA members.

Other than the vague memories of a few members, not much is known about the history of Broom Polo in CSHA. The game was similar to polo and it involved brooms (the kitchen variety) and a volleyball. In 1990 Cowboy Polo (using modified mallets and a medicine ball) was introduced to CSHA and became a pilot program. Both were eventually abandoned by CSHA as formal programs.

A Gaited Horse Division was established in 1991 and judges licensed for this purpose. In addition, CSHA developed a Designated Qualified Person Program (DQP) to license individuals able to test horses for abuse and other issues at gaited shows. Despite the fact that CSHA had been approached by gaited horse people, there appeared to be resistance to the DQP concept among the gaited horse world in general and eventually both programs were abandoned.
In the early 1990s CSHA was looking for a new fund raising avenue and turned to rodeo. Bob Sudeen and Jim Phillips spearheaded our first attempt at sponsoring the Clovis Rodeo in 1993. Apparently this was not a good fit for CSHA and after another attempt we were out of the rodeo business.

About this time a campaign began to change the CSHA logo. A group of members felt that the horse depicted in the logo did not do justice to the organization feeling it was out of proportion with longish ears and almost non-existent eyes. While this may seem like a minor issue, making the decision to change the logo and then selecting a replacement involved many heated discussions. The new logo was accepted around 1994.

Following the move of the State Office to Clovis, Jim Phillips (Region 15) and John Souza (Region 4) led a move to establish a building fund for the purpose of purchasing property that would provide not only office space but event facilities as well for CSHA. CSHA did not secure property and the Building Fund Project was declared abandoned in 2015 in accordance with stipulations in the rule book. The CSHA raised funds will be donated to the Medical Research Fund within the CSHA Charitable Trust as directed by the Council of Members and the private donations will be offered back to the individuals.

The American Horse Show Association had provided the rules for open shows for decades, including those held by CSHA. In 1996, responding to changes within AHSA, CSHA developed and published “The West Coast Horse Show Rule Book” during the tenure of President Jim Real. The intent was to address “the way things were done on the West Coast” without allowing the book to become a point of political contention within the organization.

Trail Trials was developed in the 1990s as an obstacle course competition to test the trail skills of horse and rider. Like the concept of “working conformation” versus “conformation to breed standard”, this program differs from what is seen as “horse show trail”. Trail Trials is intended to be as natural as you can get while keeping common sense and safety at the forefront.

Around 2012 State President Jim Hendrickson spearheaded the introduction of Ranch Versatility to CSHA and it was accepted as a pilot program. The Program is designed to highlight the abilities of the ranch horse whose job is to “do it all”. By order of the Council of Members Ranch Versatility was continued as a pilot program into 2018.

At the 2015 convention in Jackson, the Obstacle Challenge Program was accepted as a pilot program within CSHA. The program is designed to promote good horsemanship skills, provide an educational venue for members of CSHA and provide fun.

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“A photo is worth 1,000 words”…..continue reading for detailed history on CSHA’s programs….and our past in pictures.
CSHA AND THE GRAND NATIONAL
One of CSHA’s first “public appearances” was at the Grand National Horse Show & Livestock Exposition at the Cow Palace in 1948 featuring a Gymkhana speed event during the tenure of President Warren Richardson. Later an honorary color guard was added. This eventually grew into the long-standing “CSHA Opening Night at the Cow Palace” with hundreds of CSHA members filling the stands and CSHA color guards filling the arena.
In 1962 the winning teams were delighted to receive silver trophies from Roy Rogers and Dale Evans. In 1970 Tom Johnston, who had chaired the event for 20 years, spearheaded an effort that filled the arena with 50 color guards representing 44 different clubs while the stands overflowed with the largest opening night crowd recorded to that date in Grand National history. In 1989 the U.S. Marshall’s Posse served as the “honor team” leading in Miss CHSA to celebrate their 200th anniversary as an active posse. Around 2002 the 50 team mark became a quest for Chair Kim Cipro and eventually CSHA filled the arena to capacity with over 60 color guards.

CSHA parade rules for the Color Guard competition. However, even with the licensing of the first CSHA judges in the 1970s, the competition did not become a high point Parade Program event until the 1980s. Divisions were offered for Men, Women, Junior and Mixed. In 1983, the Professional Division, originally intended for “military or police” teams, was added. The last addition was the Non-Pro Division. A different judge was used for each division into the 1990s when it became common to assign 2 or more divisions to a judge. In 2000 non-CSHA member teams were allowed for the first time. In 2001 the Non-Competitive Division was added for those who wanted the “experience of Opening Night” without the competition. Teams were required to pass a safety inspection and meet minimum dress standards.

Chairman Kim Cipro had instituted the overall champion award for the senior divisions. In 2004 the Junior Division had grown to such an extent that it was judged in 2 sections and the winner of each section then competed for the new “Overall Junior Grand Champion” award. Each Overall Grand Champion team was presented with 4 silver buckles. The first junior winners were the Petaluma Riding & Driving Club Juniors.

The Grand National awarded “prize money” to each class champion by way of a donation in that group’s name to the CSHA Charitable Trust. For many years the event served as a fund raiser for scholarships, as well as clubs and CSHA with a ticket rebate program. Many clubs received their rebate checks at convention and then graciously handed the check to the Charitable Trust as a scholarship donation.

Event chairs included George Cardinet Jr., Tom Johnson, Bob Cook, Bert Hill, George Gillette, Rex Machlan and Kim Cipro, each of whom was supported by a large cadre of dedicated volunteers.

As of 2015 the event is inactive.

Chapter Title Page: Sebastopol Wranglers 1974

Information booth at the 1959 Junior Grand National was similar to those at the regular Grand National. L-R State President Tom Johnston, Region 6 VP Ken Ordahl, Executive Secretary Ivo Vollmer Jr., Cherie Garcia, Betty Johnston, Rudy Ersepke, Marlene Vollmer

Photo Legend

1. Filling the arena in 2004
2. 2004 Junior Grand Champion Color Guard – Petaluma Junior Riding & Driving Club
3. Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol Color Guard circa 1990
4. A unique color guard in 1975
Photo 1 and 2

Photo 3
President Jim is apparently sharing a tip on the next race with Treasurer Sue Edwards at the 2012 Day at the Races while his wife Carolyn (hat with flowers) looks on and Cheri Whipp refuses to be swayed in her choice.

CSHA DAY AND THE SPORT OF KINGS

In 1964 President Clarence Simons suggested a “Day at the Races” as a way to replace a scholarship fund grant that had not materialized. And so was born CSHA’s Day at the Races at Golden Gate Fields. Beth Carrithers of Region 5 (future First Lady 1967/1968) served as the first chair and hostess to the members who crowded into the elegant Turf Club for that first event and many others to come. Within 7 years the event had raised $2,756.68 for the scholarship program in an era when the scholarships were only $100 and $150. Past Horsemastership scholarship winners were invited each year to assist in the Winners Circle but eventually the focus shifted to more of a showcase for CSHA’s Royalty.

In the early days, CSHA members were treated to an exclusive experience with their own wait staff, buffet line and para-mutual windows with a top notch view of the finish line. The dress code was quite strict, especially in the era before pants suits became socially acceptable for ladies. Regions and clubs were known to collect members in commuter buses for the trek to “the place where the Bay meets the turf”. Attendance soared in 2004 when 300 members and guests attended. In 2005 the event temporarily moved to Bay Meadows due to a change in the Golden Gate Fields racing schedule but quickly returned to Golden Gate Fields. Golden Gate Fields redesigned the Turf Club to accommodate more people and now various organizations are able to enjoy “the sport of kings” in style at the same time.
Many able event coordinators have followed in Beth’s footsteps over the years including Barbara Boland and Mrs. Leonard both of Region 4, as well as Becky Gage of Region 2. In recent years Day at the Races was assigned as a fund raiser specifically for Royalty under Suzan Cunningham who re-instated the great Race Day Hat Contest. Day at the Races is now chaired by the current State Royalty Chair each year.

Photo Legend
1. Junior Miss CSHA in an undated photo in the club house.
2. Miss CSHA 2001 Barbara Fletcher (Reg 10) is joined by Barbara Boland, Nadette Raymond & friends in the winner’s circle
3. In the winner’s circle in 1994
The “American Ride” at the 2015 Coto Cup
Eden Colts drilling during the 1961 CSHA Convention Parade

Drilling became popular in the 1940s with youth groups, women’s riding clubs and the then male dominated sheriff posse units. The formal Drill Team Program in CSHA was started by Colonel F.
W. Koester with the first rules adopted in 1949. The first junior mounted drill team within CSHA was organized by Warren Richardson for exhibitions and 3 years later Drill Master Ed Bradley led his Turlock Cavaliers to take top honors at the first CSHA drill competition in 1949.

For the next 10 years the Cavaliers were regarded as the most exciting junior team.... threading the needle at break neck speed and doing a 2 minute mile from first nose in to last tail out of the arena. In 1950 the Concord Flying Horsemen under Drill Master George Cardinet Jr. (State President 1946) were victorious as the top drill team at the CSHA competition held at the Blue Ribbon Show in Palm Springs (the year of the great sand storm). The Eden Colts of Livermore led by Bill Bernard earned and retired the first perpetual trophy in formal Drill Team competition, the Bair-Porter Trophy, winning it in 1963, 1964 and 1965. The next perpetual trophy was won and retired by the Porterville Canterbelles. The Sacramento County Sheriff’s Posse under Captain Joe Sims were the Champion Senior Drill team in 1966....It was their 11th championship since 1952.

The CSHA drill competitions were held at the Blue Ribbon Show (later known as the Santa Rosa Show) and continued until the show was discontinued. From the 1950s to the 1980s competition was offered only in “junior” and “senior” divisions utilizing a single drill performance with a time limit of 12 to 20 minutes. A 20 minute performance took a lot of creativity to develop and some impressive walking maneuvers were incorporated to rest the horses without breaking the performance. In the 1960s Sets of Fours were offered with the team judged on the rail at 3 gaits and then a 1-1/2 minute “at will” performance. Part of the scoring “back in the day” included a cleanliness and uniformity inspection of the teams by each judge. This was a close up inspection and often involved “white gloves”.

The Drill Team Program within CSHA went dormant in 1995 and remained so for nearly seven years. Bob Lorbeer, then Captain of the Sacramento Sherriff’s Posse, volunteered to work on the program. He held the first State Championship event in “modern times” at the Stanislaus County Fairgrounds in 2003 and moved the event to Ceres in 2005 where it remains today. Over the next eight years Bob was able to re-vitalize the Drill Team Program. In January 2010 Bob recommended Jill Kraut, Executive Officer of the Blue Shadows Mounted Drill Team, to succeed him as Chair. Jill took the reins and continued to build on the ground work that Bob had set in place.

In 2009 the Jim Real Memorial Trophy was introduced honoring the dedication and contributions of Jim Real who was a past President of CSHA, as well as a CSHA judge in numerous disciplines including Drill. The impressive trophy was funded by donations in memory of Jim who passed away in 2007. The trophy is awarded annually to the high point grand champion at the Drill Team State Championship event. The first winner was the Blue Shadows Mounted Drill Team.

In 2011 the Robert Lorbeer “Spirit of Drill” award was introduced. The award is aptly named for Bob to honor and acknowledge his importance to the “modern era” of drilling and the spirit of competition he helped to instill in all those involved. The award is voted on by the Drill Team Committee and awarded to a deserving team or individual. The first recipient was a posthumous award to Billi Jo Dyer and the Mokelumne Mounties.

In 2012 a Quad Division was introduced for small teams of four to seven riders. A perpetual trophy for this division was established and the first award was won by the Smokin’ Guns. The Mixed Division was formalized that same year and a perpetual trophy was established with the Smokin’ Guns also winning that trophy. Both perpetual awards were donated by Melanie Coto.
In 2012 a second event was sponsored by Melanie Coto and the Coto Foundation within the Drill Team Program, The California Coto Cup. CSHA’s goal was to create the premiere drill event in California and expand the competition to draw teams from out of state. The first event was held in mid-August that year at the Murrieta Equestrian Center featuring Novice and Elite Divisions pitting teams against one another in head to head competition regardless of age. The first Coto Cup Championship was presented to the Blue Shadows and the Reserve Championship to the California Cowgirls. In 2013, searching for a cooler climate, the Coto Cup competition was moved to The Horse Park in Woodside.

2014 marked the 65th anniversary of the Drill Team Program. A special “unified ride” featuring 65 riders representing all of the competing teams was performed in a stunning display of drill camaraderie. With only a brief practice, this ride was the highlight of the Coto Cup competition. The Coto championship in 2014 was won by the Washington State based Latigo N Lace Drill Team. A stunning ride of 41 riders from competing teams, all carrying American flags and riding to patriotic music, was dubbed “The American Ride” and presented at the 2015 Coto Cup.

In 2016 The State Championships had a record 16 teams attending and the Blue Shadows won their 9th consecutive Grand Championship Title. Also in 2016 the Coto Foundation established an educational scholarship fund with the CSHA Charitable Trust. Katrina Myers was the winner of the first scholarship competition. The Drill Team Program will conduct a competition each year at the Coto Cup to award the scholarship to a junior rider who displays proficiency in equine knowledge and horsemanship skills.

Just some of the names who thundered through the CSHA Drill Team Program over the years:

- Eden Colts
- Porterville Canterbelles
- Petaluma Junior Riding Club
- Rancon Riders
- California Cowgirls
- Sacramento Gold Trail Mounties
- Stockdale Riding Club
- Visalia Rockettes
- Los Abejas Pony Club
- California Rangers
- Alameda County Sheriff’s Posse
- Concord Flying Horsemen
- Turlock Cavaliers

Just some of the names who thundered through the CSHA Drill Team Program over the years:

- Saddle-Lites
- Sierra Sundowners
- Mokelumne Mounties
- SHA Greenies
- Smokin’ Guns
- Porterville Western Belles
- California Cowgirls
- Blue Shadows
- Aahmes Shrine Mounted Patrol
- Sacramento Sheriff’s Posse
- Flying Fillies
- Amigos de Anza
- Sacramento Sheriff’s Posse

Photo Legend

1. Unknown drill team circa late 1960s
2. 1971 Champion Junior Drill Team
3. Drill Team at the Blue Ribbon Show October 1958
4. 2016 Champion Junior Drill Team & winners of the Jim Real Perpetual Trophy – Blue Shadows Drill Team
ENDURANCE

Whether it was foot races in the first Olympic Games from ancient times, 2 buggies racing down a back country road or harnessing the power of the wind in the sail of a clipper ship, “mine’s faster than yours” has been with us since man first discovered the concept of “speed”.

Endurance racing as a sporting event goes back more than 100 years. At that time races lasted many days covering distances of a thousand miles or more such as the race from Galveston, Texas, to Rutland, Vermont in 1886. The race involved a distance of 1,799 miles with riders averaging 57.7 miles per day (31 days total).
Competitive Trail Rides, such as those held by The North American Trail Ride Conference, are generally 1 to 2 days in duration, covering 20 to 35 miles per day and have minimum and maximum completion times. These rides are carefully supervised by veterinarians and are judged on 5 basic criteria; i.e. soundness, condition, manners and way of going of the horse and the horsemanship of the rider.

Endurance Rides are generally 1 day rides of 50 to 100 miles under strict veterinary supervision (horses are examined before, during and after the ride). Judging is strictly on performance with the winner being the horse who finishes first while displaying satisfactory condition and soundness. Awards are generally made to the best conditioned horse finishing among the top 10 horses and all horses completing the ride receive an award.

In 1961 a resolution was passed instructing the President to appoint a committee to review the 100 mile Tahoe to Auburn endurance ride (Tevis) and report back to the Board in the light of letters received expressing concern that the 1 day/100 mile ride was inhumane. On September 7, 1962, CSHA received a favorable report from this committee noting that many of the new safeguards established were conducive to creating a humane event; e.g. minimum horse age, mares known to be in foal prohibited, availability of first aid stations and emergency transport, veterinary checks, etc. The committee did recommend a 20 hour minimum versus the newly established 17 hour minimum.

In 1971 an Endurance Riding Committee was formed when CSHA recognized the importance of distance riding and horsemanship. The “founding father” of the Program is generally accepted to have been Bob Webb (Region 4) with Dr. James Steere DVM also instrumental in the adoption of this program within CSHA. In 1972 the Executive Committee authorized steps to make Endurance a standing committee. CSHA sanctioned the first Mariposa 50 Ride in 1977 which was organized by Chester and Gloria McWilliams along with Bob and Lorna Webb.

Today the CSHA Endurance Program is a high point program only; i.e. no championship event. In order to be sanctioned by CSHA for points, a ride must conform to the American Endurance Ride Conference Rules.

Photo Legend
1. 2003 champions
2. Mrs. Robert D. Kerley (Reg 5) placed 3rd in the 10-mile ride up Mt. Diablo in 1953
3. Betty Menefee circa 1960s
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS PATROL (ETP)
EQUESTRIAN TRAILS PATROL (ETP)

Sydney Mason, President of Equestrian Trails Incorporated (ETI), developed the idea for a group of trail riders deputized under an organization to monitor trails and trail rules compliance by users. He introduced the concept with ETI in the Los Angeles area and outlined their efforts at the 1964 CSHA convention. ETP was embraced by CSHA and members spent the next year developing the program.

In its original format, ETP members were known as “patrolmen” and were required to know the rules of the regulatory agencies governing the parks in which they rode and “set an example by their own conduct, as well as advise, direct and, if necessary, admonish others on the trail and report violators of trail use regulations or persons damaging property to the proper authorities”. In its original format, membership in ETP was open only to men. A resolution was submitted by George Dean at the 1965 convention to permit “qualified females” to apply for membership in ETP. The Resolution Committee recommended rejection but the resolution was adopted by the Board of Directors following a lengthy discussion on the floor and became part of the original rules of ETP.

Through the years individual interpretations of the “authority” of the ETP members caused concern for legal issues over the actual role of the ETP “patrolmen” and their liability and personal safety. This concern helped turn the goal of ETP more toward an endeavor to promote good relationships and common understanding between those who ride the trails and the general public, as well as helping the various agencies keep an eye on the condition of their trails.

The program was re-organized in 1972 under the chairmanship of Gary Gustafson (future State President 1995 – 1997). One of the foremost projects was the establishment of a pilot program to bring ETP into a Region-based organizational concept. The first region program was begun in Region 5 under Jack Abraham (future CSHA President 1998/1999) with the plan for this pilot program to serve as a pattern for other Regions. The “pattern” was obviously successful as 1975
saw the membership ranks rise to 430 members. Sims Davies was Chair in 1974 and Steve Sharp in 1994. In 1992 a Junior ETP program was approved but no information is available at this time on its success.

GYMKHANA
GYMKHANA

Gymkhana is an East Indian term which originally referred to a place of assembly. The meaning was altered to denote a place where skill-based contests were held. Most gymkhanas had a “Gymkhana Club” associated with them, a term coined during the British Raj period in India for a gentlemen’s club. In English-speaking countries, “gymkhana” refers to a multi-game equestrian event performed to display the training and talents of horses and their riders.

Gymkhana is obviously not a “new” concept born with CSHA nor is it a sport restricted to the American West. Gymkhana appears to have been part of the CSHA landscape since the earliest years with classes often held in conjunction with a horse show. In the 1940s calf and team roping were held as Gymkhana events. The 1972 CSHA Blue Ribbon Show included 29 Gymkhana classes that were run under AHSA rules for the first time.

Gymkhana requested that CSHA provide approval for testing and sanctioning Gymkhana judges as early as 1968. It is believed that CSHA began licensing their own Gymkhana judges around 1972, as it was reported in a newsletter that 14 judges attended the Gymkhana seminar that year. When AHSA dropped their Gymkhana division in the 1980s, CSHA began the development of its own Gymkhana rules.

The earliest copy of a CSHA rulebook is somewhat damaged but we were able to identify some classes “suggested for your club to enjoy” including Potato Race, Balloon Spearing, Rescue and Relay Races and even a Trailer Race. Today those are often referred to as “play day” classes but by 1957, in addition to the fun classes above, the rulebook provided rules for formal classes in Ring Spearing (team and single), Relay Race, Key Hole, Figure 8 Stake Race, Quadrangle Stake Race and Pole Bending.

While not a committee as we know it today, George Walling (Reg 5) appears to be the first Gymkhana Chair with his committee charged to ensure that all events were run in a like manner.

In 1968 a resolution forbidding a horse to be used twice in any division of any one event was passed. CSHA Gymkhana originally operated with a rider age division format and in 1975 a 12 and
under Pony Division was added to the Program. In 1989 Gymkhana became possibly the first CSHA Program to truly enter the computer age with the development by Linda Quattlebaum of a computerized rating system that placed horse and rider combinations in a division based on their average time in nine events. Later, after more data was available, the number of events was reduced to the four events that members felt best displayed both speed and skill; i.e. Big T, Birangle, Cloverleaf Barrels and Skill Barrels.

When the Ana Lisa Forni Scholarship was converted into a Show of Champions scholarship for the English/Western Program, it was decided that Gymkhana should receive a portion of the scholarship monies as well because of the strong junior participation in the Program. Beginning in 2002 Gymkhana has awarded a scholarship using several different award formats over the years. The first winner was Kaitlyn Kinnard.

While the 2016 Gymkhana championship held at SOC saw 76 riders in 7 divisions in the arena with veterans and first-timers in serious competition battling for the buckles, the lighter side of Gymkhana came to light with an Outlaw Birangle event and a costume contest/barrel race. After seeing the photos, one can only wonder how the judges kept a straight face.

Photo Legend

Chapter Title Page – Geena Davis and Empress (above) and Linda Quattlebaum (below) at the 2004 SOC

1 Bucky Stewart (Reg 1) State Championship Pole Bending and Quadrangle Stake Race receiving his award from ringmaster George Walling (aka President) at the Santa Barbara Annual Show in 1954.
2 2004 Show of Champions
3 2012 Show of Champions
4 Derek Brown “unmasked” as The Butterfly 2016 Show of Champions
8 Abigail Letty & Lord Have Mercy heading for home at SOC 2016
9 1992 State Gymkhana Champions
Photo 4
FROM “HIGH POINT PROGRAM” TO “ENGLISH/WESTERN” PROGRAM
FROM “HIGH POINT PROGRAM” TO “ENGLISH/WESTERN” PROGRAM

Although horse shows had long been a part of the CSHA landscape, it wasn’t until the 1966 annual convention that CSHA established a state level high point program. It was originally offered only to juniors within the English, Western and Gymkhana disciplines. The show year culminated with the CSHA Annual Horse Show with high point saddles awarded the last evening of the show. Later the program was expanded to include amateur adults. The program supported itself by sponsoring a full day Open Halter event at the annual CSHA horse show. A part-time paid employee served as the High Point Secretary for this and other CSHA Programs.
1970 saw the first substantial changes with awards made in each division, the competition year extended to the final weekend of October and awards presented on Friday night at the annual convention. The first such awards were presented in 1971 during the convention in Concord with over 300 people in attendance at the awards dinner.

In the 1970/1971 competition year, Dressage was dropped due to a lack of interest/participation in favor of Western Riding. 1972 saw the advent of the first team competition at the annual horse show held in Fresno that year. The format called for each Region to declare their riders who then competed at the show earning points for their Region. The first winners were: Region 1 in Gymkhana, Region 6 in English, Region 15 in Western and Region 6 won the overall award.

Effective February 1, 1976, judges for all CSHA approved shows were required to be CSHA members. CSHA did not license horse show judges at this time but CSHA did provide a complimentary list of judges. To be included on the list a horse show judge had to be licensed by another association, be recommended by show managers or the CSHA membership and be a member of CSHA.

At the 1988 convention, Linda Quattlebaum introduced a resolution to allow the Gymkhana Committee to administer its own high point program. With the approval of this resolution, “High Point” narrowed its focus to English and Western.

Following the lead of the Gymkhana Program, the English/Western High Point Program reincarnated itself into a region based competition in 1990 with a state championship competition concept.

The Program involved English, Western and Halter competition for both juniors and amateur adults. Reining was later added and then Ranch Horse. Around 2000 the Open Division was added. Around 2014 the State Program took over show approvals from the Regions and developed a single yearly fee concept for entities wishing to obtain CSHA approval for shows.

Beginning in 2001 a scholarship was offered to the junior high point winner at the Show of Champions in English and in Western. The scholarship is the successor to the Anna Lisa Forni Scholarship which had been awarded in conjunction with the CSHA Annual Horse Show at Santa Rosa and had been dormant for many years. The first winners were Samantha Nielsen in Western and Heather Le Masters in English.

Photo Legend

1. 1970 Junior Western High Point
2. 1973/1974 Rene Delpino (see Bits & Pieces)
3. 1968 Gymkhana High Point Champion Sandy Stahling (Reg 5)
4. 1988 champion Show of Champions
Photo 3 and 4
The first version of the Program was referred to as Junior Horsemastership and development of the rules began in 1944 with a team meeting in San Francisco at the home of Ray Stone. In later years Ray didn’t remember the entire team but he recalled that LaVanch Forbes and Lee Perryman of Region 3 were present. The Program was developed with only an overall competition requiring the participant to ride both English and Western. The judges for the first competition in 1948 were Alex Sysin, Clyde Kennedy and Dan O’Niell. George Cardinet III (Concord) and Marge
Preisser (Roseville) were the winners of the first competition in 1948 as All-Around Boy and AllAround Girl. State competitions were held each year thereafter until 2016. In 2016 only Region 5 presented qualified champions and it was decided that a State Competition could not be held.

In 1951 the competition was expanded to include Western and English as separate competitions from All-Around. In the early years you could compete in all three categories but could only win championship in one category. One year an All-Around Champion actually took first place in Western and second place in English, as well, but could only claim the All-Around title. In 1953 a resolution was passed stating that a contestant must his/her division before region eliminations. By 1964 “All-Around” had been changed to “Grand Champion”. In 1966 Gymkhana was added as a competition division and the title “Grand Champion” category was re-titled “Combined” but remained restricted to English and Western riding. In the early days, participants were not required to belong to CSHA nor was there any charge for the competition. In 1980 the competition was extended to include adults with the addition of the “Adult Education Horsemastership” rules and “Man” and “Woman” categories in all divisions. In 1996, after a very spirited debate led by Region 5, English was split into English I (jumping required) and English II (flat only). The Combined category required the participant to complete the Western and English I patterns. In 2003 competition was reduced to “Junior” and “Adult”.

Through the years Horsemastership has remained an educational based program testing the participant’s knowledge of proper horsemanship, horse anatomy and basic horse health and safety. Early tests were based on the U. S. Cavalry manual. The title “Horsemans’s Handbook” was first used for the CSHA rulebook and several pages were devoted to Horsemastership including diagrams. In 1957 it appears that this was expanded to include more written material from the U.S. Cavalry manual as a study guide for Horsemastership. It appears that beginning in 1961 or 1962 the title “Horsemans’s Handbook” was first used solely for the Horsemastership study guide. Many Regions found that a group study format was the best model for learning and also sponsored lectures drawing on the local community of veterinarians, farriers and trainers as guest lecturers to augment the Horseman’s Handbook. These lectures were generally open to the public and served as PR for the Program and the Region, as well as fund raisers. In 2012 the Council of Members approved the expansion of the educational resources available to the Program beyond the Horsemen’s Handbook.

In the early years, only the All-Around title winners received scholarships with the first awarded in 1959 at $500 each. Emily Pond of Yucaipa proposed scholarships be awarded to all champions “...as the effort required to win was just as high”. As a result, the monetary allotment was changed to $150 for the All-Around and $100 each to “champions” in Western and English and later to Gymkhana as well. Since 1970, the Program has offered scholarships to champions through its scholarship fund within the California State Horsemen’s Charitable Trust.

A “walk” through the list of State Chairs provides a glimpse into the “movers and shakers” of CSHA through the years. Some of the State Chairs:

Vivian Ginn             Lapreal Stewart             Mary Gustafson             Patti Souza*
Ken Brown              Becky Gage*             Linda Parham*

Peggy Hetlage             Sandy Fecher             Ellen Dias
Greta de Graeve            Katie Komnenich*             Lynn King

*Known to be State/Region Horsemastership Champions as juniors or seniors

Today Horsemastership offers competition in English I, English II, Western and Gymkhana and Combined (English I/Western).
Photo Legend

Chapter Title Page  2012 English competitor in action
  2012 Handling/Grooming test under way
  1. Chris Vincent (Region 15) All Around Champion Girl 1965 (see Bits & Pieces)
  2. Bill Runyon Champion Western Boy 1965
  3. 1954 Region 4 Horsemastership winners at San Jose State Competition L-R Jim Mills, Patti Furtado, Wally Edeal, Carol S., Carol
  4. Dave Jennings (Reg 11) Champion All-Around Boy 1958
  5. Larry Mayfield (Reg 4) 1964 All-Around Boy, 1965 English Champion Boy
  6. Pat Levy 1965 English Girl
  7. Maureen Grogan 1965 Western Champion Girl
  8. Virginia Franks (Reg 11) Champion All-Around Girl 1958
  10. 2007 Horsemastership Champions
Above Photo 1 and 2
Photo 7 and 8
While horse shows, parades and gymkhanas had long been part of the landscape of CSHA, it wasn’t until the late 1960s/early 1970s that CSHA first looked toward licensing its own judges. Prior to this, CSHA offered lists of “recommended” judges for the various disciplines. The “judges” were members of CSHA who had been recommended by event managers and/or CSHA members. In the case of horse show judges, the person also had to be licensed in that discipline by another association.

In 1967 Tom Johnston chaired the Parade Judges and Licensing Committee with Perry Wright and Bill Barnard as members. This special committee’s goal was to establish application criteria and to license the first judges within CSHA. By 1972 the Parade Judges Commission was in business.
and licensing Parade Judges as an extension of the Parade Program Committee. At about the same time the Gymkhana Program was setting up their own process to license Gymkhana judges.

In May of 1978, President Jim Phillips formally disbanded the Parade Judges Commission in favor of the formation of a multi-discipline Judges Commission to better serve CSHA and its membership. Effective September 1, 1978, the first Commission was seated with Neal Russell as chair, Evelyn Huffman and Ruby Keifer representing Parade judges; Audrey Leonard and Kay Messerly representing Gymkhana judges; and Bernice Connor and Emmett de la Fosse representing horse show judges. The Commission was established as a standing committee at the Eureka convention that year and used the now defunct Parade Judges Commission as its operational blue print.

The first order of business for the new Commission was to develop a licensing procedure for English and Western judges to replace the existing “recommended judges list” for horse show judges. The last “recommended judges list” was published in the 1979 rule book noting that effective July 1, 1979, all CSHA approved shows must use a judge carded by CSHA and that all current AHSA judges on the recommended list would be granted a CSHA card upon application.

The Commission currently licenses judges in Gymkhana, English, Western, Drill Team, Trail Trials and Parade, as well as judges for Ranch Versatility which remains in pilot program status at this time.

An incomplete list of Judges Commission Chairs

| Neal Russell | Larry Durbin | Ruby Keifer | Don Haskell |
| Steve Herrera | Paulette Webb | Mary Bright | Carol Castaneda |
| Alice Lawellin | Nina Kennedy | Dan Forney | |

**LEGISLATION & TRAILS**
LEGISLATION & TRAILS

A great deal of CSHA history is tied to the legislative efforts during the early years and the development of the California trails system and the horse industry in California in general.

1940s
While the bill to establish the California Trails Commission failed to gain passage, the bill to require safety devices at equestrian crossings and provide right-of-way to the horse and rider did pass. The bill to provide access, upon application, for individuals, clubs or equestrian groups to trails, easements, right-of-ways, etc. owned/controlled by cities and counties, as well as the State, at no fee passed, as well. This bill also provided equestrian groups with the right to install and maintain appropriate trailer markers.

In 1944 Ray Stone wrote a letter to George Cardinet Jr. to encourage the Contra Costa County Horsemen’s Association to join CSHA. Ray pointed to the passage of these two bills through the efforts of the California Trails Conference, the San Francisco Horsemen and what he termed as a “yet weak CSHA”. At the time he had wondered what a strong state-wide organization could have done. George must have liked the idea because he and the club were on board shortly thereafter.

President Stone appointed a committee comprised of Ed Fellows, John Diggs, Lloyd Cullen and Charles Broad to join him in meeting with the California Governor to present ideas on State trails. A State committee was eventually formed under the Re-construction & Re-Employment Commission. Committee members were volunteers serving at their own expense. Their first project was a study on the development of State Bridle Trails. The program was eventually adopted as a post-war project.

CSHA successfully supported the California State Riding & Hiking Trail Law. CSHA members participated in a parade in Sonoma in 1946 where Governor Warren signed the Riding & Hiking Trail Bill. The State trails system was born! CSHA also supported the confirmed budget for the California Riding & Hiking Trails Committee.
CSHA took a leadership role in fighting a proposed highly restrictive horse zoning ordinance in Los Angeles County. The ordinance was defeated.

1950s
CSHA vigorously supported the establishment of Quarter Horse racing within the California pari-mutual system and supported a bill calling for an interim legislative committee to review riding and hiking trails.

CSHA introduced and secured passage of state legislation encouraging all California fairs, horse shows, and all other horse competitions to include one or more events under the rules of Federation Equestre International (FEI) for the purpose of encouraging familiarity with and training under the rules governing international competition such as the Olympics.

CSHA supported the creation of the Fairs Allocation & Classification Committee to investigate and report to the State Legislature.

1960s
CSHA supported a bill to require land dedication or the payment of fees in lieu of same for park and recreational purposes as a condition of final approval for a subdivision map within California. Then Governor Ronald Reagan, Lt. Governor Finch, State Senators and State Assemblymen were invited by CSHA to a horseback and carriage ride and bar-b-cue at the Sacramento Horsemen’s Association facility to support the 1967 Riding & Hiking Trails legislation. Equestrian Trails, Inc. (ETI) served as co-host for the event.

CSHA vigorously supported a bill to create the National Trails Act and secured passage for the commemoration of the bicentennial of El Camino Viejo.

CSHA guided the California Recreation Trails Act through the amendment stage and final adoption working closely with ETI and provided support for the “bridle tax” as a county option with the funds expended solely on the acquisition or maintenance of trails.

CSHA supported a bill, which passed, to permit granting of open space easements. A bill supported by CSHA to allow the use of eminent domain to restore continuity to any riding and hiking trail severed by a freeway was adopted but later declared unconstitutional on a technicality.

1970s
CSHA supported a bill to expand the power of regional park districts to operate park-related facilities such as trails, preserves, etc.

CSHA provided support to a bill that ordered the Division of Highways to recommend or provide alternate routing for trails severed by State roads and include trails in freeway planning along corridors where none existed.

The East Bay Skyline Trail was established as the first non-federal National Recreation Trail in the nation in the East Bay Regional Parks District in Redwood Regional Park (Region 5). CSHA was well represented among the 200+ people present for the dedication with the Novato Horsemen and Rincon Riders presenting the colors.

George Dean (past CSHA State President) was appointed by Governor Reagan to head the California Recreation and Trails Commission.
The bicentennial celebration of the El Camino Viejo culminated at 3:30 pm, July 4, 1970 in Walnut Creek (Region 5) when the last of 71 relay riders, Dennis McCosken of Canyon, delivered saddle bags filled with U.S. Mail to Postmaster Larry Bornholtz. Nearly 400 horses accompanied the official riders the last 7 miles from Danville to Heather Farm Park, home of the Equestrian Center of Walnut Creek (a Region 5 club).

CSHA introduced and secured passage of a bill which amended another providing that monies derived therefrom could provide for the cost of its collection.

CSHA supported bills to permit regional park districts to raise the tax levy from 10 cents to 20 cents and to change the personal property tax on race horses to an annual fee.

CSHA negotiated with the Standards Committee of the County Assessors Association to secure an interpretation from the State Board of Equalization of the Administrative Rule; i.e. pleasure horses should be exempt from personal property tax. CSHA then collaborated on the introduction of a bill to confirm the exemption and extend it to livestock held for youth projects.

CSHA pushed the introduction of the Horse Drugging Act to prohibit drugs or medications affecting a horse’s performance/disposition during a public horse show, competition or sale.

CSHA introduced and secured the passage of a bill to use eminent domain for restoration of trails severed by State highways after the resolution of the technicality declared unconstitutional in 1969.

After suitable amendments, CSHA supported the bill to transfer race horse sales from the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Animal Health to the California Racing Commission and CSHA secured its inclusion on the proposed Confined Animal Feeding Committee.

CSHA endorsed the resolution acknowledging the bicentennial commemoration of the de Anza Expedition in 1976.

CSHA supported successful bills to permit the Marin County Open Space district to exchange real property dedicated to park open space for property of equal value necessary to park and open space purposes and to provide $2,700,000 for corridor trails in the Tahoe area and the counties of Alameda, Contra Costa, Santa Clara, Santa Cruz, Monterey and Los Angeles.

**1980s**

CSHA supported bills to ensure the use of humane methods in the transportation of animals, especially horses, intended for slaughter.

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That is quite a resume but the $20,000 Question might be “What has CSHA done lately?” According to President Jim Hendrickson CSHA became a 501c3 Non-Profit organization in 2002 and at that time it became necessary to redefine the parameters of the actions that could be undertaken by CSHA in the legislative field.

Under its new status, CSHA cannot engage in “electioneering” and must remain aware of and adhere to the defined differences between “education” and “lobbying” as performed by any Legislative Committee. Due to the balance required to maintain the non-profit status, CSHA must make available both sides of an issue to the membership maintaining a goal to educate members.
A pilot program was suggested a few years back that was similar in many aspects to Trail Trials. However, at the time there was insufficient interest to establish a state level program. Proponents of the concept continued to put on events even without a real program. As Gail Bloxham put it “We followed Trail Trial rules...kinda sorta”.

In mid-2015 Tami Sandberg and Gail Bloxham decided that CSHA it was time for another go at program status and went to work. After about 6 revisions, the Program was presented at the 2015 Convention and adopted as a pilot program. Gail Bloxham, Cindy Ingman, Tami Sandberg and Coral Kane were assigned as the first State Committee to work the Program through its growing pains.
The Obstacle Challenge Program is designed to promote good horsemanship skills and provide a venue in which CSHA members can compete and have fun.

A Challenge is not a race nor does it involve a long trail ride. It can be held in or out of the arena. While some obstacles may look similar to those in a horse show trail class or even Trail Trials, there are definitely variations to be found, this is after all a “challenge”.

Over the next three years Program members will attempt to generate Region participation and fine tune the rules in order to be accepted as permanent CSHA program.
Parade Program

It seems that parades have always been around including as part of the CSHA convention schedule through 1963. There were only a few classes, rules were simple and judges were “knowledgeable horsemen” (hopefully).
The Walnut Festival Parade organizers were inadvertently responsible for the initial development of more extensive parade class rules by CSHA and judges. Even though one of the top parades in California, the organizers were having trouble ensuring they had high quality equestrian entries. Deciding that haphazard judging was a real problem, the organizers turned to one of their own, Jim Cryderman, who with his wife, Helen, competed throughout the California driving a ponydrawn surrey. As a member of the Equestrian Center of Walnut Creek (Region 5), Jim turned to CSHA in the late 1960s for help. The result was a Parade Program with established rules for a wide variety of parade classes and, eventually, licensed judges.

The parade high point season was established from August 1 to July 31 and culminated in a championship parade. It appears that the first parade season was an abbreviated one with the first parade to offer CSHA points the 1971 Almond Blossom Parade in Ripon. Among the riders at that parade were Christine Drouin in Silver Mounted Lady, William Simpson in Silver Mounted Man and Edna Simpson in “Unusual Pony Entry”. The next reported point parades were set for Petaluma on April 3, Los Banos on May 2 and Guerneville on May 8. The first state championship parade for CSHA was held in 1971 at Santa Rosa prior to the start of the annual horse show with 22 parade classes offered. Ernie Mangue, already a fixture on the parade scene for many years in the Spanish Man Costume Class, is referred to in many documents as the “first State Champion”. After many years, the high point season was changed to January 1 through December 31.

The Program was developed with state level competition only. However, there is a record that Region 9 started a regional parade program in 1973 and the Southern California Parader’s Association (member club) conducted a club high point program offering a club championship parade for quite a few years.

In 1967 Tom Johnston chaired the Parade Judges and Licensing Committee with Perry Wright and Bill Barnard with the goal of establishing application criteria and licensing the first judges within CSHA...parade judges. By 1972 the Parade Program was in existence as we see it today and licensing Parade Judges through a Parade Judges Commission. This Commission was disbanded in 1978 and served as the blue print for the all discipline Judges Commission.

The Bi-Centennial Costume Class was added just for the 1976 high point season to highlight costumes that would have been appropriate to the revolutionary era. However, other classes were added on a permanent basis as the years went by: Future Horseman, Charro/Charra Mounted Group, Junior Equestrian, Fancy Parade Horse, Plain Western, Family Group, Novelty Mounted Group, Authentic Novelty, Miniature Horse or Mule Vehicle, Vaquero and Miniature Horse or Mule Vehicle Group. The most recent class added was the Mule Class which is in “pilot class” status from 2015 through 2017.

The 1981 high point year brought unprecedented surprises with three ties and a “trifecta”

- Indian Lady: Bev “Kamiah” Baxter and Crystal Pascale tied for Champion
- Sidesaddle: Janet Gehrke and Claire Allen tied for Champion
- Arabian Costume Lady: Ruth Hughes and Carol Grey tied for Reserve Champion
- Ray Berchtold won the Working Western Man Senior High Point Champion, Working Western Man Senior Champion (for the day’s parade) and Overall High Point Champion.

In 1976 the Bob McMackin Perpetual Trophy was first awarded to memorialize R. L. “Bob” McMackin. Bob rode in Silver Mounted Man and was very active as a parader and in other areas
of CSHA as well. Sadly, he died on his way to a CSHA meeting that year. The first award was made to Maria Bayon. In 1981 the award was expanded in order to honor anyone who worked for the betterment of the Program rather than just actual riders. That year the award was made to the Scheurer Family, Charlie, Helen and Michelle.

Lottie Miles (wife of Judge Paul Miles) honored juniors in a practical fashion by awarding $100 bill to the junior at the State Parade who she felt best exemplified the ideals of sportsmanship and participation. Upon her death, Mike Stigers and Steve Herrera established the formal Paul & Lottie Miles Memorial Award for junior participants in the Parade Program. The first winner of the Paul & Lottie Miles award in this format was Dori Ann Girard. In 2013 or 2014, the selection process for this award was expanded to include nominations from the State President and Vice Presidents, as well as all judges, and extended to include all juniors in the Program.

The Helen H. Scheurer Award memorialized a grand lady of CSHA and the Parade Program and honored the high point junior participant in the Program from 1983 to its retirement in 2008. The first winner was Dori Ann Girard. The trophy was retired after 2008 and replaced by the Hank & Alice CSHA Parade Junior High Point Perpetual Award sponsored by Alice Lawellin in memory of her husband, Hank.

Bonnie Standley and Michelle Scheurer established the “best of the best” award for the State Parade and in 1991 the first Scheurer-Standley Sweepstake Award was presented by the CSHA judges to Christine Standley-Kiefer.

In 1984 a Horse of the Year award was made to Hodgie Aquarian (Silver Mounted and Parade Horse – Buzz Bond). However, it was not until 2009 that this category was formalized with the creation of the “Dino” Horse Award in memory of Peggy Narducci’s gallant parade horse. The first Dino Horse Award was made in 2009 to Ms Grand Illusion.

While in the “informal award” category, the Go-Fer Award honored the “unsung” hero whose bag of tricks included locating a pre-judging area in a strange town before GPS and Map Quest, applying hoof black only to the hoof, repairing assorted “malfunctions” and generally ensuring that “their parader” was turned out in style and on time for pre-judging. The first award was made in 1981 to Ed Aguadro who “go-ferred” not only for his wife Jackie but his cousin as well. In subsequent years this award went to Roxanne Grubb and Bob Kmieciak.

Two other informal awards were given out in 1981….Eunice Graham was named “Parade Grandma” of the year as she had at least 3 grandchildren at any given parade that year and Jason was named the “Best Baby Sitter” because this “white unicorn”, belonging to Dana Strauss, was most often found quietly following Rich Mars Supreme (Parade Horse) around after pre-judging with Dana asleep on his back.

In the 1980s the Parader’s Grant was established by the Parade Program. Peggy and Harry Narducci were the guiding force behind the establishment of this grant awarded yearly to a handicapped riding program and managed the grant for the Parade Program.

Photo Legend
1. Pam McLain – Spanish Lady 1972
3. Emmett de la Fosse – Fancy Dressed Western Man 1970
4. Candy Graham – Fancy Dressed Western Lady circa 2010
5. Phyllis Traylor – Working Wester Lady 1974
6. Claudio Arroyo – Charro circa 2013
8. Alameda Sheriff’s Posse 2006
11. Merced County Sheriff’s Posse 2014 (partial shot of the group)
Photo 1 and 2
Photo 3 and 4

Photo 5 & 6
RANCH VERSATILITY

While at a horse show once in the late 1980s, a rider was asked what her mare “did”. Her reply of “Pleasure, Eq and she’s better at Western riding than I am and we’d do Trail pretty good if I could just hold onto the gate” truly shocked the other competitor. Sadly, the equine world seemed to have moved away from that “all-around” horse who was able to do a great many things while still doing them all pretty well.

Ranch Versatility showcases that horse who can do many things. A great deal of interest was generated in Ranch Versatility beginning around 2002 and many Western horse shows began offering Ranch Pleasure classes and classes reminiscent of the Dry Working Cow Horse Class of the past. Around 2012 Jim Hendrickson spearheaded the introduction of Ranch Versatility to CSHA and it was accepted as a pilot program. The Program is designed to fit within an existing horse show or be offered as a “stand alone” horse show.

In order to help get the Program going quickly, the Judges Commission established a “grandfather clause” criteria and sponsored a clinic to permit qualified judges to be licensed. Eleven judges were initially licensed for the Program.

Pilot Program status officially ended in 2015. Although several Regions were conducting events and a number of horse show managers were including classes within their Western shows, actual Region competition had not occurred as required by CSHA rules. Therefore, the Council of Members extended Pilot Program status for Ranch Versatility into 2018.
Old issues of The Horseman newsletter feature many references to various rodeo, horse show and even member club queens in the early years, so it is a little surprising that the first reference to a queen for CSHA was not found until a 1955, issue. The Executive Committee apparently approved an associate member (commercial) drive with each new associate membership received.
generating a vote for the queen candidate. First the votes would go toward the candidates for queen at a club level and then all votes would transfer to the winning club queen as she worked toward being declared Region Queen. The Region Queens would then compete to become the State Queen who would reign during the convention/annual horse show. Candidates had to be 18 years or older and a member or the wife or daughter of a member. This was a fund raising idea with a rebate going back to the clubs for each associate member. To date we have not found any reference as to whether or not the program ever got off the ground.

In 1970, CSHA members felt the need for a program which would provide a youth representative for CSHA and help young ladies learn the ways and traditions of pageants as a next step to a state or national level of horse and rodeo event related titles. Barbara Bolund, who was considered by many to be one of the classiest lady in CSHA, stepped forward and took charge of what became known as the Queen Program. Barbara wanted people to respect and look to the CSHA Queen and her court as an example so no one was surprised when very high standards were established for the competition.

The first competition was held for young ladies age 14 through 17 and Barbara Naranga of Lafayette (Region 5) was crowned the 1975 CSHA Queen. Competitors were required to wear formal length gowns in white with “modest” necklines & sleeves, as well as conservative formal riding attire. Things loosened up in the 1980s when the gown color palette was extended to pastels. Today the focus is on “age appropriate” attire allowing more individuality.

Under Chair Celia Mello the rules were expanded in 1976: CSHA membership was required; The contestant needed to live in the Region she was representing; A chaperone was required for each contestant throughout the competition; Each reigning Region Queen and her princesses, if not competing the next year, were required to attend the next year’s competition to participate in crowning ceremonies.

The Program evolved over the years and in 1994 the title “Queen” was retired and “Miss CSHA” was adopted. In 1995 the Program was expanded and Dustin Whitman of Region 4 was named the first State Ambassador. In 1997, the Junior Miss and Junior Ambassador categories were added with Tracy Wheelock (Region 4) and Stewart McVail (Region 11) winning the titles. The “Little Program” was established in 2006 with Tula Urban (Region 6) and Joey Gadd (Region 6) winning the titles. Scholarships were added to the Program for the senior and junior age categories with we believe the first awards made in 1988.

The senior State titles may only be held once. In late 1987 CSHA realized that only Region 4 had a qualified candidate for the State Competition. The Region 4 Queen chose not to accept the crown, as she would still be eligible to compete the following year. Since the 1986 CSHA Queen would still be within the age limit the following year, the Executive Committee prolonged the reign of Yvette Baranoff (Region 5), to include 1988. In 2012 Miss CSHA Courtney Allen won the CSHA title but later signed a rodeo contract that prohibited her from representing another association. She surrendered her title and Bobbi Jo Criner, became Miss CSHA.

The Royalty Program continues to change with the times witnessing a major format change in 2016. While Regions are still encouraged to conduct Region Royalty competitions, State Royalty will be selected based on an open style state-level competition. However, in 2016 there were no applicants so a State competition was not held.

The participation level of CSHA Royalty at events has varied over the years. State Chair Linda Jacobsen was among the early chairs who encouraged all Royalty to be more visible in their
representation of CSHA including taking them to parades as a group rather than a single rider. State Chair Suzan Cunningham entered Royalty in the High Point Program’s Novelty Mounted Group Class where they have won several championships and awards including the 2011 Hank & Alice Junior High Point Award and the 2014 Paul & Lottie Miles Junior Perpetual Award.

A common theme in talking with past Royalty is the opportunities for growth and education they experienced during their reign, as well as an opportunity to increase their equestrian skills. Check out the Bits & Pieces chapter to find out what has happened to some of our Royalty.

Photo Legend

1. 1989 CSHA Queen Cynthia Travis (Reg 10) and President Steve Herrera prior to entering the Cow Palace
2. Newly crowned 1984 CSHA Queen Heather Edwards (Reg 5) and President Larry Read
3. 1987 & 1988 CSHA Queen Yvette Baranoff (Reg 5)
4. L-R 1978 State Royalty Court 2nd Princess (Reg 15) Kathy Copley, Miss CSHA Queen (Reg 1) Suzie Bigon, 1st Princess Cathy Berbena (Reg 3)
5. Princess Laura Boese (Reg 4) presenting at 1992 SOC – Laura went onto to become 1994 Miss CSHA
6. 2012 Little Miss CSHA Samantha Fox (Reg 4)
7. 1997 State Ambassador Caleb Martin (Reg 2)
8. 2015 Little Miss (Reg 18) Sidney Doran
9. 2016 Junior Miss Mia Terry (Reg 5)
10. 2005 Miss CSHA Christine “Cobbie” Jones (Reg 6)
11. 2005 State Ambassador Cameron Uhlir (Reg 5)
12. 2014 – Miss CSHA McKensey Middleton (Reg 4), State Ambassador Phillip McCabe (Reg 5), State Chair Suzan Cunningham
13. 2004 State Royalty Court
14. 2013 Miss CSHA Katie Cook (Reg 4)
15. 2006 Miss CSHA Brittany Slatton (Reg 10)
16. 2010 Miss CSHA Bobbi Jo Criner
17. 2006 State Ambassador Matt Johnston (Reg 5)
18. 2008 State Ambassador Sean Daley (Reg 4) Junior Miss CSHA Jillian Van Tassel (Reg 4)
19. 2011 Junior Miss CSHA Ariel Spotswood (Reg 6)
20. 1993 CSHA Queen Emily Petersen (Reg 13)
21. 2012 State Ambassador Samuel Cunningham (Reg 4)
22. Miss CSHA 2010 Tracy Hinson (Reg 6)
23. October 2012 Competition – outgoing Royalty court with competing Region Royalty
24. 1996 Miss CSHA Allison Harvey (Reg 5) with “chaperones”
25. 1992 CSHA Queen Marina Foss (Reg 4)
26. L-R 2015 Junior Miss CSHA (2013 Little Miss) Mary Homicz (Reg 18), 2016 Miss CSHA Kate Sorel, 201 Miss CSHA Haile Margarite (Reg 4)

Royalty Photo Legend (cont)

27. 2011 Miss CSHA Alissa Danford (Reg 6) with President Jim Hendrickson in Norco
28. Circa late 1970s Queen competitors at Santa Rosa
29. 2003 Miss CSHA Amanda Jacobsen (Reg 19)
30. 2000 Miss CSHA Jennifer Gage (Reg 2)
31. 1997 Miss CSHA Brianna Contreras (Reg 3)
32. 1999 Miss CSHA Aleesha Fecher (Reg 18)
33. 1993 Queen competitors
34. Circa 1980 Queen competitors
35. 1985 CSHA Queen Jolene Lambert (Reg 10)
36. 2007 Junior Miss CSHA Jordenne Burns (Reg 6)
37. 2000 Junior Miss CSHA Shelby Kappelin (Reg 3)
38. 1986 CSHA Queen Diana Sanders (Reg 4)
Photo 1 and 2 Photo 3 and 4
Photo 14, 15 and 16
Photo 32 and 33

Photo 34, 35 and 36