

Marin Horse Council

2012 FALL EQUINOX NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 112

Marin Horse Council | 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd. | Novato, CA 94949 | 415.259.5783 | www.MarinHorseCouncil.org

From the Saddle

The preservation of equestrian trails is paramount to supporting a healthy equine population in Marin. Measure A will contribute \$6.5 million annually to support County Parks and Open Space. Please be sure to read the comprehensive article (on pages 6 - 7) written by Delos Putz, a long standing member of the MHC with a keen sense of the political issues facing our community. His opinions have been well researched and conclusions thoroughly weighed. Earlier on we were engaged in an active discussion on how the money raised from this sales tax should be used; however now that that issue is behind us, it's time to shift our energy to full support of Measure A and our Open Space network. Any other path could work against the health and well being of equestrian influence in the future. Please join the Horse Council in supporting Measure A by going to www.yesmarinparkspenspace.com. There you can sign up to receive Measure A news, endorse it and share it with your community."

Whether astride your horse, cleaning stalls or just going about your normal day; as you find your self pondering the political morass we face this November, try to remember to calendar the MHC's Fall ride. We will be riding the Marin Headlands on Oct. 14th and taking in all of those beautiful unobstructed views of the Bay Area from the Bobcat trail along Wolf Back Ridge. It's a stunning ride on a fall day when the air is clear and crisp. You often have an unobstructed view of the Pacific Ocean, Mt. Diablo, Mt. Tam, the Oakland Hills, San Francisco, Hawaii, and the entire bay as well as the northern hills of Sonoma County (just kidding about Hawaii). The ride typically takes 2+ hours and be sure that your horse is ready for a steep hill or two on multi-use trails. Lunch will be served after the ride so bring your appetite and a friend who is interested in joining Council!

As we gather for our Fall ride I hope you will not only come for the beautiful vistas and the joy of riding with others, but that you may also come with ideas for next year's Horse Course. The MHC is always looking for ways to serve our equestrian community and one of the ways we feel we contribute best is to offer a diverse forum of just about anything horse related. We would love to hear from you about what you feel you would like to learn about at our next symposium. Please take a moment to seek me out to discuss how the MHC can work to improve your knowledge to better serve your horse.

Happy Trails - Monte Kruger | *President, MHC*

OCTOBER 14: MHC FALL RIDE & BBQ



Please RSVP and join us for spectacular views & delicious BBQ at Presidio Riding Club!

IN THIS ISSUE

FROM THE SADDLE

President's message 1

OUT ON THE TRAIL

Cantering Through Ireland . 2

Pt. Reyes Challenge 2

John Muir Trail 3-4

NEWS & UPDATES

Bhutan Trip 5

Morgan Horse Ranch . 5-6

Equine Coronavirus 6

Measure A 6-7

AT THE BARN

In Memory of Danny . . . 8

Sleepy Hollow 9

A Bit of Advice . . . 10-11

Horse Shows & Events . . 11

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Monte Kruger, *President*

Susan Allison, *Vice President*

Membership, Web Site

Lauren Terk, *Secretary*

Events, Eq Evac

Rick Holland, *Gov't Affairs*

Curt Kruger, *Trail Safety*

Mike Willin, *Trail Rides*

Jessica Lashbrook,

Eq Evac, Membership

Karine Landers,

Web Site, Newsletter

Constanza Perry,

Volunteer Coordinator, Web Site

Laura Wais, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Pat Duffy, *Youth Involvement*

ADVISORS

Connie Berto

Joel Bartlett

Homer Osgood

Katey Rizzo, *MHC Treasurer*

Marina Eisenzimmer

Cindy Machado

NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Marina Eisenzimmer, *Editor*

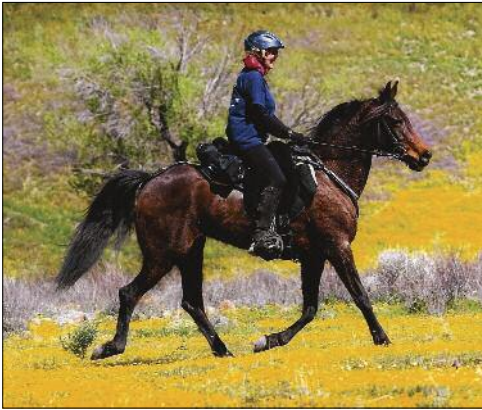
eisenzimmer@hotmail.com

Karen Johnson

Rena Coghill

Carol Whitmire





Anne Sands on Bella.

Point Reyes Trails Challenge

Our Point Reyes Trails Challenge is doing well, and the equestrian community is having a good time with it. So far we have raised \$81,805 of our \$100,000 goal. And equestrian Anne Sands is our #1 fundraiser for the Challenge, having raised \$2,677 toward her \$5,000 goal! This program has really helped open the door for Point Reyes National Seashore Association to develop stronger relationships with the horse people who actively use the park. And we are grateful to the Marin Horse Council for helping to promote the program by participating in our kick off event by tabling, through the MHC newsletter, and by reaching out to PRNSA. Thank you to all who have worked to make this a success!

- Deb Callahan, Executive Director
Point Reyes National Seashore Assn



Park Phone Numbers

MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT:
Mike Swezy - 945-1190

MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE:
Matt Sagues--507-2686

PT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE: 464-5137

SAMUEL TAYLOR STATE PARK: 488-9897



Cantering Through Ireland

My friend Brandy came up with another one of her "great" ideas a few months back and suggested my husband and I sign up for a horseback riding trip in Ireland. Brandy and I have known each other for 20 some years and we are each painfully aware of our "horse challenges." We both love horses to death but have also been deathly afraid of them. We never had the opportunity to be around horses in our youth and actually only started riding in our 50s after retirement. So six months after I passed on the idea, I found myself on a plane to Ireland. Brandy can be very persuasive.

The company that we booked through, Activeriding.com, provided us with all the information we needed for the trip. Stacey Adams, our contact person, was so thorough that we knew exactly what to expect from wardrobe to horses as she had been on the exact same trip several times and found it to be one of her favorite rides. Our ride, The Galway and Clare Inn to Inn Ride, is a progressive ride that takes you through the forests of the Slieve Aughty mountains, rural farming land with incredible rock walls, fields of heather, bogs, across the Shannon River, through the Burren National Park, to Galway Bay, by the cliffs of Moher, and ending at the Atlantic with beautiful views of the Aran Islands and the Connemara Mountains. The horses we rode were assigned to us based on our height, weight, and expertise – or the lack thereof – and were either an Irish Sport horse or an Irish Cob.

Although Stacey categorized this ride as "moderate," she did say we needed to be able to trot for 10 minutes, canter, and be able to control our horses with confidence on the trail. My horse Oliver, an Irish Cob, was obviously in charge and took me on the most memorable adventure of my life. We cantered really fast through pine tree forests, turf fields, and even in a shallow lake! He never missed a beat and I felt really safe the whole time. I trusted him, really trusted him, and for the first time ever I wasn't afraid! Every day was a perfect mix of scenery, history, walk, trot and canter.

I can't say enough about how well organized this trip was and our hosts, Nicola and Bertie, made everything seem so effortless. Our group of 8 riders was wonderful and we shared many, many laughs both on the trail and in the pubs. Our guides, Kiki and Caroline, were extremely safety conscious for both riders and horses. Every day before we mounted, a farrier checked all the horses. The Irish love, love, love their horses and it shows. I could go on and on about the beautiful people we met and the delicious food we ate but, for me, the highlight of this trip was the sense of accomplishment I felt at the end and, more importantly, the thrill of the ride. I'd do it again in a heartbeat; thank you Brandy!!!!

- Bonnie Perry

{continued on page 3}

John Muir Trail Adventure

After several months of planning, training and acquiring the necessary gear, on July 26, early in the morning, my son, Vasco (12 years old), our 3 horses and I finally left Mill Valley to start our riding adventure. We were going to ride half of the John Muir Trail from north to south, starting at Tuolumne Meadow in Yosemite Park to Lake Edison. Vasco was riding his 12 years old Arabian mare, Bandita; I was on my trusted 13 years old Russian Orlov, Tempest; and Jolly Bazoom, a seven year old off-the-track Thoroughbred, was our pack horse.

Back in April we attended the annual rendezvous of the Backcountry Horseman of America in Chico, Ca. There we learned a lot about packing gear and how to use it, basics knots, basic emergency responses on the trail, grazing in the high Sierra, predators, park rules and regulations, leather tooling, and hand-on-hand sawing. It was a great place to learn and to meet people who are the real pros and who are very willing to share their knowledge.

We arrived at Tuolumne Meadow in the afternoon of July 26, parked our rig on the side of the road, (there are no dedicated parking lots) and started to tack our horses.

Horses tacked up and ready, Wilderness Permit in my pocket, we sent our first "Find Me Spot" satellite message with our location to my wife, Maryse, and my daughter, Camelia, and off we went. The first couple of miles brought us to the beginning of the John Muir Trail,

We then rode in beautiful Lyell Canyon on a mostly flat, very comfortable, compacted dirt trail along Lyell Creek, with high peaks on all sides of the canyon. There are plenty of green meadows with an abundance of food and water for the horses. After spotting a suitable campsite, with grazing close to water and some trees, we set up camp and got ready for our first night in the wilderness.

I was a little worried about the horses. I planned to side hobble my mare, hang a bell on the halter of the gelding and let them loose to enjoy the abundant grazing, as our horses are used to having freedom of movement in open space. But I kept asking myself, "Will they stay around here? What about if a bear shows up? Will they run back all the way to Mill Valley or disappear in the canyon?"

I finally fell asleep and during the night I heard the sound of the bell sometimes far away, and sometimes right next to the tent.

I woke up at the very first light of the day. The tent and all our gear was covered by a thin layer of ice, and to my great joy, I could see the horses grazing in the meadow!

The first morning we had an early start. Ahead of us was Donohue Pass, well above 11,000 feet of altitude. I knew that it would take some time to arrive on the other side of the mountain, but I was not aware of how challenging it would be.

We rode to the end of Lyell Canyon, on the beautiful flat trail along green meadows and clear water creeks populated by rainbow trout. Then the trail started to ascend the mountain, and the terrain became very rocky and steep with switchback after switchback, and lots of steps carved into the rock. The trail was barely wide enough to pass even a hiker, and absolutely no room for mistakes. It is extremely technical; I had to really watch every step. Fortunately our horses are barefoot so they had a good grip on the rocks, especially on those frequent granite slabs that you cross on 100 feet of traverse. But they never missed a step. *{continued on page 4}*

Did You Know?



Have you ever wondered what the stakes with the red or pink cloth on the trail mean? It is to warn you of nearby yellow jacket/ wasp nests. Keep your distance and move along!

2013 Horse Course

The Marin Horse Council Board of Directors will be planning our next Horse Course, held in the spring. If you have some topics you would like discussed or can recommend speakers contact Marina Eisenzimmer: eisenzimmer@hotmail.com

Horse Humor

Sure horses buck, but often it means they are feeling good. You should be happy for them.

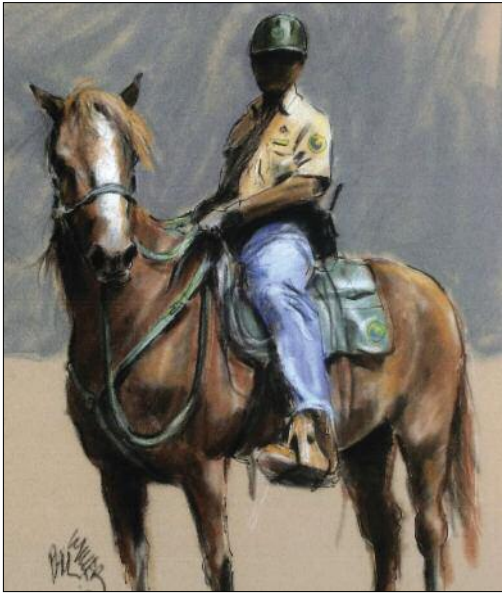
'Longing': Taking the edge off a horse before riding by circling him until you fall down dizzy.

Pee: What the late cowboy's horse stopped to do just before the Indians attacked.

Cowboy legend says Indians bred the sometimes stubborn Appaloosa so the warriors would arrive at battle fighting mad. - "Hold Your Horses", Bonnie Timmons, 2003



OUT ON THE TRAIL



Draw the Morgan Horses of Pt. Reyes National Seashore

PAUL MILLER | SATURDAY, OCTOBER 13
9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

Join expert artist and horse enthusiast Paul Miller with instruction in sketching and drawing the horses at the Point Reyes National Seashore Morgan Horse Ranch. The class will include a short lecture about the ranch history, about Morgan Horses and about the basics of drawing almost anything quickly. Students will be shown simple techniques of creating horses on paper that are in proportion, convincingly rendered, and that look animate. Weather permitting most of the drawing will be outdoors around the Morgan Horse Ranch pastures and if available, visitors' horses at the horse trailer staging area at the head of Bear Valley Trail. This class is open to all levels. For more information contact David Seymes 415 663 1200 x373 or davids@ptreyes.org.



Leaving Lake Virginia after a peaceful night at 10,300 feet.

As we climbed up the trail got even more challenging: there were long sections of large, loose rocks; the trail was narrow, and on one side were very deep cliffs. We stopped many times and walked our horses. We enjoyed the panoramas and the different environment – no more trees, thin air, snow on some of the peaks and Lyell Glacier.

I did ask myself a couple of times if it was a good idea to be doing what were doing. I could see that was a real adventure with the potential that we could have some serious accident and very little help. Was I irresponsible for taking my 12 years old son with me?

One step at the time we arrived at the top of Donohue Pass, which also delineated the boundary of Yosemite National Park and Ansel Adams Wilderness area. We started our descent in the only section of the JMT that is east of the Sierra Crest, from then on the trail stays between 9 and 10,000 feet.

Our mares did all of the trip barefoot and bitless; Bazoomm wore Easyboots Glove the last 20+ miles, including climbing Silver Pass. Due to a failure of the tack, my son ended up riding bareback.

After the second day in the trip, I never asked myself again the question if this trip was a good choice or not. We enjoyed every minute. We took every challenge one step at a time and I had the best companion and partner that I could ask for on this adventure, my son Vasco .

For him this has been an incredible experience. He overcame several fears that he had at the beginning of the trip. With his surefooted, bombproof Arabian mare, Bandita, he was in the lead the majority of the time and he finished the adventure with a great sense of accomplishment. We even slowed down our arrival in order to enjoy one more night at high altitude. We camped at Lake Squaw just under 10,000' and fell asleep in the meadow under an incredibly bright full moon!

After 10 days on the trail passing through beautiful forests, high peaks, blue lakes and cold creeks, and witnessing the vast devastation of last winter's hurricane in the Inyo National Forest, where thousands of gigantic trees are laying on the ground, we arrived at our destination: the High Sierra Packing Station at Lake Edison.

We spent a few days as "camping guests "at the High Sierra Packing Station, the owners and all the crew there are terrific people and made us feel very welcome. They invited us around the fire to listen to cowboys stories. Finally it was time to leave. We retrieved our truck and trailer and started to work our way home.

- Roberto Varriale

Bhutan Trip

My husband (a M.D.) and I both started doing international medical work during med school/vet school while at UC Davis. For three summers I went to Mongolia to work with horses and vets – truly a horse-centered country! I'll never forget camping for a week at a time in a valley with hundreds of traditional gers (yurts) scattered around, and literally thousands and thousands of horses. It was also quite an experience during the course of one summer to spend a month in Mongolia, then work in the treatment area at the 100 mile Tevis endurance ride near Lake Tahoe, then head to the U.S. east coast to do FEI veterinary training on Olympic-level sporthorses. That summer of incredibly contrasting experiences taught me a lot, and certainly cemented for me how privileged we are to have so many educational and medical resources and options here – not to be taken for granted! So it is with this in mind that my husband and I now try to spend time every year doing medical volunteer work with a focus on teaching and mentoring.

For the past several years, we've traveled to Bhutan with Health Volunteers Overseas (HVO). This organization's primary focus is continuing education of doctors and nurses. HVO recently started an emergency medicine training program in the main emergency department in the capital of Thimphu. This serves as the country's main referral hospital for the 600,000+ people who live in this rugged and remote area of the Himalayas. The doctors who work in the "Casualty Ward," as the ER is called there, staff it after completing an internship rather than the usual several-year residency, which means they've had little opportunity for formal clinical training after medical school. Jared teaches the doctors and nurses as they see the cases that come in – and it is an interesting variety of things we don't see often here! Arrow wounds, bull gorings, bear attacks, mass casualty tractor accidents, mushroom poisoning, a lot of TB, scrub typhus, etc. And then they have the "usual" ER cases that are similar to those in the US (but no meth ODs!).

In Bhutan, in contrast to what I experienced in Mongolia with its very animal-centered culture, there are very few veterinarians. Only a couple of them work clinically with animals, while the rest have civil service desk jobs. Most of the health care of animals in Bhutan is done by owners using traditional remedies and little knowledge of germ theory; and by animal husbandry workers who have 1-3 years of college-level schooling, but very little hands-on or clinical training. There is also no formal continuing education program to bring in outside knowledge and mentoring, such as exists in the human medical realm with groups like HVO. So initially my task was simply to travel around the country and meet the people "in the trenches" of animal care, and find out what their needs were.

Almost unanimously there is a wish for practical textbooks and clinical training amongst the animal husbandry workers and students. Fortunately, the Bhutanese learn English as their language of education, which has vastly simplified communication, teaching and obtaining educational materials. This spring I hauled over and distributed the most practical textbook I could find for the level of veterinary medicine being practiced in Bhutan – 80 pounds of "Where There Is No Animal Doctor," which is geared to animal husbandry workers who have little formal veterinary medical training and few resources. I also gave seminars and met with students at the country's animal husbandry college. While I did see a few sick or injured animals, my main goal was teaching, which we are still working on being able to bring to a clinical rather than formal classroom setting. The gap between what is learned in the classroom and what is seen clinically is tremendous – really they have a very, very difficult job!

Horses in Bhutan are used primarily as packhorses. They are normally only ridden for formal occasions, generally by members of the Royal Family. *{continued on page 6}*

Point Reyes Morgan Horse Ranch

BACKSTORY: Philip Straub, whom assumed the management position at the Morgan Horse Ranch on July 1st started riding from around age 10 on a few ranches in Petaluma. As a teenager, Philip volunteered at Giant Steps Therapeutic Equestrian Center. While serving our country in the Marine Corps he spent some of his free time riding bulls in rodeo's around the east coast and winning a few awards along the way. Like many of us, he has had his fair share of bumps, bruises and broken bones.

THE PLAN: Philip would like to add younger Morgan horses to the ranch, as the older ones are nearing retirement and are less capable of patrolling long distances. Currently there are eight, the youngest are 13 years old and range into the mid 30's. With more horses with less years on them, the patrols could be extended to longer distances and the frequency of these patrols increased. Any Morgan horse donations/suggestions would be appreciated! Philip is also looking to expand on his volunteer base with younger members, as the current volunteer staff is getting older and will be in need of enthusiastic replacements in the future.

SIDE NOTE: If you have time to ride some beautiful Morgans, call Philip at 415-464-5169. If you are at the Bear Valley trail-head, walk up to the barn and visit Philip to learn more about the MHR program, and play with the "kids."

- Marina Eisenzimmer



Equine Coronavirus

EMERGING OUTBREAKS OF EQUINE CORONAVIRUS & BIOSECURITY PROTOCOLS - Dr. Nicola Pusterla

There have been two recent "outbreaks" of coronavirus (ECoV) in Calif that prompted the seminar put on at Artaurus Vet clinic on 9/13/12. There have been no new outbreaks since early in September.

Coronavirus is a new disease and there is NO vaccine to prevent it. Basically, it presents with loss of appetite, lethargy, fever, and often diarrhea. The definitive test for ECoV is PCR fecal testing. The good news is that the disease is self limiting in most adult horses, which means they'll be OK if treated properly, but this disease is HIGHLY contagious and can lead to death if not treated – there have been 5 deaths in 200 cases noted. The horse usually dies of gastrointestinal complications, but septicemia and neurological disorders have also caused deaths.

Boarding facilities are a prime area for outbreaks because of their high density and contact with horses that travel.

Dr. Pusterla's "Take Home Message" was:

- several aspects of ECoV infection are unknown
- ECoV is highly contagious
- It's a self-limiting disease characterized by fever, depression, anorexia, and possibly diarrhea
- Diagnosis is via fecal PCR test
- *Occasional fatalities occur
- There are no preventive measures except to maintain optimal overall health of your horse and observe the principles of Biosecurity

The Principles of Biosecurity are those of healthy, clean living and knowing your horse:

- Monitor your horse every day for any signs of infection – Look for changes in the manure, a runny nose, loss of appetite, take a temperature if you suspect something.
- If a horse appears to be infected, have a plan to isolate the horse and find out if any contagious process may be happening
- Keep your barn or stall area as clean as possible
- Clean your grooming supplies and tack clean – disinfect them as needed

{continued on page 7}

And often a few horses are kept at monasteries for Buddhist religious ceremonies. The main veterinary issues I have seen are related to lack of preventive care (tetanus, infectious diseases, foot problems, parasites, etc.), lack of appropriate wound care and treatment, and an unusual and severe chronic lung disease caused by a poisonous plant.



One line photo caption.

Our goal is to continue making trips to teach and mentor, and bring practical educational and reference materials as needed. In the veterinary and horse realm, this is starting from the ground up, as there is no formal program in place.

I'd encourage all of you to be involved with and support a group that does well-thought-out teaching and training in areas of the world that are "underprivileged." We are so blessed here, with so many resources! It will make you grateful for what you have, and you will receive and learn as much, if not more, than you give.

If you want to support our project, you can donate through the following link and all proceeds will go to buying more "Where There Is No Animal Doctor" texts to help those who help the animals in Bhutan:

<http://www.firstgiving.com/fundraiser/jared-hubbell/drs-jared-hubbell-katherine-szabo-bhutan-2012>

Here is a link to a number of "equitarian" projects through the American Association of Equine Practitioners: http://www.aep.org/equitarian_outreach.htm - Katherine Szabo, DVM

Preserving Our Open Spaces, Parks and Farms

On November 6, Marin voters will be asked to approve Measure A – a modest (¼ cent) increase in the sales tax for nine years to help preserve Marin's open space preserves, parks and farms. The ballot measure, approved unanimously by the Board of Supervisors, is supported by a broad coalition of environmental, conservation, community and user groups, led by the Marin Conservation League and including the Marin Horse Council. If Measure A passes (2/3 vote required), it will generate approximately \$10 million a year. The annual cost to the average Marin resident would be less than \$37. The revenue would be divided among three programs:

- **65% (\$6.5 million a year) would go to Marin County Parks** to restore natural resources, maintain county parks and open space preserves, restore and improve public access and protect natural lands. 80% (\$5.2 million a year) would go toward "taking care of what we have"; 20% (\$1.3 million a year) would be used for purchase of key properties and easements, by leveraging matching funds from public and private partners.
- **20% (\$2 million a year) would go to the Marin Agricultural Land Trust (MALT)** to save family farms and ranches through conservation easements purchased through a combination of public and private funding

{continued on page 7}

NEWS & UPDATES

- **15% (\$1.5 million a year) would go to Marin municipalities & special districts** to manage their parks, nature preserves and recreation programs, and to manage vegetation to reduce wildfire risk.

This package was designed to help meet urgent and important needs and to benefit everyone – environmentalists, conservationists, users and communities. A modest increase in the sales tax spreads the burden broadly, not only to residents of Marin but to visitors, many of whom come to Marin expressly to take advantage of our outstanding parks and open spaces. All of the money would be used locally. New funding of this magnitude is needed to make up for decades of neglect, largely attributable to the drastic reduction in county revenues from property taxes following the passage of Proposition 13 in 1978.

The Need

Marin County Parks manages approximately 20,000 acres, including 34 Open Space Preserves with 230 miles of public trails, four regional parks (Stafford Lake, Paradise Beach, McInnis, and McNears Beach) and a number of other facilities. The adoption of Proposition 13 in 1978 dramatically affected property tax collections and resulted in an immediate 56% reduction in the budget for Parks and Open Space. This shortfall has never been made up. Over time, MCP has slashed its budget, reduced staff, cut hours of operation and increased fees. The result has been an accumulation of deferred maintenance that will require an investment of some \$24 million just to catch up. An additional investment of \$18 million will be required to implement MCP's Strategic Plan, including the Vegetation Management Plan and the Road & Trail Management Plan.

MCP cannot be adequately staffed without major additional funding. The ratio of open space staff to acres of open space in Marin County is 1:1033. In the East Bay Regional Park District it is 1:267 – nearly 4 times as many as in Marin. The ratio of open space staff to miles of trails in Marin County is 1:16.3. In the Mid-Peninsula Regional Open Space District it is 1:4.6—3.5 times as many. Lack of Rangers in the open space preserves compromises user safety, resource protection and enforcement.

Why acquire additional open space?

While much land has already been protected, MCP's Strategic Plan has identified a number of key parcels that, if acquired, would ensure permanent protection of sensitive habitat, wildlife corridors, wetlands, community separators and enhance trail connectivity. If these properties are developed, they will be lost forever. The amount of money earmarked for this purpose is relatively small, but will enhance the County's ability to leverage contributions from state and federal sources, foundation grants and the public.

Why fund MALT?

Bob Berner, long-time Executive Director of MALT, puts it this way: "Our family farms are at the heart of what makes Marin an extraordinary place to live. But dramatic shortfalls in state funding for farmland conservation will make it more difficult for MALT to help families at risk of losing their farms. Measure A will help raise critical funds to protect family farms at risk of being lost, and subdivided and developed."

Is the sales tax already too high?

Many counties, including San Francisco, Santa Clara, Contra Costa, Alameda and San Mateo, have sales tax rates higher than Marin. Marin's current sales tax is 8%, 1% lower than it was in 2011 due to a state sales tax that expired on June 30, 2011. Even if the ¼ cent increase the state is seeking and Measure A both pass, the sales tax rate will be a half cent lower than it was in 2011.

- Delos Putz



Photo caption. Waiting for Duffy to send photo

- **Minimize shared equipment between horses**
- **Clean your trailer often**
- **Wash your hands often**
- **Keep abreast of all immunizations**

HOT TIP: There is a new (and more environmental) disinfectant called ACCEL (accelerated hydrogen peroxide) which is a one step cleaner, disinfectant and deodorizer. It's on the market now and also available from Artaurus Vet.

- Linda Albion



West Nile Update

Please talk to your vet about vaccination.

Five more cases of equine WNV were confirmed by the CDFA on September 17, 2012. Located in Calaveras, Kern and Shasta (3) counties all five horses were unvaccinated for WNV and one had to be euthanized.

Sixteen California horses have now been confirmed positive for WNV in 2012. Five of the positive horses, none of which were vaccinated, have been euthanized. That's a 31% fatality rate among confirmed cases. The confirmed positive horses are/were in Butte, Calaveras, Fresno (2), Glenn, Kern, Merced, Sacramento(2), San Joaquin (2), Shasta (3), Stanislaus and Yolo counties.

- From MHC Facebook Page



In Memory of Crazy Lazy Pardan

The farewell poem, under the photo on left, was written for Danny in September 2005. But Danny didn't die that September 2005; in fact, he recovered completely, and lived another 7 years until June 5, 2012 at the age of 37 years. Dawn was with him when he died. This is his story, and Dickson Ranch's tribute to him.

No one will ever know how hard it was to let Danny go, even at the age of 37. He was the last horse born and raised on the Dickson Ranch in Woodacre. He was born in April, 1975, when Dawn Ellen, his partner and best friend, was 6 years old. Dawn said they knew each other as if they were each other's shadow. He was named after Dawn's Uncle, Dan Dickson, but because he was slow to get up to nurse. The family named him Lazy Pardan.

Danny was a drab little colt – all brown – no “socks” or “blaze” or “diamond” – not a fancy hair on his body. Grace (Dickson) and Chuck Tolson just let him grow slowly and didn't put a lot of pressure on him. After he was under saddle, they told Dawn to take some lessons from the various trainers at Dickson Ranch. They didn't have any idea what they were going to do with this homely little horse they had given to Dawn. But one day, Dawn walked into the house and said she knew what Danny was going to do. “He loves to jump!” she announced. So she and Danny took some more lessons.

*Our friendship is so very deep
I know you will watch over me
while I sleep...
I will dream of you,
Wild and free,
Jumping over the moon,
Glowing from above.
With every night that falls,
I will see you in the shooting stars.
I know it's time to let you go...
Goodbye my dearest friend
CRAZY LAZY PARDAN
I love you with all my heart...*

- Written by Dawn Ellen, 9-12-05,
for the greatest Quarter Horse in the world.

Grace remembers having been so busy running Dickson Ranch that she hadn't seen Dawn and Danny work. But one day she went out to the arena to take a look... and Holy Cow! They jumped high and fast, like a barrel racer who just happened to be jumping! Danny was a 15.2 registered Quarter Horse; Quarter Horses don't jump as high as Thoroughbreds, but are faster. In jumping competition the two breeds generally jump in separate classes.

By the time he was 6, and Dawn 13, Danny was a champion jumper in the Quarter Horse division, and in the next years won 13 belt buckles at the Grand National Rodeo and Horse Show at the Cow Palace in San Francisco. Once they started showing, Danny and Dawn rarely lost, and working with trainer Margie McDonald, Danny was named All Around English Quarter Horse at the Grand National in 1989. When he wasn't in the show ring, Danny lived in a little pasture on the ranch. When it came time to show, Dawn would tell him where they were going, and, Grace relates, “I swear he would groom his own coat and polish his own shoes! He became a very handsome horse in the show arena.” In between shows, Danny was Dawn's best lesson horse, to which anyone who has been on the ranch in the last 37 years can testify.

In 1990, Dawn and Danny were invited to the World Championship Quarter Horse show in Oklahoma. But Dawn was pregnant that year, so she couldn't compete.

Notwithstanding the scare in 2005, Danny continued to live and work happily at Dickson Ranch until this past June. Dr. Bruce Daniels, his vet since his birth, visited him almost every day for weeks before his death, trying to build up his strength. But finally, the night of June 4th when Bruce came by to check him, Danny literally turned to Bruce and, in his own way, “said” it was time for him to leave. The next morning he died peacefully with his faithful partner Dawn by his side.

- Author? Grace Tolson & Carol Whitmire?

**Advertise in the Marin Horse Council newsletter! For more info
contact: eisenzimmer@hotmail.com**

Foxhunting in Sleepy Hollow

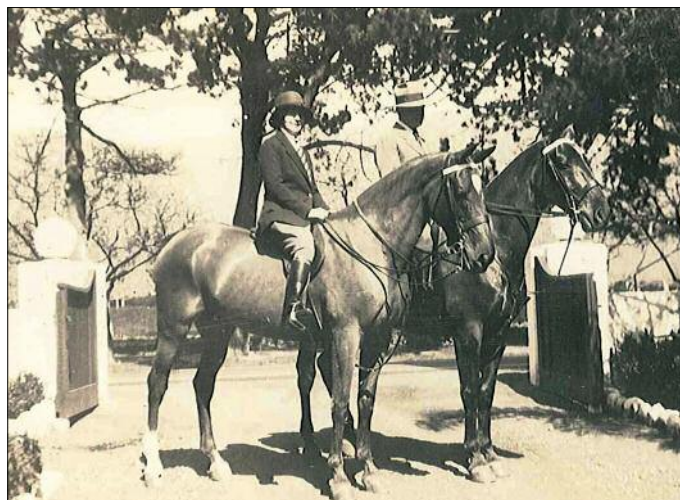
Last spring, Marin County lost a fine horsewoman, Louise Boyd. She and her husband, the late Hank Boyd, DVM, bred and trained fine Morgan horses at their Eco Hills ranch on North San Pedro Road, San Rafael. (My gelding, Eco Stardust, is one of their foals.) When I attended the memorial service at the ranch in June, their daughter Linda Boyd Smith surprised me by handing me a photo album. She said that there were some old pictures in it that might interest me as we have lived in Sleepy Hollow since 1958.

Did they ever! On the pages were photos and news items of the "Cross Country Riding Club" of Sleepy Hollow, opening with great fanfare on Sunday, May 14, 1939 and managed by Richard Dermody. Publicity cards spoke of "Twenty minutes from the Golden Gate...ten minutes from the Richmond Ferry...featuring special courses in equitation, polo, point-to-point racing, gymkhanas, paperchases, and a wide variety of other competitive events." In one picture, the entrance sign reads "The Cross-Country Riding Club...steeplechasing, polo, fox hunting, boarding, training, instruction...hunters, hacks, polo ponies for hire and for sale."

A newspaper item dated May 3, 1939, had this: "Riding to the 'Ounds: A new thrill for society jades will startle Marin County some bright morning next month. A red-coated trumpeter will blare the call for a picked group to ride in the first of a series of fox hunts in Sleepy Hollow. A pack of hounds is on the way from New Jersey. It all came about when Dick Dermody, boss of the stables, discovered red foxes lurking near the barns...so he's taken a lease on 10,000 acres. Fence and water jumps are being built." Photos of the era show low, adobe buildings, shiny, breedy-looking horses, and well-dressed riders. Whether any hunts were actually held, or how long the club existed, is not known from the album. Today there are over 650 homes in Sleepy Hollow, built on former pastures, and with horsekeeping allowed on larger lots.

The history of Sleepy Hollow goes back to 1839, when a huge Mexican land grant was given to Domingo Sais. The land underwent several leases and sales over the next century. In 1879, the land was bought by Angus Hotaling; his son Richard later built a beautiful mansion at the end of Butterfield Road. Huge parties with 600 guests were held there, with a roasted steer for dinner and martinis made in a cement mixer. In 1910, the first certified milk dairy in the west was founded in Sleepy Hollow. In 1930, an 18-hole golf course was installed in the Hollow. Dermody's stables probably were situated at what were the former dairy barns. Hotaling's (unoccupied) mansion burned in 1954. The foundations may still be seen as this parcel of over 560 acres is the site of present-day San Domenico School. The school's stables house over thirty fine horses and ponies, with lessons and small shows in their riding rings and rides over miles of adjacent trails.

It was a surprise to learn of this riding club and its ambitious plans. When we moved to the Hollow in 1958, the stables were run by Pat and Esther French. There were dozens of youngsters always underfoot or on horses, with lessons and shows. I rented their horses and rode the surrounding hills for years. The stables were eventually sold to Eichler, who razed them and built homes in the 1960's. In 1968, our growing family moved down the street to a house with enough land to keep my Morgan horses, and this is where we and our animals live today. Grey foxes and coyotes still roam the hills, but I never knew about foxhunting in Sleepy Hollow until Linda gave me the photo album! - Connie Berto



Join Us for the MHC Fall Ride & BBQ!

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2012
PRESIDIO RIDING CLUB | GGNRA**

9:00 AM: Registration, coffee & snacks.

9:30 AM: Ride departures begin.

BBQ Lunch: Served from 1pm 'til 2:00pm.

Ride magnificent trails with vistas of the Pacific Ocean, San Francisco and its Bay. Watch the seabirds soar and the waves crashing. Feel the sea breeze (under your helmet) and experience the spectacular scenery associated with the largest urban park in the world.

Additional entry forms are available online: www.marinhorsecouncil.com or by calling 415-259-5783 or Michael Willin at 415-488-1232.



Dear Murray

Dear Murray,

My person is always buying me stuff like saddle pads and blankets, when all I REALLY want her to buy me is treats! How do I make her understand?

- Treat Lover

Dear Treat Lover,

Humans can be a bit slow on the uptake, so you need to show them in a way that they can understand. **EAT EVERYTHING** your person buys you. If you can't eat it, rip it to pieces and make it **LOOK** like you have eaten it. Once you have ruined a couple of \$300 blankets and a nice leather halter or three, I guarantee you your person will stick to buying you stuff you are **SUPPOSED** to eat.

Murray now has his advice column online! Search for "Dear Murray" on facebook and "like" his page. You can get Dear Murray "murrchandise" here:

www.cafepress.com/JLWdesigns/8499502

- Jody Werner

A Bit of Advice

On my parent's ranch, well over 40 years ago, I was introduced to the use of the curb bit. I was admittedly, a very young boy, but the whole nature of putting this curved steel object into a horse's mouth, immediately sparked a lifelong interest. With the mentoring of my parents in its use, I was left with a profound impression of control and responsibility I have never forgotten.

Flash forward to today... I am still curious and ever seeking what makes a bit better or worse, with so many variables it is a fascinating aspect of riding. Every day I work with a horse, whether mine or a clients, I have the nagging question in my mind, is this bit working for this situation? Now, there are many authors who have touched upon the generalities of bits and their uses and a few who have written specifically about them. I am not intending to write in depth about bits but rather to ask you as the reader, do you have a real understanding of the bit in your horse's mouth and how it really affects your horse? Most I ask don't, in fact, many riders haven't the foggiest idea of the physical attributes that are involved, sometimes they don't know if it is fitted properly, if it may even be the right type, or worse they don't understand the many different types of bits and their applications. All too often, I find a new client with a horse that could use a better fit or a completely different bit and with a simple change, definite results happen, much to the surprise of the rider, with correct application the horse is happier and more responsive.

In order to educate ourselves and have knowledge, we first must ask questions... so let's ask ourselves have we spent any time really looking at our horses physical nature, does it have a narrow jaw, a tilted palate, how about just plain fat lips? I can go on but each one of these questions along with the type of riding you are involved, can all form a working relationship or dysfunctional one. As a trainer of horses, I always try the least invasive or softest bit to start, first fitting to the horses conformation and then by a generally accepted adjustment in the bridle. Now there are certain restrictions of types by rules in disciplines such as in dressage competition but at home we can explore different options to find the bit that "works". One of the most common mistakes I find is the lack of the rider's good use of aids and balance, which translate directly into the horse's demeanor and performance. More often than I care to mention, an individual or trainer opts for a stronger bit to gain control that could be attained simply by a more educated hands and seat.

Let's take that twisted wire gag snaffle out and put in a simple French link? "Oh, I won't be able to hold him back", "I'll never get the distance", "The horse is just to forward"... I have experienced those statements and more. I am certain that many "trainers" and aficionados are sure that more control is obtained by force than by balance, while it does achieve nearly the control sought after it brings about more complex problems that cannot be corrected with any satisfaction. I am all for having control over no control but it really warrants good insight of the issue. First start with the horse physically, as I mentioned before, does he need dental work? Maybe a broken tooth, perhaps a bit seat is needed (rounding of the leading edge of the lower molar), Does the bit fit properly (if it is gently pulled so that it is just pressing against the cheek there should only be 3/8 to 1/2 inch of the bit showing on the opposite side). If the bit is too wide it can create a "nut cracker" effect with a snaffle, causing the horse to toss its head every time you apply pressure, with a bar or curb bit it acts to pry the mouth open. Obviously these situations are "not" going to result in a good ride and often will sour a horse to anything its mouth, and I wouldn't blame them.

So what I like to do is start with the least invasive bit, say a plain snaffle or a French link, from there I decide where to go if that doesn't go {continued on page 11}

AT THE BARN

well enough. Bear in mind that most all horses started properly will go satisfactorily in a snaffle, there are those few who don't, but most will only require slight modifications. It is ok to experiment so long as you are aware of the proper fit and the action of each bit that you try. Remember anything with a shank increases sometimes two or three fold from your hand to their mouth so be careful. My next and most valuable advice is to ride in balance, think about carrying a bottle upright in the palm of your hand, you have to be under it all the time or it will fall, just like your horse has to carry you. If you ride too far ahead of the motion the horse is always speeding up to catch you, the opposite is also true until you are so far behind you are actually driving the horse forward.

In my lessons I stress to ride in balance with the motion, often I see people riding with no connection to the horse over a fence and then grabbing it on the other side when the horse lands, this is never good. It will teach your horse to run away after the fence, or creek or log and sets into play the idea that a stronger bit is needed, when all it would require is balance and connection. I will venture that most horses rigged in a strong bit could with diligent, patient, calm work, ease into a softer and softer bit. It really comes down to the riders own balance/skill level. It never hurts to seek a professional that works in a light frame, Beware the trainer that has every horse in some contraption, they are probably not schooled enough themselves to help you achieve a balanced ride.

So next time you ride a horse and they seem "too" strong, make a note to yourself to check the physical nature of the horse's mouth and jaw, the bit "fit", and check to see if your riding relaxed and in light connection. I can go on but you probably understand the concept.....

- Clayton Jackson

Horse Shows & Events

DICKSON RANCH

Contact Grace Tolson 415.488.0454

10/6 English/Western Schooling Show

HALLECK CREEK RANCH

Contact www.halleckcreekranch.org or call 415-662-2488

10/13 2 - 8 pm. Poker Ride & Chili Cookoff benefiting HCR, Novato Horsemen and Marin Mounted Sherriff's Posse. \$25 Live band, prize awards, silent auction at Novato Horsemens, family friendly.

10/27 9am - 3pm. Family friendly FREE Halloween Spooktacular & Open House. Great food, live band, costume contests and roping lessons.

11/16 6pm - 11pm. HCR Annual Fundraiser & Auction Honoring Buck Brannaman, Joel Bartlett Emcee. Fabulous food, live band & auction. VIP reception with Buck Brannaman & dinner \$275.00 per ticket. General reception & dinner \$125 per ticket. Rancho Nicasio, Nicasio.



Marin Horse Council Membership Application

- Adult \$25
 Junior/Senior \$15
 Family \$40
 Business \$50
 "Silver Buckle" \$50
 "Golden Horseshoe" \$100
 Life Member \$250
 Club/Organization \$40

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

email _____

Help MHC to better serve you -- tell us about yourself. The MHC never shares or sells its members' information.

Occupation _____ Affiliations _____

- Own a horse?** Yes No
Your interests: English Western Trail Riding Endurance Show Jumping Dressage
 Rodeo Eventing Driving Breeding Animal Welfare Other _____

MHC needs volunteers! Please indicate if you can help us with: Finance, Communication, Membership, Barn Liaisons,
 Government Affairs, Horse Course, Eq Evac, Events committee, Marin County Fair, Volunteer Co-coordinating

Your membership in the Marin Horse Council helps support the Council's many activities on behalf of Marin's equestrians and equines. Donations are also welcome. Fees and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thanks for joining! Mail your check to Marin Horse Council | 171 Bel Marin Keyes Blvd. | Novato, CA 94949-6183

9/12

Thank You!

The Marin Horse Council depends on the continued generous support of Marin's horse lovers. Thanks to all members, and in particular, thanks to those who join or renew at Lifetime, Golden Horseshoe, or Silver Buckle membership levels.

LIFETIME MEMBERS

AMBER CREEK FARM
JACK BARCEWSKI
JOEL BARTLETT
FRANK & CONNIE BERTO
KAREN PERCY
ANN BURKE
LISA CAPALDINI
GARY COHEN
VICKI ENGLER
CHALMERS
& PAYTON FITZPATRICK
RUTH GERSON
ANNE GLASSCOCK
VICTORIA ARQUELLO HARRIS
SANDY HAYES
PEGGY JOHNSON
LEVIN KINSEY
KARINE LANDERS
JESSICA LASHBROOK
VICKI LEEDS-CABALINE
NANCY MCCARTHY
BETH WHARTON MILFORD
GINA MUZINICH-MONYKO
RODNEY & CATHLEEN PECK
LINDA PFEIFER
RYAN PHELAN
MAUREEN PINTO
WILLOW REGNERY
DORIAN PARKINSON REILY
LAURA SCHIFRIN
SALLY STEARNS PEACOCK

LEIDA SCHOGGEN
MARK & KIM STEVENS
MICHELLE SYUFY
SANDRA TERIAZIAN FELIZ
CHUCK & GRACE TOLSON
LAURA WAIS
GRETCHEN WALLERICH
TODD WERBY & NONIE GREENE
ROBERT WEEMS
BARBARA WEITZ
DENI WETSEL
SUZANNE WHALEY

GOLDEN HORSESHOE

JUDITH FORREST
DAN MCNEAR
KATHLEEN MCNEAR
SUSAN SHEELA

SILVER BUCKLE

SUSAN & GLENN ALLISON
LOUISE S. BOYD
MOIRA BRENNAN
CHRISTINE BOWER
LYNN COMINSKY
& GARRETT JERNIGAN
LINDA ELKIN
LILLIAN FARMER
LARRIE, ROBINN
& CORBINN GOLDSMITH
STEVEN & MIKI GRANDIN
DUFFY & RON HURWIN

KAREN JOHNSON
VIRGINIA JOHNSON
CRISTINE JONES
STEVEN MAASS
& KATHLEEN GALLAGHER
DAN MCCOY
PATRICK J. MCNEIL
MARIAN NELSON
LINDA NERO
JANET NOGARA
ANN RAAB
KATHY RISSO
LETITIA SANDERS
JUDY TEICHMAN

BUSINESS/CLUB MEMBERS

BAYWOOD EQUESTRIAN
BRUCE BURMAN/JAZZ BUILDERS
CREEKSIDE EQUESTRIAN CENTER
DOUGHERTY RANCH
FIVE BROOKS RANCH
MARIN STABLES
MOON MEADOW RANCH
MORNING STAR FARMS
OCEAN RIDERS OF MARIN
SAN DOMENICO SCHOOL
SONOMA MARIN VET SERVICE
STACEY SINGER-EPONA
SWIFT TREE CARE
TAMALPAIS TRAIL RIDERS
WILLOW TREE STABLES

CABALINE



**COUNTRY EMPORIUM
&
SADDLERY**

Open Every Day

415 663 8303
www.cabaline.com

11313 State Route One Box 398
Point Reyes Station California 94956

Return Service Requested

171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd.
Novato, CA 94949-6183



Nonprofit Org.
U. S. Postage
PAID
San Rafael, CA
Permit # 305

PLEASE SUPPORT OUR ADVERTISERS



Swift Tree Care

Since 1972

Urban Forest Management

Insured P.L., P.D. W/C
CA: Contractors Lic. #596473

Kristi Swift
C.E.O.

415/488-0522 Fax: 415/488-1966
24 Hour Emergency Service

WOODACRE MARKET
Just a gallop away!

A treat for you and the horses too! We sell fresh carrots for the horses and delicious fresh and organic treats for you!
Come by for coffee, wine, speciality sandwiches, boxed dinners, salad, gifts and more....
Pre-order your sandwich today: 488-9064



Sheryl Cahill
proprietor
415.663.1515
sheryl@stationhousecafe.com

MAIN STREET, POINT REYES STATION, CALIFORNIA

MARTIN BROTHERS SUPPLY

Feed & Pet Supplies

ROB TUCKEY GINA TUCKEY

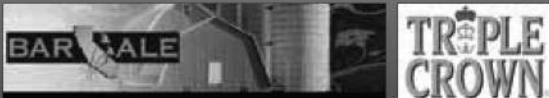
MB 415.388.2025 • fx: 415.388.0415
232 Shoreline Hwy • Mill Valley • CA 94941
martinbros1@sbcglobal.net

**RIVERTOWN FEED & PET
COUNTRY STORE**

200 First Street
Petaluma, CA 94952
(707) 762-4505

Monday – Saturday 8:00 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.
Sunday 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Quality Hay • Shavings & Bedding
Large Selection of Horse Supplies & Feed



COME ON DOWN TO RIVERTOWN

Performance Horse
Sports Medicine, Rehab
and Fitness

*A world-class facility in
the California Wine Country*

Circle Oak Equine • Petaluma, California
Barn Manager: Kendra Kettkether
707-766-8760 • info@circleoakequine.com
www.circleoakequine.com

circle oak  equine
SPORTS MEDICINE & REHABILITATION