

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Farewell 2022! As things began to normalize after the COVID pandemic, we had record breaking attendance at most of our campouts with waiting lists. Our membership rose to an astounding 299 members in just 3 short years since the reorganization of the club, and our one and only fundraiser was a huge success, allowing us to donate \$5000 to horse related activities in 2023. You can say 2022 was one for the records. I tried to google horse clubs in California and I think it's safe to say we have one of the largest memberships for a social riding club in California. We can't

thank everyone enough for your support and participation.

I would like to thank Cathleen Sittig who was one of the original members who fought to keep the club alive back in 2019 and stepped up to be our President in 2020, 2021 and a portion of 2022. Unfortunately, she had to resign in April 2022 due to personal reasons and we never really got to say a proper good-bye. Cathleen put a lot of work and dedication in saving our club, leading us to a record-breaking membership and is a friend to many. We look forward to seeing more of her in 2023. I also would like to

thank Erin for stepping in as interim President to fill the void of losing Cathleen. We refused to let her go so she is remaining on the board in her membership chair capacity.

## Save the Date

**Jan 28:** Salinas River Beach Day Ride

**Feb 18:** President's Welcome Ride & BBQ

**March 11:** St. Patty's Day Ride

*For more upcoming events, please see the Calendar.*

*President*

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SUNDAY MINNICH

Hello 2023! It's going to be a great year. I can feel it. We are thrilled we are increasing our board from 5 to 7 board seats and welcoming 2 new board members. Help me welcome our 2023 Board of Directors. As you can see, I will be sticking around as President with Kathy Madlem as VP/Ride Chair, Karen Luke as Treasurer, Carolyn Tucker as Secretary, Erin Beatie as Membership, Shannen Bostwick and Toni Whedon as Board Members.

We had a great ride/campout planning meeting with 24 in attendance and I have to say we have a great schedule lined up for 2023 with some new members who are enthusiastic about hosting a ride or campout. Kathy Madlem our new VP/Ride Chair is excited and already working on making reservations. The Presidents Ride & BBQ will be held on February 18 at the Santa Cruz County Horsemen's.

This year we will not be doing a membership drive but will focus more on a Member Welcome Party. The Presidents Ride & BBQ will be members only so make sure you get your membership renewals in before January 31st so you can attend the Presidents Ride & BBQ. We will have organized trail rides for those who do not know the trails or if you wish to stay at the showgrounds, you can play in the arena or on the obstacle course. For those of you who wish to attend but live a little farther away, we have reserved some corrals for camping Friday - Sunday. More details will follow in an email to the membership as we get closer.

We will be starting our camping excursions in March at the McCormick Ranch in Santa Maria with miles of trails, corrals, group bbq area, bathrooms and showers. Back by popular demand is Eagle Meadows in August. Everyone that attended last year said it was a do-over, so we are doing it over LOL.

We also have some day rides that might have some camping options for those who are traveling from a distance to attend. And Matt Murphy has graciously offered to host 2 San Francisco Golden Gate Park rides this year since it's so popular. There are so many great things coming up in 2023 I could go on and on but wanted to highlight a few. Make sure you check out the full schedule in the newsletter and get that vacation time NOW for the ones you want to attend.

I hope that 2023 brings you everything you wish for which I'm sure is more riding, more camping, more friends and more family time. And that is exactly what MBE provides, so we will look forward to seeing you all on the trail in 2023!

# Heads up!



## **JANUARY/FEBRUARY/MARCH DAY RIDES**

Don't miss out on the first MBE ride of the year at Salinas River Beach in Moss Landing. Arrive early for Mimosa's and Danish's. Ride time will be 11am. February will host our Presidents Ride & BBQ at the Santa Cruz County Horsemen's Showgrounds. Camping available for those who wish to attend from a distance. More details to come as we get closer. March 11 will be a day ride at Calero Park in South San Jose. This ride is subject to change depending on the weather. Calero closes if there has been too much rain so keep an eye out for an alternate plan if that happens. March will also include our first campout of the year at McCormick Ranch in Santa Maria, March 16-20. The McCormick's have done a great job developing a horse camp with corrals, trees for hi-line, group bbq area, bathroom and showers, water for horses, wash basin and plenty of room for camping. You can either ride the McCormicks private 260 acres and adjacent 500 acres, or the ranch is also adjacent to 1800-acres in the Los Flores Open Space with groomed hiking/equestrian trails.



# Day Ride

## Salinas River Beach / Potrero Entrance Ride



**Saturday**  
**January 28, 2023**  
**MEMBERS ONLY RIDE**

**RIDE TIME:** Ride time 11am if you would like to ride with a group, or you can ride on your own. Arrive early for champagne and mimosas with ride hosts Erika Reid and Kathy Madlem. Bring your own lunch and chair to visit following the ride.

**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 and go to the end of the road.

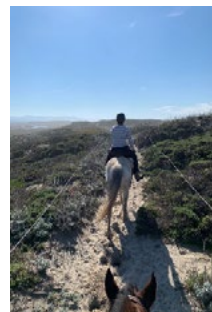
**DIRECTIONS: FROM SANTA CRUZ/WATSONVILLE:** Take Highway CA-1 South. Turn right onto Potrero Rd and go to the end of the road.

The Potrero Road entrance to Salinas River State Beach is on a strip of land between the Old Salinas River and the Pacific Ocean. This is the central entrance to the state park. The sandy beach here is long and wide and backed by dunes for most of its length. From the parking lot a trail meanders south in the dunes to the southern parking lot of the Salinas River Beach at the Monterey Dunes Entrance. A wider path leads north from here all the way to the northern entrance near Moss Landing Harbor.

**HORSES** are permitted to access the beach only by the designated routes and to ride only on the wet sand below the high tide, to protect wildlife and vegetation. Horses are also permitted on the designated equestrian trail. Owners are required to clean up after their horses in the parking lot. Manure and straw should be shoveled into the horse trailer and not thrown into the dunes.

**Dogs** not permitted on beach or dunes.

**IN CASE OF CHANGES TO RIDE, PLEASE RSVP TO**  
Ride Host Kathy Madlem [kmarn@aol.com](mailto:kmarn@aol.com)



# 2023 Donations



Thanks to the huge success of the 2022 Gambler's Ride & Casino Campout and the sponsors who supported the event, we were able to award \$5000 in donations to horse related causes (we still have \$320 to donate if anyone has any suggestions).

As you know, Monterey Bay Equestrians holds an annual fundraiser each year with 100% of the net profit going towards equine related causes including trail acquisition and maintenance, horse camp upgrades, horse rescues and equine non-profit organizations. Thank you to the members who took the time to submit the donation request form for the board to review. We were able to provide a donation to every member that submitted a request and are so pleased to announce the following donations for 2023.

**\$180 Teton Raptor Center** – requested by Peggy O'Connor to install covers over pit toilet flutes to avoid the many birds who fly into them and get stuck and die. Peggy will be arranging to have 2 covers at Eagle Meadows and 2 covers at Skillman Horse Camps.

**\$500 Marin Stables and Trails Non-Profit** – requested by Rebecca Larcher, Ann Raab & Tracy McDermott to be used for historic preservation and trail maintenance.

**\$500 Santa Clara County Park Grant Ranch Horse Camp** – Requested by Kathy Madlem who will purchase 3 heavy duty wheelbarrows and poop forks at the horse camp. Currently there is only 1 large steel wheelbarrow for everyone to use.

**\$500 Horse Sense Education and Advocacy** – Requested by Debra Means for general horse care needs and feed.

**\$500 Sonoma Equine Rescue Rehab & Adoption** – Requested by Melisa Brown for equine needs such as feed, vet, farrier and utilities to run the facility.

**\$1000.00 Divine Equine Assisted Therapy Center** – Horse care, vet bills, feed, equipment, for therapy horses.

**\$1500 Equine Rescue Center (ERC)** – Requested by Kathy Madlem for equine needs such as feed, vet, farrier for horses unable to be adopted out due to behavior issues or age and live out the rest of their natural lives at the center.

# Sunshine Report



Our sincere and heartfelt condolences, sympathy and prayers to Peggy O'Connor for the loss of her dog, Homer, and to Brenda Carpenter for the loss of her son.

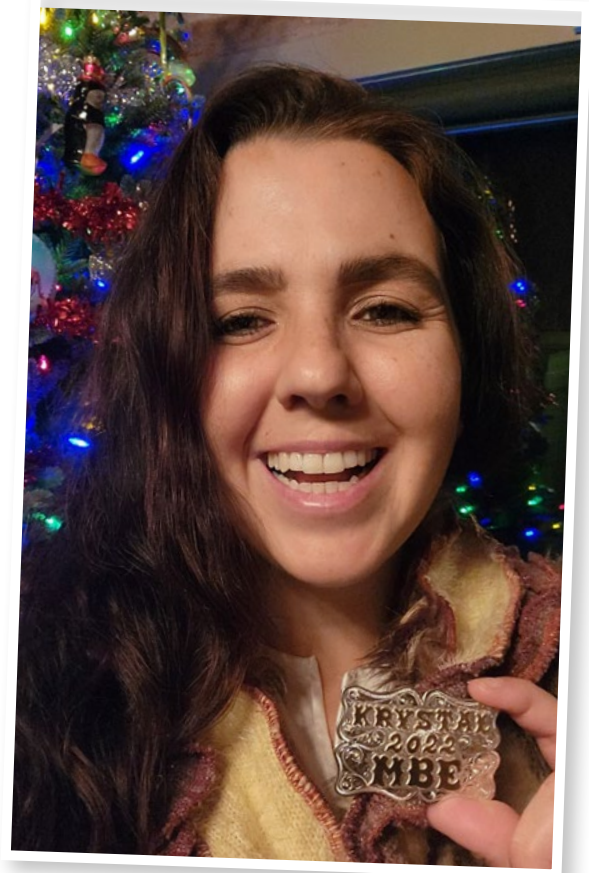
If you know of anyone who could use a little sunshine (condolences, get well soon, etc), please email Shannen Bostwick at [azureskie@aol.com](mailto:azureskie@aol.com) so she can send them a card on behalf of the membership.

# Congratulations!



## **KRYSTAL GIACOMELLI 2022 MEMBER OF THE YEAR!**

Every year the Board of Directors selects a Member of the Year for their dedication to the club, their volunteerism throughout the year and attendance at rides/campouts/meetings. The Member of the Year is recognized with a beautiful silver pin at the Christmas Party. This year the Board of Directors is proud to recognize Krystal Giacomelli as our 2023 Member of the Year by awarding her a beautiful silver pin. Krystal has gone above and beyond helping with anything and everything. She chaired the Prize Corral and got all the prizes and raffle items and assembled them at this year's Gamblers Ride & Roll Casino Campout as well as helped with set up and tear down. She also took charge of the games and prizes for the Ladies Point Reyes Campout and whatever else we needed help with. She helped assemble the Christmas gifts and centerpieces and got down and dirty helping clean out the MBE trailer to be repaired. Whatever was needed, Krystal was always there to lend a hand with out question. Thank you and congratulations Krystal. It's well deserved.



# Christmas Party

SEE MORE PHOTOS ON  
OUR FACEBOOK PAGE!



This year's Christmas party was held at the Club at Crazy Horse in Salinas with 47 in attendance. As you entered the double doors with 2 horse head wreaths, you walked into a western-themed winter wonderland. Upon arrival, everyone entered the Banquet room with a beautiful Christmas Tree overlooking the golf course. We had appetizers of beef satay, veggie tray and cheese and crackers and everyone received 2 drink tickets for whatever libations they were craving. Dinner was delicious with Salmon, lemon herb chicken, mashed potatoes, salad, green beans Florentine and rolls and butter. After dinner we thanked the 2022 board members, introduced the 2023 board members and presented the Member of the Year silver pin to Krystal Giacomelli. Thirty-three people participated in the White Elephant gift exchange which was a lot of fun. Sydney Blankenship got the token White Elephant Gag Gift that no one knew what it was (it is a Balling Gun LOL). As people were leaving, they were saying, let's do it here again next year!! We will have to wait and see.



# Ladies Point Reyes Campout



My stomach still hurts from laughing so hard. What a great time. The ladies Campout was sold out with 75 registered. The event started Thursday with attendees greeted at registration with a souvenir flask with the Ladies Campout logo (these will be for sale for anyone interested) and a delicious BBQ rib dinner. Friday was a day of trail riding before heading to dinner for a fish and chicken feast. I'm not an Ahi fan but everyone said it was the bomb. After dinner Krystal had a bunch of fun games with wonderful gift baskets as prizes. Everyone really got into the spirit. Saturday was our Pajama Party theme with a great parade around the campground of costumed horses and riders. Dinner was Prime Rib with all the fixin's. After dinner we had an adult bouncy house for pillow fights (keeping with the pajama party theme) and dance party. Let me tell ya, the ladies really got into those pillow fights and unfortunately our mascot Burt didn't survive to tell the tale LOL. Sunday was Mexican Fiesta Day. Some enjoyed personal massages from local masseuses. It was wonderful. Our last dinner was delicious appetizers, margaritas and a fabulous Mexican feast with a variety of fajitas and street tacos, enchiladas, rice, beans and coleslaw. New this year was a fantastic salad bar each night with the best homemade blue cheese dressing I've had. Monday morning was departure but not after a great breakfast and make your own bag lunch to take on the road or trail for those who stayed longer. It was an epic event. Don't miss out next year and save the dates now for September 28 – October 1st. ~Sunday Minnich



# Montana de Oro Campout



We had a wonderful campout in November at Montaña de Oro State (MdO) Park in Los Osos. The weather was perfect! We started the trip on Thursday evening with an appetizer potluck by the large group fire pit. Erika Reid brought her enormous gas torch and got the fire blazing! There are many different trails to choose from at MdO with spectacular views of the ocean and the surrounding mountains. I love all of it, but riding at the beach is one of the really great things about this place. It's about a 20-30 minute ride through the sand dunes down to the beach depending on what route you take, and once you are there you won't want to leave! You can ride for hours on the beach with picturesque Morro Bay in the distance, or loop back through the dunes and take the trail by Shark's Inlet, or take a detour to the golf course and have a cocktail (and/or lunch) at the club while your horse is conveniently parked across the street in these great little pipe corrals. Then you have the park itself to ride in, with lots of fabulous trails and diverse terrain. Some trails are as wide as the road and some are single track, with loops that can keep you out on the trail anywhere from an hour or easily over five, depending on your ambition (and stamina). As with all our campouts we are never short on food! Friday night's team did an Italian theme and Sunday night Karen Luke made clam chowder. Saturday night, Toni Whedon went into town and picked up tacos from a local Mexican restaurant, they were delicious! Every night we set up our group meals around the fire pit and had lively conversations or sang a few songs. Thanks to Brady Luke we had plenty of firewood to keep us warm. I think it was unanimous, everyone loved this place! If you missed the trip to MdO in 2022 don't worry, you'll get another opportunity as it's on the schedule for 2023! ~ Kathy Madlem

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## 2023

**NOTE: SCHEDULE IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. ALL DAY RIDES BEGIN AT 11AM.**

## JANUARY

JAN 28: Salinas River Beach Day Ride

## FEBRUARY

FEB 18: President's Welcome Ride & BBQ  
w/ Camping Options @ Santa Cruz County  
Horsemen's Showgrounds @ 10am

## MARCH

MAR 11: St. Patrick's Calero Park Day Ride  
MAR 16-20: McCormick Ranch Campout, Santa  
Maria (not catered)

## APRIL

APR 15: Spring Flowers Day Ride, Henry Coe -  
Hunting Hollow  
APR 28: Gambler's Ride & Roll Casino Campout  
Fundraiser, Lake San Antonio, (catered, open)

## MAY

MAY 13: Wilder Santa Cruz Day Ride  
MAY 18-22: Joseph Grant Campout (not catered)

## JUNE

JUNE 3: Cooper Garrod Wine Tasting, Lunch &  
Day Ride, Saratoga  
JUNE 29-JULY 3: Jack Brooks Campout (catered)

## JULY

JUNE 29-JULY 3: Jack Brooks Campout (catered)  
JULY 16: Mt. Madonna Park Day Ride  
JULY 29: Obstacle Playday, Felton (camping opt'l)

## AUGUST

AUG 9-14: Eagle Meadows Campout (catered)  
AUG 26: Fort Ord Day Ride, Marina

## SEPTEMBER

SEPT 6 & 20: Golden Gate Park Day Ride, San  
Francisco  
SEPT 28-OCT 2: Point Reyes Ladies Campout  
(catered, open)

## OCTOBER

SEPT 28-OCT 2: Point Reyes Ladies Campout  
(catered, open)  
OCT 19-23: Del Valle Campout, Livermore (not  
catered)  
OCT 28: Halloween Costumed Pebble Beach Day  
Ride & Lunch

## NOVEMBER

NOV 9-13: Montaña de Oro Campout, Los Osos  
(not catered)  
NOV 19: Harvey Bear Day Ride, San Martin

## DECEMBER

DEC 3 or 10: Christmas Party (guests invited)

### MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS:

January 12 - Prunedale  
April 6 - Gilroy  
July 13 - Prunedale  
October 12 (2024 Ride Meeting) - Gilroy

**PLEASE NOTE:** All events are MEMBERS ONLY unless otherwise specified.

*"Open" Events are MBE sanctioned campouts and non-members are required to sign a waiver to attend and be covered under MBE insurance.*

# MBE RIDE RULES

1. For your safety and pleasure, we ask that you use common sense, and show courtesy and consideration toward others at all times.
2. Please leave sick horses at home. Any horse with a noticeable cough, runny nose, or any other potentially communicable illness will be asked to leave.
3. If your horse kicks, indicate with a red ribbon on its tail.
4. For safety reasons, organized day rides will be paced at a walk.
5. Respect our lands and stay on designated equestrian roads/trails.
6. Keep one-horse length between you and the other riders, and a two-horse length on narrow trails and hills.
7. Do NOT pass the leader of a ride if there is one.
8. Ask permission to pass a horse in front of you and pass quietly.
9. If leaving the group during a ride, advise the ride host or leader.
10. Horses should not exceed a flat-footed walk in camp or in a staging area.
11. No loose horses are permitted in camp or on the trails. Hobbled horses are considered loose horses due to their tendency to travel.
12. Wherever MBE goes, dog rules must be followed. Dogs are NOT allowed on group day rides. When in camp, dogs and other pets must be confined or leashed. Owners are responsible for their own pets' behavior.
13. Animals are not allowed in eating areas.
14. Do NOT litter. Carry all trash to a trash receptacle.
15. Follow any park/camp/facility rules as set forth by location of ride/campout.
16. No alcohol or firearms permitted on the trail.
17. Smoking is permitted ONLY in designated areas.
18. Just a friendly reminder that we have ride rules for a reason. We would like to respectfully ask everyone to please follow the rules for you own safety and to ensure everyone's enjoyment. Ride Hosts do not want to be the bad guy and ask members to please follow the rules. We thank you for your consideration and diligence in following these rules.

PLEASE NOTE: Rules are subject to change for specific rides & campouts which will be stated on the individual ride flyers for day rides & campouts.

