



CORRAL CHATTER

August 31, 2020



Santa Clara County Horsemen's Association, Inc. 81 Great Years! Since 1939

**"PROMOTE FELLOWSHIP
BETWEEN HORSEMEN
AND A GREATER
UNDERSTANDING OF
HORSES"**



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Hello Members,

It's been an unusual year, to say the least, and I miss so many of our social gatherings that make our club active and fun. And the fires burning on both sides of our valley have been devastating for our some of our members and surrounding communities. Those who've had to evacuate with large animals like horses have had to find temporary facilities to take them in. Our SCCHA property is equipped with 12 horse pens for use by our members and friends who might need to evacuate their property during these fires. We've had many inquiries from folks who are on standby, in case they need to evacuate, but so far only three horses have moved in. As time goes by, and our brave firefighters have gotten the fires more under control, there may be less of a need for evacuating, and I hope the worst is behind us. But we are still available for members and friends who may find out they need to evacuate and need a safe place to bring their horses.

Our final 5D show in August had to be cancelled due to the poor air quality from the wildfires. I know that's disappointing to many of you. Gosh, just when we think we're getting through one disaster-- the pandemic, then another one comes along-- the fires! Hopefully nothing can stop us from holding our big show of the year, the Buckle Play Day. It's scheduled for Saturday, September 26th so mark your calendars for that one!

We have been keeping our arena in good shape, and we even rented it out for a drill team to use for video recording their performance. Lots of thanks go to Karen Tarasco for putting in so much time on the tractor, making the arena look so good!

The Eagle Scout project has been completed and it has made a huge improvement to our snack shack. Last Saturday, Jeffrey Tan plus about a dozen troop 294 members and parents showed up to begin work tearing out the old rotten shelving and replacing them with sturdy permanent shelving. They also built four A-frame chalkboard signs that we can use during our events for posting information and directions. It was such a productive day, and I was impressed by the troop's work ethic and organizational skills, planning and executing the designs that were drawn up by Jeffrey. This project will give Jeffrey the credits he needs toward obtaining his Eagle Scout rank. Congratulations!

Even though we are not holding meetings, our SCCHA Board keeps up the essential work of running our club, using email for most of our communications. We are in good shape, even without our usual hall rental income, and our treasurer Yvonne is paying our bills. We will continue to wait for recommended health guidelines that will allow us to safely hold our regular meetings again in our clubhouse. Thanks for hanging in there everyone!

Linda Carcione

News/Advertisements

Special News: The Eagle Scout project has been completed and it has made a huge improvement to our snack shack. Last Saturday, Jeffrey Tan plus about a dozen troop 294 members and parents showed up to begin work tearing out the old rotten shelving and replacing them with sturdy permanent shelving. They also built four A-frame chalkboard signs that we can use during our events for posting information and directions. It was such a productive day, and I was impressed by the troop's work ethic and organizational skills, planning and executing the designs that were drawn up by Jeffrey. This project will give Jeffrey the credits he needs toward obtaining his Eagle Scout rank. Congratulations!

Horse Pasture & Barn for Rent: 1 acre pasture & private barn (with large storage area) in Almaden Valley near Quicksilver Park for rent. Available Sept 1st. \$500/month includes pasture, barn, electricity & water. Must be able to come daily to care for your horses. No stallions, OK to have a chicken coop on-site but no roosters. Up to 5 horses. Please contact Kristina for more info - call/text: 408-420-7810.



Trail Etiquette: Part of good [trail riding etiquette](#) is ensuring that you are respectful of trails and land areas. This begins with your arrival at the trailhead. Some ways you can mind your trail manners include:

- Park only in designated areas.
- Keep your muck in the trailer and dispose of it at home or in a designated area.
- Tie only to your trailer, designated tie areas or using a safe high tie (do not tie directly to trees).
- Keep your horse moving while he passes manure on the trail.
- Take out everything that you bring in. Pack it in, pack it out.
- Stay on the trail – do not create pass arounds.
- Only enter waterways at designated crossings.
- Avoid muddy trails. If you have to pass through mud, do so at a walk.
- Obey all signage. Do not ride in areas where horses are not allowed.
- Abide by all voluntary trail closures.
- Collect muck/hay from your tie site and dispose of it at home or in a designated area.
- Fill in uneven areas created by you or your horse.
- Follow the [Leave No Trace](#) ethics.

Sharing Multi-Use Trails

Many trails are multi-use and open to a variety of users – hikers, mountain bikers, dog walkers, etc. It is important that equestrians communicate with other trail users in a productive manner. When you encounter other users on the trail, remember that horses have the right of way. Make it a safe trail riding experience by:

- Talking to the hikers or bikers.
- Asking them to step off the downhill side of the trail while you pass.
- Sharing the number of riders in your group and asking them how many are with them.
- Desensitizing your horse at home.

Rules for Group Trail Riding

Courtesy is important when you are riding in a group. Some [trail tips](#) to be respectful to other members in your riding party are:

- Waiting for gate openers/closers.
- Waiting for all horses to drink before leaving a watering area.
- Moving downstream to allow other horses ample room to drink.
- Waiting for riders who might be having a hard time crossing water with their horses.
- Waiting for riders who have dismounted or are off for any reason.
- Not running up behind or alongside other riders.
- Passing on the left.

Tail Ribbons and Their Meanings

If your horse exhibits behaviors that require special consideration, you should tell all members of the riding party about those issues and place a ribbon of an appropriate color in your horse's tail and mane. The following are common ribbon color codes:

- Red = Kick
- Green = Novice
- Blue = Stallion

Remember to keep an eye on safety, obey [land stewardship rules](#), be courteous and wear all the right ribbons to have an enjoyable ride every time.

More information on safe trail riding and how to prepare your horse for the trail can be found in the [Certified Horsemanship Trail Guide Manual](#).