

Marin Horse Council

2018 SUMMER/FALL NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 130

Marin Horse Council | PO Box 1723 | San Anselmo, CA 94979 | www.MarinHorseCouncil.org



FROM THE SADDLE

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE —RICK HOLLAND

It is my pleasure to address everyone! 2018 has been a very busy year of change for the Council and we are just beginning to build on our successes. We began the first quarter of the year with a transition team as we said farewell to Monte —Monte Kruger led the Council for most of the past 6 years and our heartfelt thanks goes out to her for all we accomplished during her time “in the saddle.” Last year Monte and Curt felt it was time to sell Willow Tree Stables, and much to their surprise it sold quickly. Although departing from Marin and Monte giving up the reins as president, Curt remained on the board to assist in the transition of our financial records and to continue his participation in Trail Partners.

Trail Partners has been one of our successes and in March we presented at the California Trails and Greenways Conference. Marin County is known throughout the state for its wonderful trail system and our efforts are recognized to promote safety and the continued equestrian presence out on our trails. Building on another former success —the fundraising effort to promote safety on Bill’s Trail that resulted in our Save the Trails Fund —in July we made a \$5,000 donation to support the lawsuit promoting safety on the Bob Middagh Trail (Community Venture Partners was the recipient). It is important to recognize our collaboration with the various land managers in Marin: Marin County Open Space, Marin Municipal Water District, State Parks, National Park System, etc., while at the same time we hold these entities accountable for the safety of all users —especially equestrians —on the trails.

Probably only a few of our members and supporters are aware of all our work “behind the scenes” to promote equestrian activities in Marin. We thank everyone who has volunteered this year on our various projects, and we welcome everyone with a desire

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Rick Holland, President
- Constanza Perry, Vice President
- Carolyn Gold, Secretary
- Brad Silen, Treasurer
- Joe Ehrmann, Ride Coordinator
- Jessica Lashbrook, Board Member
- Curt Kruger, Trail Partners
- Amory Willis, Trail Partners

NEWSLETTER

- Constanza Perry, Editor
pr@marinhorsecouncil.org
- Janet Carpinelli, Graphic Designer
jcarpinelli.com

FROM THE SADDLE



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From the Saddle —President's Message... from page 1

to volunteer to help out where needed —the opportunities abound! We also would like to recognize other long time members who served as directors for many years: Mike Willin, Lauren Terk, Pat Duffy, and Holly Ford. We appreciate their years of service and contributions to the Council! Although a few people have stepped up to serve as directors on the Council, we do have vacancies and people interested in serving should contact the Chair of our Nominating Committee, Carolyn Gold.

Now in my seventh year on the Council, since April I have been serving as president. In May we held our Spring Ride, and now we are preparing our Fall Ride —join us October 13 in the Marin Headlands! In July we sponsored the Horse Show at the Marin County Fair and at our booth highlighted emergency preparedness (in collaboration with HALTER and Marin Search and Rescue). We are all aware of the work that needs to be done with regard to emergency and disaster preparedness, and have begun restructuring our collaboration with other agencies for this purpose. In July we donated our Equestrian Evacuation supplies to Marin Humane to assist in the preparation of their three horse trailers that are positioned in the County for emergency and disaster response. They had one trailer and this summer got two more. Look for the three brightly colored Marin Humane horse trailers in-front and in-back when you go to Marin Humane.

For the past several years we have been “going digital,” and the transition is now official. We are able to keep our membership fees low thanks to our use of technology. We know that for some this has been a difficult transition —this year we have also had our share of critiques. My personal “equestrian low” this year was when my daughter’s horse passed away, but we now have a new colt that we rescued that’s joined our other five horses. Yes, there are lows, but the highs and the opportunities we have are worth the challenges. And on our journey we would like to invite everyone in Marin with an interest in promoting equestrian activities to join us —if you haven’t already, please Join/Renew your membership for this year and come out and participate in all we’ve got going on!

Check out our new address, new meeting place, updated website, new programs, new directors, and exciting volunteer opportunities!

Cheers, — Rick Holland, President

FAREWELL FROM OUR PAST PRESIDENT

Last year Monte Kruger hung up her spurs as President of the Marin Horse Council, retired from owning and operating Willow Tree Stables, and moved to the Gold Country with her husband Curt. Monte served as MHC President in the mid 1980s and again 2012 – 2017.

How time flies. It’s almost been a year since we traded Marin County for El Dorado County, but it seems like only yesterday that both Curt and I were in the midst of Marin’s equestrian politics large and small.

In May of 2017 we placed Willow Tree Stables on the real estate market and were expecting to have at least a year before making our graceful exit to the east. However, much to our surprise, we found ourselves signing the sale contact just 4 months after listing the property. Well as you can imagine this turn of events provided some unintended turmoil for the MHC. As the outgoing

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FROM THE SADDLE

From the Saddle —Farewell... from page 2

president, this was never my intention. Thankfully a strong board of directors took charge and as the dust settled strong leadership took the reins.

I am writing this letter to thank those who worked hard in support of the MHC and continue to do so, allowing programs like Trail Partners, Eq Evac, and Barn and Stable support to continue. I also want to thank those who have supported the MHC in the past, without their efforts these programs and others would not have succeeded as they did.

Current MHC president Rick Holland has proven to be strong of character and determination. He has righted the listing ship and set the MHC on a course toward a bright and fruitful horizon. He is well supported by the MHC board and seems to have ignited a fire under the feet of many who have jumped up to help.

Brad Silen took over the treasury and the MHC is in fine financial shape going into 2019. Efforts are being planned to bolster the coffers and a new membership drive will provide security to help fund important programs and issues. For example, money was allocated from the Save Our Trails fund to help with the lawsuit concerning County Park's (Open Space) RTMP, specifically siting the Bob Middagh trail. As long as membership remains strong and fundraising efforts are successful, these efforts and others will continue.

Funding for EqEvac and disaster preparedness, in partnership with the Marin Humane Society and Marin Search and Rescue is of critical importance. The devastating fires in the North Bay last year have led to a rethinking of how Marin should prepare for what we hope will never happen: a devastating wildfire across the County. Our equestrian community owes Robert Eichsteadt and big thank you for the invaluable coordination he is leading among our three groups.

Constanza Perry is back as the Vice President who writes and has produced a wonderfully informative newsletter for four years. She does their Constant Contact weekly e-news email. Coco has her creative juices flowing! Look for current news and information as Coco always has a nose for news when it comes to the horse world.

There are a couple of board positions open and Carolyn Gold is searching for just the right person to fill the shoes of those who have come and gone. They are big shoes to fill, for the people who have retired from the board have put tremendous effort into the health of the MHC. I know Carolyn will endure and the MHC will strengthen with her efforts.

Those good folks who retired from the MHC board will be missed but their legacy lives on. Pat Duffy is still crusading for the youth of Marin as she runs a very successful 4H program including her work to bring kids to the Marin County Fair's horse show. EqEvac would have been in moth balls if it weren't for Lauren Terk. The MHC would have lost its presence at the Marin County Fair if Lauren had not continued to coordinate our information booth. Mike Willian never hesitated to head up the Spring and Fall rides and then cook for the entire herd. He made it all look so easy. Holly Ford took some mean notes, always on point.

Thank you all.


I apologize for leaving so abruptly, but life sometimes throws you a curve ball. Luckily, we caught it and will end this inning on top.

— Monte Kruger



Gerbode Valley — Fall Ride Oct. 14, 2018

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HORSEKEEPING WORKSHOP, Friday, Oct. 26, 2018 9:00am. Covers maintaining a horse ranch plan to protect water quality and comply with the State's permit requirements.

AT THE BARN

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EXCITEMENT AT MORGAN HORSE RANCH!

POINT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE MORGAN HORSE RANCH

The Morgan Horse Ranch was established at Point Reyes National Seashore as a breeding and training program to provide horses for the National Park Service. The ranch was dedicated in 1970 with the help of the Northern California Morgan Horse Association. A select breeding program was set up with stud services provided by private owners. At its height, the ranch maintained a herd of approximately 35-40 horses, and bred 73 horses over the life of the breeding program. As foals were born, mature animals trained at the ranch were transferred to other parks. For many years classes were also held at the ranch to train park rangers in horsemanship. Park Superintendent John L. Sansing explained the purpose for the Ranch; "to provide an interpretive experience for youngsters and adults of the Bay Area and the nation of seeing and watching these beautiful animals and to provide Morgan horses for ranger patrol and backcountry work in National Parks."

Currently, there is no centralized breeding program because individual parks maintain their own stables. In July 1999, the last filly was born at the ranch. They named her Los Reyes Liberty Rose, Rose for short. The horses are used primarily for trail patrol by park rangers and volunteers. Biologists also occasionally use the horses when they do a census for the Tule elk. The horses allow the biologists to get close enough to the elk without scaring them. The horses are also used to count harbor seals out on Tomales Point.

WELCOME MAVERICK THE MORGAN TO PT REYES MORGAN HORSE RANCH!
 Maverick is 16.1 hands high.



EXCITING NEWS! The Friends of Pt. Reyes Morgan Horse Ranch committee is thrilled to announce the arrival of a younger Morgan gelding to the aging herd of Morgan horses at the Morgan Horse Ranch at Pt. Reyes National Seashore. Please welcome MISCHIEVOUS MAVERICK (Ashdon's Valentino X Mischievous Enchantment) foaled May 20, 2005. He was bred by Jeanne Malone of Trax Morgan Farm in Lompoc, CA. Maverick was generously

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AT THE BARN

Excitement... from page 4

donated to the Morgan Horse Ranch by Adrienne Youngblood of Nevada City, CA. We are so grateful to Adrienne for entrusting this handsome Morgan to the Ranch – THANK YOU! According to Adrienne, “Maverick’s personality is one of a kind, and he will love the attention he will get there”. Maverick joins the four remaining Morgans bred under the Los Reyes prefix. He is the first Morgan donated to the Morgan Horse Ranch since the National Park Service discontinued its breeding program in 1999, retiring the Los Reyes prefix. The Mounted Patrol will rely on the four existing Los Reyes Morgans, Maverick, and any future donations that meet NPS (National Park Service) criteria. Maverick has the distinction of being the youngest Morgan and the tallest at 16.1 hands.

Maverick arrived at Pt. Reyes April 4th, 2018 and is undergoing training prior to assuming mounted patrol duties. He brings youth, temperament, color and height to the existing herd. There is no question he is a Morgan. Maverick is in trail riding, trailering, and ranger training. Come to Morgan Horse Ranch and see the trail trails set up they have for him in their large pasture. It includes teaching a horse to ride an “L” shaped trail as many trails have wooden bridges on them in an “L” shape and how to open a cattle gate. Looks super cool.

This handsome Morgan gelding (Mischievous Maverick) was donated to the National Park System (NPS) at Pt. Reyes National Seashore this year. The original herd of Morgans with the Los Reyes prefix was down to only four senior Morgans with only one of them used for riding. The donation of Maverick, hopefully just the beginning, brings youth, color and height as he is 16.1 hands. Maverick has passed his probationary 90 day trial period and just completed two months of tune-up training paid for by the NPS. Sacramento Valley Morgan Horse Club (SVMHC) members paid for a third month of tune-up which includes trailer experience. There is talk of one more month donated by another equine group. We greatly appreciate the interest and support for this remarkable Morgan. Maverick is smart and friendly and should make a great ambassador. In addition to a new, younger Morgan, there is change within the Book Store at the Visitor’s Center at Bear Valley. The historic Morgan Horse Ranch sits on a hill just behind the Visitor’s Center. Visitors to the Book Store will see and can purchase equine products such as Breyer horse models, kids’ books about horses, Morgan art and many other items that will be of interest to the children. The goal of the “Friends of Pt. Reyes Morgan Horse Ranch” committee is to encourage people who stop at the Visitor’s Center to walk up the hill and see the Morgan Horse Ranch and all that it has to offer on their (your) next visit to Pt. Reyes National Seashore and to mosey over, meet, and welcome Maverick in person. The Morgan Horse Ranch is located on a small hill to the southwest of the Bear Valley Visitor Center.

To visit, walk up the maintenance road located at the southeastern end of the Bear Valley Trailhead parking lot, just up the driveway. The address is: 1 Bear Valley Visitor Center Access Road, Point Reyes Station, CA 94956. The Morgan Horse Ranch is open to the public seven days a week and there are usually horse ranch staff and/or volunteers present from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm, Wednesdays through Saturdays, and from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Sundays through Tuesdays. Interpretive exhibits in the ranch buildings and outside provide information about the history of the Morgan horse, the ranch, and how the horses were trained.

Connie Barker of the Sacramento Valley Morgan Horse Club created the Point Reyes Committee in 2013 as an advocate for the ranch and they are primarily responsible for maintaining funding for the Morgan Horse Ranch and keeping their rich Morgan history alive. <http://www.svmhc.com>

Their Facebook page is: <https://www.facebook.com/savemorganhorseranch/>



Maverick, our new neighbor!

OUT ON THE TRAIL

STEWART HORSE CAMP

LETTER FROM BOB COOPER/MHC

To: Cicely Muldoon, Superintendent, Point Reyes National Seashore
From: Bob Cooper / Marin Horse Council / Chairperson, Stewart Horse Camp Committee
bobcooperhorse@gmail.com
Subject: Bridge Needed on Rift Zone Trail at Stewart Horse Camp
Date: 8/29/2018

Hi

First, I'd like to thank Point Reyes National Seashore for three improvements that were made before Stewart Horse Camp [SHC] opened this year: the fence bordering the creek, the pedestrian bridge connecting the camp area to the bathroom, and the removal of the old brick and cement fire pits. The fence looks good, protects the creek, and does not overly reduce the camp area. The bridge to the bathrooms is SO much safer, especially at night. The fire pits were unusable, an eyesore, and a hazard. If you haven't personally seen these improvements, I've attached pictures. Thanks.

There is one more important improvement that I think is needed at SHC - a bridge where the Rift Zone Trail crosses the creek at the north edge of SHC. This creek crossing is heavily used by equestrians and hikers. My understanding is that both the park and the concessionaire have performed coliform counts on the creek because both are concerned about water quality.

A horse-safe bridge at this crossing will reduce any coliform contamination.

This creek crossing is one of the few places in Point Reyes National Seashore where high levels of horse or foot traffic cross a stream, so having a bridge here seems like an important improvement.

The site for the bridge is easily accessible for construction and the land features allow for a bridge to be built. Or even simpler, a culvert and fill crossing is possible (if the design allows the meadow to continue to drain into the creek.) In either case, please make the crossing wide for safety.

Thank you for reading this. I try to keep my letters short. If I can be of any assistance on this issue, horse related questions, or something else, please email me.

Bob Cooper

Chairperson, Marin Horse Council, Stewart Horse Camp Committee

CC: Kevin McKay, Shawn Mahoney, Amanda Stewart, Phil Straub, PRNSA



Horses on high line



New fence



Pedestrian bridge to the bathrooms and showers



Old BBQ pit, now gone!



Creek in need of horse bridge where the Rift Zone Trail crosses it

All photos above taken at Stewart Horse Camp

OUT ON THE TRAIL

MYSTERIOUS SADDLE

Hello Marin Horse Council,

This will be a strange request. But I am trying to find a person by the name of Delos Putz. I purchased a saddle from a lady in California and on the back is says made for Delos Putz. Serial Number 697. I emailed Orthoflex but their records were destroyed in a fire and the saddle predates 2002.

Anyway, if you know him or can find him, please ask if he knows the history of the saddle. I would so appreciate it. Thanks!!

Lindsay Koole
~~~~~

Hi Lindsay,

What a small world! We do know Delos. I'll put you two in touch. Do you live in the Bay Area?

Constanza, Marin Horse Council  
~~~~~

Hi Constanza,

No Ma'am. I live in Tenino Washington. Just south of Olympia. This is my first endurance saddle for my little chubby gray mare, named "Gris". I'm brand new to the sport, found this saddle and grabbed it! I cleaned it up some as it was dusty and needed to be oiled. It looks fantastic and I'm proud to ride with it!

Lindsay Koole
~~~~~



Constanza,

I rode the Tevis Ride (100 miles from Squaw Valley to Auburn in 24 hours) on July 27-28, 1991 on that saddle. Got my Tevis buckle. It is a wonderful saddle. I contributed it to a Horse Rescue operation in Sacramento or Auburn when I gave up riding in 2012. I am glad to know it is still in use. Happy trails to Lindsay!

Delos Putz  
~~~~~

Delos Putz on Shiko Sliver Fire ("Remy") (Arab gelding, age 12), going over Cougar Rock at 8:00 AM on Saturday, July 27, 1991 on the Tevis Ride - 100 miles from Squaw Valley to Auburn in 24 hours. Delos and Remy finished at 4:00 AM on Sunday July 28, in 46th place. 215 riders started and 93 completed (43%).
~~~~~

Hi Constanza,

Well, that's an awesome history. Thank you for taking the time to tell me. I will send you pictures of my pony tacked up in it. I'm happy to have it and glad it has a cool story. Pretty exciting knowing I'm riding on Tevis history.

Lindsay Koole  
~~~~~

Hi Constanza,

Here is a picture of my mare "Gris" in Delos' former saddle. She is an Arab/Quarter horse mix. Excuse the mismatched tack. I'm new. My tack is being made as we speak. :)

Lindsay Koole



Gris and the Putz saddle

Marin Horse Council

JOIN MHC OCT, 14 FOR OUR FALL RIDE IN BEAUTIFUL MARIN HEADLANDS

SIGN UP AT MARINHORSECOUNCIL.ORG



NEWS & UPDATES

ON THE *Historic* TRAIL

2001

MARIN HORSE COUNCIL DEFEATS PROPOSED ANTI-HORSE ZONING CHANGE

In the summer of 2001, the Marin Community Development Agency submitted proposals to amend the County Development Code to limit horse-keeping on agricultural property to one horse per twelve acres and no more than 10 horses on ranches of any size —unless a Use Permit was obtained. If the proposals were approved, the owner of a 3000-acre farm or ranch would have to obtain a Use Permit to keep more than 10 horses. The proposed changes would also have required a Use Permit for the establishment or expansion of “Equestrian Facilities” on agriculturally-zoned property. The stated purpose of the proposed changes was “to ensure that agriculturally zoned parcels are not converted to predominantly equestrian uses.” A hearing on the proposals before the Marin Planning Commission was set for 1:30 pm on Monday, September 24, 2001 at the Civic Center.

In August 2001, the Summer Issue of the Marin Horse Council Newsletter carried an article alerting the equestrian community to the potential impacts of the proposed zoning changes. The Horse Council also submitted extensive comments to the Planning Commission, including an economic study showing that the equestrian sector contributes nearly \$100 million a year to the economy of Marin. The Horse Council’s comments emphasized that as equestrian facilities are priced out of residential Marin, they will have to relocate to the Ag-zone or be driven out of the county. The Horse Council also argued that Use Permits are “almost totally discretionary, and can be conditioned on making expensive improvements that make compliance financially impossible.” “The new zoning restrictions and the requirement of a Use Permit . . . inevitably will be used to

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PRESS RELEASE:

**AUGUST 15, 2018
IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**RICK HOLLAND
(831) 334-6049**

MARIN HORSE COUNCIL DONATES \$5,000 FOR LAWSUIT TO PROTECT SAFETY OF EQUESTRIANS

On July 25, 2018, the Marin Horse Council’s (MHC) Board of Directors approved a \$5,000 donation from its Save Our Trails Fund to defray some of the \$23,000 in legal expenses incurred by Community Venture Partners (CVP) in its lawsuit against the Marin County Open Space District (MCOSD) for failing to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA/ <http://resources.ca.gov/ceqa/more/faq.html>) on the Bob Middagh Trail project. The county’s project aims to accommodate cyclists on the trail, and while the various parties agree that safety for all users is a prerequisite, the process that the county followed for this project within its Road and Trail Management Plan (RTMP) was deemed insufficient by the Marin County Superior Court. MCOSD has now appealed the Court’s decision.

The Middagh Trail has served as a hiker/horse trail adjacent to the Horse Hill Open Space Preserve, and the county has performed work on the trail with the intention of converting it to a multiuse trail to include cyclists. In May 2017, CVP brought suit alleging that MCOSD had violated CEQA in opening the Middagh Trail to bikes without considering the impacts this would have on the safety of hikers and equestrians. In April 2018, the Marin County Superior Court (Haakenson, J.) ruled in favor of CVP and prevented MCOSD from opening the Middagh Trail to bikes until it had conducted a proper analysis of safety impacts. The court’s 20-page tentative ruling (which it adopted, without change, as its final ruling) can be found at <https://s3-us-west-1.amazonaws.com/themarinpost/doc/126/Tentative-Ruling.pdf>.

The issue highlighted by this lawsuit is whether the county is required to provide an environmental impact report (EIR) for each trail project that results in a change of use to accommodate an increase in user groups, as well as a physical change to the trail itself. MHC’s Save Our Trails Fund was created in 2009 to enable MHC to support a lawsuit brought by the Marin Conservation

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NEWS & UPDATES

MARIN SUPERVISORS CONSIDER ELECTRIC BIKE USE ON TRAILS

MARIN INDEPENDENT JOURNAL
UPDATED: JULY 19, 2018

Users of electric bicycles — many of them seniors and people with physical ailments — turned out in force Tuesday as Marin supervisors considered banning use on county trails.

Supervisors reacted by reversing course on an ordinance that would have reaffirmed that electric bicycles are prohibited on county Open Space District land.

While the board made clear it is interested in revisiting the issue, supervisors stopped short of legalizing the use of electric bicycles on county open space.

The electric bike users spoke out during a hearing on an ordinance proposing several amendments to Open Space District regulations. One of the proposed amendments would have added “electric bicycles” to the list of motor-driven vehicles that are prohibited.

“I personally am not ready to go forward with the proposed revisions to this section,” said Supervisor Kate Sears. “We have heard a lot that really suggests that we need to hear a lot more.”

Max Korten, county Open Space District director, said the district already considers electric bicycles to fall under the category of motor-driven vehicles, so the proposed change was simply to make that explicit. The supervisors voted unanimously to excise the new language on electric bikes and take a final vote on the amended regulations at a future meeting.

During the public hearing that preceded the vote more than a dozen electric bike users implored supervisors to make an exception for “Class 1” electric bikes, which have a maximum speed of 20 mph.

Philip Pillsbury of Ross said he stopped riding a mountain bike with his children on Mount Tamalpais five years ago because he could no longer keep up with them. Then he tried an electric bike.

“It didn’t take long for me to understand that if I pedaled hard there would be an electric boost and I would be able to keep up with my children once more.” Pillsbury said.

Marsha Angus, 72, said she rode mountain bikes in Marin for years, but “over the last 10 years, I have found I don’t have the strength and stamina to get over the hill and get to Stinson Beach or up to the top of the mountain like I used to.”

Angus said electric bikes have changed that.

Julian Barnett of San Anselmo said, “I walked on crutches my whole life. An e-bike has allowed me to get exercise and have fun.”

Stephen Marks, 69, said he is able to ride an e-bike despite coping with a panoply of medical conditions including arthritis, spinal scoliosis, coronary artery disease, an aortic aneurysm and arterial sclerosis.

“I may be over the hill and yet I am able to get over the hills,” Marks said.

Electric bikes are allowed in specific locations under the Open Space District’s inclusive access plan for people with disabilities. Only Class 1 electric bikes are permitted and there is a 6 mph speed limit.

Bob Mittelstaedt said the county’s regulations allow people to use an electric bike when they’re ready for a wheelchair, “But we want to be able to use it before we get there.”

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ON THE *Historic* TRAIL

2001

Marin Horse council Defeats...from page 8

restrict or eliminate existing horse keeping and training facilities.” Connie Berto submitted a comment reminding the Commission that in 1974-1975, a proposal to limit horse keeping in the Ag-zone to 25 horses per property, regardless of the size of the property had been opposed by both the equestrian and agricultural communities —“and the changes were ultimately defeated —as they deserved to be.”

Prior to the hearing, Robert Weems, then President of MHC, sent out a postcard notice to MHC’s entire mailing list urging people to contact their Supervisors and to attend the Commission hearing. Despite the fact that the hearing was held mid-day on a Monday, a very large crowd turned out to express their opposition. The Marin Independent Journal put it at “more than 100 people”. People who were there thought it was much larger, more like 200. The head of the Marin Agricultural Land Trust spoke in support of the proposals. The Civic Center Commission hearing was filled with ranchers, local horse owners, stable owners and supporters. Former Supervisor Gary Giacomini spoke very forcefully in opposition to the proposal because it would deprive ranchers of an alternative source of income. Faced with a “stampede of opposition from local horse owners, county planners yesterday dropped a proposal to require a use permit to keep more than one horse per 12 acres on parcels zoned for agriculture.” Marin IJ, Tuesday, September 25, 2001, p.B2, “Restrictions on horses dropped”.

The Point Reyes Light (9/20/2001, p.1) reported: “In the end, the strongest argument was that horses actually help sustain agriculture. Berto argued that keeping horses protects unused land from development and provides ranchers with ‘a supplemental income.’”

— Delos Putz

NEWS & UPDATES

NEWS AND UPDATES

MHC donates... from page 8

League to prevent Bill's Trail, a hiker/horse trail in Samuel P. Taylor Park, from being opened to bikes without adequate environmental review, and to fund other efforts to protect equestrian access to public lands in Marin County. MHC has an excellent relationship with MCOSSD and works in collaboration with several other trail user groups to promote safety.

"In summary," stated MHC President, Rick Holland, "our support of CVP in its lawsuit against the County is a statement that we will hold the County responsible to comply with state law for the safety of all user groups."

Electric Bikes... from page 9

Not all the electric bike users were seniors or infirm.

"I got into e-biking through my father-in-law who a couple of months ago had open heart surgery and as part of this recovery wanted to get back on a bike," said Colin Luce, 32, of Mill Valley. "I now ride my e-bike to work every single day."

Environmentalists and equestrians, however, said opening district lands to electric bikes would be a major change that could have serious negative consequences.

"I suggest that you go online and look at what some of the electric motorized bikes look like," said Linda Novy of Fairfax, a Marin Conservation League board member. "They look like motorcycles. Many public land managers have banned electric bikes.

"Class 2 and Class 3 bikes will certainly show up," Novy said. "How will you monitor for resource impacts? You've already heard that users can go further and faster. What impact is that going to have on wildlife, trail tread and other people visiting the preserve looking for a slower experience?"

WILDERNESS PROTECTORS

The Wilderness Act of 1964 protects and ensures that our remaining wilderness remain as they have been for hundreds of years, sustaining healthy ecosystems, and providing humans with the opportunity to step back in time, and step out of modern life, as our ancestors experienced nature.

The protection of the Wilderness Act, 1964, and the defeat of the Proposed HR1349, the Mountain Bikes in Wilderness bill sponsored by Rep Tom McClintock, is crucial. FootPeople* believe that the preservation and conservation of America's wilderness is significantly important for a number of reasons.

These lands are home to numerous species of fauna and flora – sensitive habitats must be protected and remain whole, without being fragmented or degraded so that the land remains healthy, provides the opportunity for plant and animal species' diversity and health, and for large far-ranging mammals to have sufficient territories. Mechanized devices create negative impacts to wildlife: more roads fragmenting habitat, night-time bike riding with bright lights impacting wildlife, and more and more visitation into previously less frequently accessed places, again, impacting on wildlife patterns and needs for no human visitation. Additionally, as the planet experiences climate change, wilderness areas provide sufficient ranges for plants and animals' migration to colder climes as necessary.

Wilderness lands provide the human species with the opportunity to witness and experience what our country was like hundreds of years ago, and to be inspired by nature. Wilderness lands, because they ban mechanized transport, have not been overtaken by humans and exhausted by human intrusion. When mechanized transport is allowed into previously wild, untouched areas, a more "park like" situation is created, changing and degrading the character of the "wilderness" experience for humans and diminishing the land's natural ecosystem renewal as well. Allowing mechanized devices in Wilderness, threatens the primitive experience that people need in an increasingly mechanized and motorized world.

Mechanized transport continues to increase and evolve (faster, cheaper bikes, electric motorized bikes, etc.), chipping away at the integrity of our cherished wilderness lands. Through the 1964 Wilderness Act, which prohibits mechanized transport, all people have the opportunity to visit these protected lands in a more primitive, passive, and appropriate way: on horseback, on foot, and in canoe. It should be clear that motorized and non-motorized wheel chair access to Wilderness, is allowed through a 1990 amendment.

The Wilderness Act helps ensure that the "character" of wilderness remains as it was hundreds of years ago. The growing mechanization of the world must have boundaries and be precluded from Wilderness lands. We can't create more wilderness. This is all we have. HR 1349 is a dangerous attempt to weaken the Wilderness Act and to degrade the National Wilderness Preservation System. Allowing mountain bikes and other mechanized devices, prohibited in the existing Wilderness Act, is a dangerous threat to the integrity of our wilderness lands, and to all species within these lands. FootPeople urges you to protect our wilderness from mechanized devices and vote against HR 1349. Thank you.

"In Wildness is the preservation of the world"

Henry David Thoreau (1817-1862) American Author

*FootPeople is an association of Marin residents working to conserve Marin's public lands and their natural resources' biological diversity and ecosystems for present and

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NEWS & UPDATES

Wilderness Protectors...from page 10

future generations. We are committed to ensuring the continued enjoyment and safety of all open space visitors. We believe that recreational uses should be subordinate to, and effectively managed for, the protection of natural resources. We also believe that no user group should be displaced from roads and trails because of a perception of lack of safety. Public lands belong to all people, and their ongoing conservation is a responsibility of all who use them. This general management policy must be supported by meaningful enforcement of regulations.

The core group of the FootPeople is involved in many other organizations including: the Audubon Society, Friends of Corte Madera Creek, Marin Conservation League, The Marin Horse Council, the San Geronimo Valley Planning Group, the Sierra Club, the Tamalpais Conservation Club, and others. Several of our group served on the Marin County Parks and Open Space Commission.



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Left: Mule: Living on the Outside, a film by John McDonald, <http://3mulesmovie.com/>

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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.

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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 and Business/Club membership levels.

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