

Monterey Bay Equestrians February 2020

www.montereybayequestrians.com



February Presidents Message

For the love of horses we break our backs loading hay, scooping poop, grooming our muddy buddies, to watch them roll feverishly in the freshest pile of poop. For the love of our horses, we post pictures, tell our colleagues all about the latest trail ride, horse show, or adventure with our equines. Ask to show a picture of my horse I've got tons, ask to show a picture of my husband I'd have to scroll awhile, while stopping to show off another shot of my horse.

We can't wait for the ride schedule to be posted, so we can submit our vacation time at work, juggling just about everything to have the privilege to camp with our horses. We plan, pack and prepare months in advance to spend time with our equine loved one. And then there's your horse, who greets you at the barn with a whinny and trots to the gate to check your pockets for carrots or cookies. Our twelve hundred pound pet requires you to show them that the tiny piece of flapping plastic will not kill them, or the small water puddle isn't going to swallow them whole.

Horses are so vital to our lives, most equestrians would say they'd sacrifice their own comforts for their horse's sake. Why? Because we love them unconditionally, even when our horse tries to dump us, or jump at every rustling in the bush, or jig down the trail. We in turn hire trainers, buy new saddles, consult the vet, and never blame our horse, because we love them.

February is our kickoff to riding season, a perfect time to share the love of our horses and our club. I'd like to challenge members to invite new or potential members to our meetings, events and of course campouts. Let's move into 2020 with a vision to increase our membership!

Happy Trails
Cathleen Venn

Rainy Day Reads

Submitted by Liz Riehl

Books to read on a rainy day when you can't ride your horse:

1. The Horse Doctor's Husband by Justin B. Long; You will laugh, cringe and relate to these vet adventures (especially if you have a horse!)
2. The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse by Charlie Macksey; The most delightful book ever - beautiful illustrations and wise advice
3. Lady Longrider by Bernice Ende; What a journey! Nearly 30,000 miles riding alone across America (and part of Canada)
(Available on Amazon, most in book and Kindle format)

Top 10 Equestrian Places (per Cowgirl Magazine)

Check out these recommended spots for your next equestrian vacation.

https://cowgirlmagazine.com/equestrians-places-us/?mc_cid=758c8c5961&mc_eid=c25ffd92fc

Trailer for Sale

2010 - 2H slant load LQ 6' short wall toilet and shower. Ideal for 1 person. Needs fender (1) and awning repair but otherwise sound. Paid \$22,000 will take \$18,000 or BO.
contact Nikki @ .415 599-9729

MBE MEMBER SPOTLIGHT STABLE NEWS

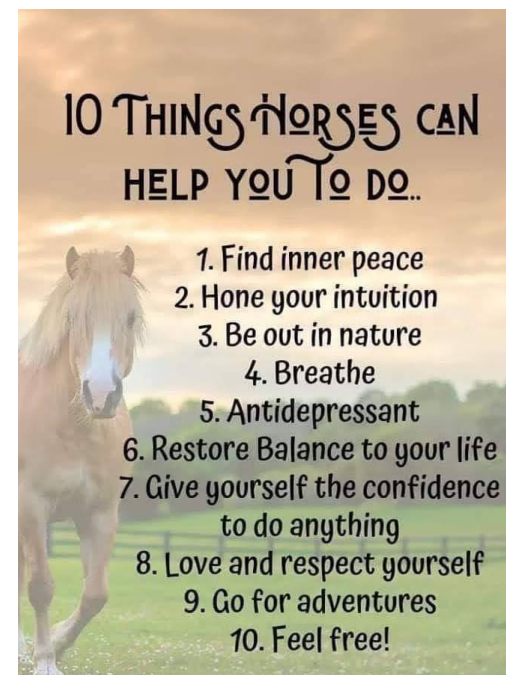
Each newsletter will feature a member of the month, starting with February. If you or someone you know who is a member that should be featured, shoot us an email at MBENEWS@yahoo.com. We will work on getting an interview so they may be featured in our newsletter.

If I were to choose just one word to describe our member of the month it would be “DYNAMIC”! This member has a dynamic personality, which more than likely brought MBE to fruition. In 1976 she founded a local chapter of Equestrian Trails Incorporated or E.T.I. ETI is a national organization that works with legislation and local land authorities to insure the right to keep and utilize land for horses. The local chapter of ETI began with 25 members in total and quickly grew to 75 members strong. This DYNAMIC membership chair was concerned that all the local fundraising efforts was being sent to other communities and not being used in Monterey County or surrounding communities. She organized a posse of likeminded equestrians and began the process of organizing the club known as Monterey Bay Equestrians. At that time, MBE met in Seaside, with 62 members joining the club. Eventually the location was moved to Prunedale to accommodate the growing club participation in that area.

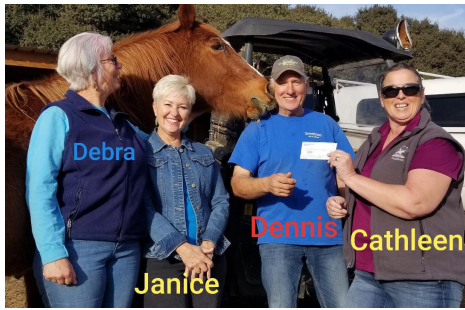
This fireball served as membership chairperson for seventeen years. She said, “ I served when you had to be interviewed to join and have a sponsor”. She chuckled as she recalled asking potential members if they knew the rules. There was a little glint in her eyes as she stated “you know, people were scared of me”, not sure if that was a question or a statement, but certainly funny. She served as treasurer with Sharon Green , and started MBE fashions in the 80’s as well.

I ask her about her history with horses, I was amused that, she hid her horse from her Dad as a young girl, yip that’s right. Her Dad was a cattle rancher but she wasn’t allowed to have a horse. She went to work in high school, saved her money, and bought her first horse, Danny! It was nearly 8 months until they found out about her keeping her horse at a friend’s house. She’d go before and after school to care for Danny, “hay was fifty cents a bale back then”. When she headed to college in Seattle, she had to sell Danny, something she said she regretted.

In 1992 she lost her husband and had to learn to drive her own truck and trailer. Up to that point he had done it for her. She would not be deterred by this. She learned how to load her camper, hook up the trailer and camp all on her own, DYNAMIC Determination! We owe a debt of gratitude and admiration to **Caroline Spicer**, our member of the month.



Donations 2019



WE RESCUE EACH OTHER!"

The mission statement that Dennis and Janice have proudly displayed upon entrance to their 35 acre sanctuary, known as Backstretch rescue & rehabilitation center. Immediately upon driving in you know that this place is special, each horse has name plates on their very large, clean , oak studded paddocks.

I was joined by MBE members Liz Reil and Debra Means, whom have been volunteering at the facility. Dennis and Janice where delightful people with a true passion to help horses. When I asked about their horse experience Dennis humbly replied , none. He and his wife had rescued 10 horses 9 years ago after the owner threatened to shoot them because they could no longer afford to feed them. Fast forward, that connection to save those horses turned into saving now 59 horses. Dennis says he and his wife feed daily so he can personally check on each horse. There are about 12-15 volunteers that help with cleaning, brushing, watering and grounds, but he wants to be the one to feed.

Backstretch is currently the home of GI Josie's equine therapy for veteran women suffering from PTSD, and a Therapeutic program for children diagnosed with autism, add, and adhd. The rescued horses are used to facilitate the programs offered here.

Recently they acquired several horses that had been seized after their owners had passed away. As well as the horses found on Betabel Road tied to a post and left. They have received horses from the SPCA , owner surrendered, and abandoned. Their goal is to find forever homes for each horse, however some will live out their lives at this beautiful sanctuary. No horse is turned away no matter what, Dennis proclaims.

Currently they are primarily self funded, but are in need of donations, grants, or in kind donations. I can truly say that BackStretch is an inviting place to be, with benches, picnic tables by paddocks to visit with your favorite horse, walking paths to stroll with the huge draft horses. It was an honor to present the BackStretch with a \$2000 donation check, made possible through MBE's Poker ride fundraiser.



SPCA

Caroline and I met with Jamie, the barn manager of the SPCA of Monterey county. Jamie gave us a wonderful tour and some staggering statistics of the amount of horse rescue's they have had more recently. Pictured here was one such rescued gelding, "Jasper". Jasper was a owner surrender, when he could not afford surgery for high ring bone. With the assistance of Stienbeck equine hospital Jasper will soon be able to be ridden. The SPCA currently houses 17 horse at their facility, with others being fostered.

Monterey bay Equestrians is delighted we could make a difference in the health and well being of these horses. We presented the SPCA barn with a \$500 donation, made possible by the fund raising efforts, donations, and support of the poker ride.

1/9/20 Monterey Bay Equestrians- General Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order at 7:15 by Cathleen Sittig.

Board Members Present were Cathleen Sittig, Shannen Bostwick, Brenda Carpenter, Carolyn Tucker and twelve General Members.

The December Board Meeting Minutes were presented by Carolyn Tucker and Approved by Lois Connell, Second by Patti Garcia.

The Financials including the 2020 Budget and prior year P&L Comparisons were presented by Shannen Bostwick and Approved by Lois Connell and Second by Patti Garcia.

Membership was presented by Erin Beatie. We currently have 43 members registered for 2020.

The Proposed Ride Schedule was Presented by Cathleen Sittig. Approved by Toni Scholtens Whedon and Second by Lois Connell.

Presidents Ride: Jan. 26, 2020, Marina Equestrian Center is all set. Trails looking good!

Cathleen has been pruning... □

Poker Ride Reserved for June 26-28, 2020 - SCCHA grounds. Food and Plans in Process. Will form a Committee- Sunday will Chair it. Cathleen will Chair the Prize Corral. Need Committee or Team to help.

Ride Schedule Updates are:

Salinas River Beach Ride will be Hosted by Patti & Mike Garcia.

Coe Park Ride will be Hosted by Kathy Madlem and include a Potluck. Toni Scholtens Whedon has offered to help Host, Carolyn Tucker cannot Host.

½ Moon Bay ride has a back-up choice of S.F. Golden Gate ride. Heather Shupe will Host.

Wrights Lake is a "Reserve on your Own." Only. No Group Reservations allowed. Best to Reserve Early.

Big Meadows – Let Patti Garcia know how many in your group. No State Park Reservations needed. Pay when you arrive.

2019 Donations Reviewed with the General Membership and Approved. MBE will work to be concise on donation documentation, including photos and in person presentation of donation checks. Documentation will include How Much, When, Where, and How Presented. It is agreed that we spend money on donating to trail improvements and horse related good causes that we can easily track. This supports our 501-c7 status.

Trail Advocacy & Correspondence- Liz Riehl commented that it is still quiet, but she is working on Rancho Oso Horse Camp improvements with State Park Staff.

Newsletter- Lois Connell prefers Members to send all Newsletter Info & Photos to mбенews@yahoo.com.

Old Business- 2019/2020 Accounting Approved

New Business- Raffle for New MBE Members Registered by 12/31/2019

Next MBE Meeting is March 12, 2020 in Prunedale.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 pm.

Thank-You,

Submitted by Carolyn Tucker

Monterey Bay Equestrians President's ride 2020

This year's President Ride was a blast! After weeks of trail cleanup and planning the weather tried to rain on our parade, but that didn't stop us. We had a total of 54 participants and 28 riders join us at the Marina Equestrian Center on Sunday, January 26th. While the first 30 minutes of the ride was wet, the weather cooperated and gave us clear skies, active wildlife. The manzanita and the wild fuchsia are in full bloom and made a beautiful back drop to the ride.

Kristal Jones, Jason Marcuson led a group out with 18 riders, for a 2 ½ hour ride, that meandered through oak and manzanita growth, stopping at the grave of Comanche before heading back. While Nikki Vansteenwick led the gaited group with 6 riders. I led a small group of 6 riders for a 3 ½ hour ride for the brave souls. There were late arrivals that hit the trail on their own. Everyone arrived back without incident and very happy to have explored the trails at ft. Ord.

Some members stayed at the Equestrians Center to enjoy the bonfire, coffee, catching up with old friends and our newest member Cisco Jim as he sang and played guitar. Caroline Spicher manned the fashion, while Erin Beatie and Shannen Bostwick juggled membership and registration. Sunday drove down from Nevada to barbecue hamburgers and hotdogs. I could not have done this without the help of Jason Marcuson, Jane Minglana and my son Alan Venn whom all helped with trail maintenance, set up, and clean-up, a huge thank you!



Day Ride
Salinas River /
Moss Landing Beach



Saturday
February 15, 2020

RIDE TIME: Be saddled up and ready to ride by 11am sharp (please be on time)

ADDRESS: 10721 Potrero Rd., Moss Landing

DIRECTIONS: FROM HIGHWAY 101: Take Highway 101 to CA-156 West. Follow CA-156 W to CA-183 N/Merritt St in Castroville. Turn right onto CA-183 N/Merritt St. Go to end and make slight right onto CA-1 North. Go approximately 1.8 miles and turn left onto Potrero Rd. Go to end to dirt lot on your left.

DIRECTIONS: FROM SANTA CRUZ/WATSONVILLE: Take Highway CA-1 South. Turn right onto Potrero Rd. Go to end to dirt lot on your left.

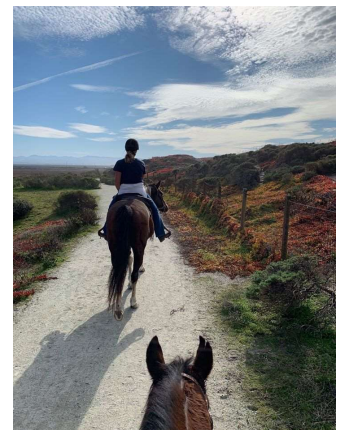
HORSES are permitted to access the beach only by the designated routes and to ride only on the wet sand below the high tide line (***we will be there during low tide***), to protect wildlife and vegetation. Horses are also permitted on the designated equestrian trail. In the parking lots, owners are required to clean up after their horses, including removing horse manure. Manure and straw should be shoveled into the horse trailer. Manure and straw shall not be thrown into the dunes.

Dogs not permitted on beach or dunes. **Bring your lunch. After the ride, we will visit and have lunch at the trailers.**

IN CASE OF CHANGES TO RIDE PLEASE

RSVP to: Ride Host Patti & Mike Garcia

pattihgarcia@gmail.com or
text or call 831-262-5068



2020 BOARD & COMMITTEE CHAIRS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President	Cathleen Sittig – happyhillranch@yahoo.com
Vice President	Sunday Minnich – sminnich1962@gmail.com
Secretary	Carolyn Tucker – carolynt@garlic.com
Treasurer	Shannen Bostwick – azureskie@aol.com
Past President	Liz Gheen – mybailey2000@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Newsletter	Lois Connell – MBEnews@Yahoo.com
Membership	Erin Beatie – ebeatie70@gmail.com
Sunshine	Patti Garcia – pattihgarcia@gmail.com
Apparel	Caroline Spicher - 831.624.3297
Ride Chair & Website	Sunday Minnich – sminnich1962@gmail.com

