

# Lake County Horse Council News

Winter 2011

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**FEATURED SR. EQUESTRIAN  
PATTY PATTEN**

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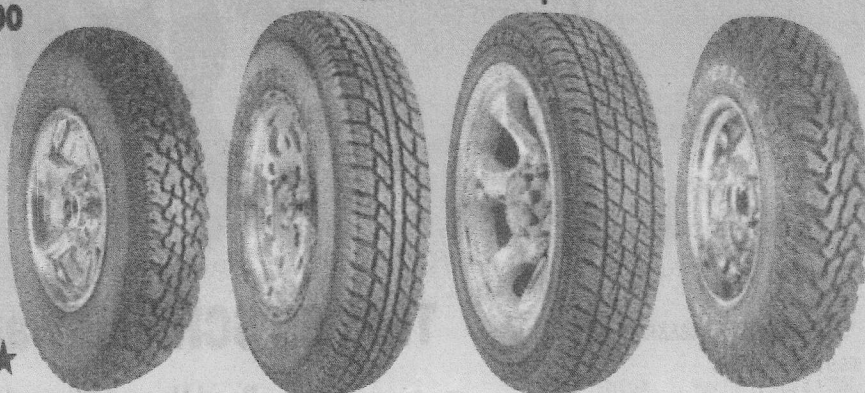
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## Patty Patten

When Valarie asked me if I was interested in writing an interview piece for the Lake County Horse Council News Journal, my immediate thought was "Who do you have in mind?" Patty Patten was her suggestion. How exciting!, I thought. "Of course, yes", I replied. I was thrilled at the idea of who I was going to visit and hear some of the memories she has to share.

My family has known Patty and her family and the kids since I was a young girl riding the school bus and running the orchards on foot and horseback. Growing up in Scotts Valley at the old Babe Jones Ranch, now owned by one of Patty's sons, and at the old Jerry Hendricks indoor arena with my family, Tom and Sharon Kirkpatrick, you get to know your neighbors in the Valley and share interests like horses and groups like the first Clear Lake Horseman's Association, which included all the family's kids, and grandparents alike, enjoying events like trail rides, pot lucks, roping and gymkhanas. Patty knew most of them, if not all, and everyone else in the county with a long list of familiar names, too many to mention, who participated. Eventually it split into the Clear Lake Senior Horseman's Association and then the Clear Lake Junior Horseman's Association out of a need for the young ones to grow, compete, hang out, and just have fun with the same age group while the elders had their own fun.



*Patty Patten, Birthday Girl, 2008*

I pulled up to the house she and Tom, (who she met in 4<sup>th</sup> grade) shared for many years and where they raised their children. Warm, kind and welcoming is Patty, and looking much younger than her years. Born in 1922 in

Mill Valley then moving to Lake County and attending both Upper Lake Schools, she then graduated from Clear Lake High School.

I asked about her first experience with horses. Smiling, and with a giggle she told of a girlfriend she described as "full of fun and shenanigans". They didn't have horses of their own, so they would, well..."borrow" other peoples' horses to ride. And ride they did, she said. "All over! On every trail in Lake County". When she was younger, Tom used to ride to Upper Lake to see her at her grandmother's where she loved to spend time.

Patty finally got her first horse after she and Tom got married. They lived and started a wonderful life together in Surprise Valley, where the first of five sons was born. Tom and Patty Patten started a cattle company in 1942 with two other people. Patty showed me an endearing photo of the group of four partners. There in the saddle, working with the men and dressed in goat hair chaps and cowboy hat was Miss Patty. Back in those days, she recites a bit, of how uncommon it was for the "woman of the house" to be out with the men and how she loved it.

In 1946 they moved back to Lake County having four more sons, and settled in Scotts Valley, where they raised their family and became part of our local agriculture, providing pears, and I'm sure, many other crops from her gardens that she learned how to grow from her grandmother to share with her friends and family. She loved being outside.

Today, Patty is still a member of the many horse groups in Lake County including the Back Country Horseman's Association and the newly organized Lake County Horse Council; the place to be a part of if you have or even just love horses.

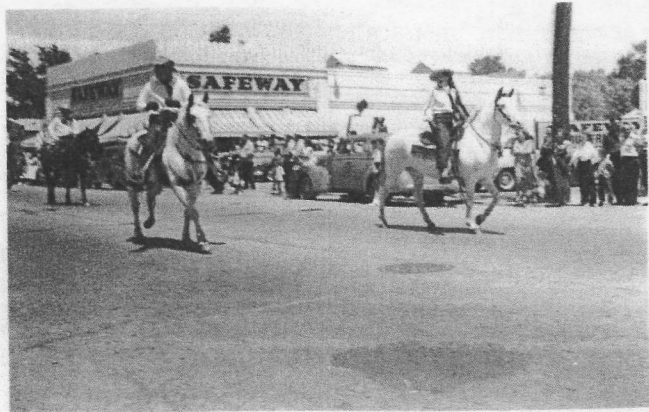
There is never enough time to hear all she has learned and then be able to share. The conversation with Patty Patten has been a whirlwind of names, places, events and very interesting stories tied together with experience and knowledge. You actually felt like you were there with her as she talked about all the excitement and adventure in one story; not only about her life, but of the times and ways people lived in Lake County and in other areas of the west.

So, I will leave you with my heart felt thanks to Patty and the Lake County Horse Council, for the opportunity to maybe give you a little piece of who she is and what a

## Patty Patten

pleasure it was to visit and experience even a glimpse of the wonderful, yet at times, hard life Patty Patten has lived and graciously shared with all whom she has met.

Thanks Again  
Laurie Fullerton  
"Horse Owner for Life"  
Kelseyville, Calif.



Tom and Patty Patten July 4, 1948  
"Patches" & "Pepper"

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### LCHC CALENDAR

#### JANUARY 2011

##### 18th

#### **Lake County Horse Council**

General Membership Meeting, Lake County Fairgrounds, Jr. Building (note: location changed from Middletown) Coat Drive. Bring a coat to donate, get a raffle ticket! Info: Carol Biggs, Pres. 707-279-8183

#### February 2011

##### 1-28th

#### **LCHC Fundraiser, USRider**

Every new member earns \$10 for LCHC  
Please refer to informational article in the News Journal. Contact: Marty Brookman 707-275-9387

##### 5th

#### **Clear Lake Junior Horseman's Sliver Buckle Winter Gymkhana Series**

Lake County Fairgrounds 9:00am  
Contact: Carol Thorn 349-6847

##### 7th

#### **LCHC Board Meeting**

Location TBA. Contact Carol Biggs, Pres. 279-8183

##### 13th

#### **LCHC Poker Run**

Information to follow, contact Carol Biggs, Pres. 279-8183

#### March 2011

##### 5th

#### **Clear Lake Junior Horseman's Sliver Buckle Winter Gymkhana Series**

Lake County Fairgrounds 9:00am  
Contact: Carol Thorn 349-6847

##### 7th

#### **LCHC Board Meeting**

Location TBA. Contact Carol Biggs, Pres. 279-8183

#### April 2011

##### 17th

#### **LCHC General Membership Meeting**

## Dressage With Dave Claus

**Dressage** is a French word for "training", as "breaking" is a western term for "training". Dressage and western riding have much in common, however, unfortunately, often people on each side of the spectrum think their discipline is superior to the other.

When starting a young horse in training we all want a relaxed horse who is accepting the bit and going forward willingly and freely. Aids and riding position in the different disciplines are similar and in some cases the same.

Dressage riders ride with light contact on the bit. A light closing of the hand tells the horse to get ready to make a change.

Tom Dorrance, a cowboy and horseman extraordinaire from Oregon started a revolution in horse training and handling many years ago. His methods are used today in all riding disciplines, with the coined term "Natural Horsemanship". His approach to teaching using kindness, respect and patience produce far greater results than methods based on force and intimidation. Tom's students are carrying his message around the world - Central, South America, Australia and Europe.

Many dressage masters, past and present, have advised their students to treat their horses with kindness. A frequently heard quote: "If your horse does not become more beautiful as you ride him, you are riding incorrectly".

Dressage horses were originally trained as war horses. When the horse could be ridden bridleless, controlled only by the riders' legs and seat, freeing both hands for weapons, the horses were ready for combat. These horses had to canter and gallop on command, move into a side pass, stop on a dime, back up, spin in the opposite direction, change leads to remain in perfect balance, and jump in the air and kick out both hind legs to incapacitate an enemy approaching from the rear.

Years ago, I was a working cowboy. One of the ranches I was working on got sold and all the cattle were disposed of as well. In the process of looking for work I met a couple of dressage

trainers who were having some problems with their horses. One horse had developed a bucking habit, another would not accept the rider's leg.

I explained that I did not ride dressage but I was confident that I could help these horses overcome their problems. Using Tom Dorrance and Ray Hunt as my inspiration, I was indeed able to make progress with these dressage horses. One day, one of the trainers came to the arena where I was working a horse and said "you DO ride dressage!". I tell this story to demonstrate that there is really not that much difference between the different riding disciplines.

Dressage horses are regularly ridden with light contact on the bit. The first few weeks as you are starting a young colt under saddle you may want to ride him on a loose rein as you would a western horse. When the colt accepts the aids willingly, turns and stops, contact will be the next step. Often young horses are ridden with light contact from the beginning - this depends on the individual trainer. Young horses competing and schooling lower levels may be ridden in a longer frame until they gain sufficient strength, rhythm and suppleness.

The top four levels of dressage (Prix St. George, Intermediate I & II and Grand Prix) are ridden in a double bridle, consisting of a snaffle and a gentle short shanked curb bit below. In correct riding, the reins to the curb bit are always slack, since these advanced horses are in self-carriage and the reins are only a small component of the aids that influence the horse.

Many upper level riders would like to see the double bridle eliminated, but tradition is strong and the double bridle remains.

Is there any practical value to these highly advanced dressage moves? Perhaps not - it's a thing of beauty, an art form, however, from a cowboy's standpoint, many of them could do a credible job of gathering and separating cattle, to say nothing of the fact that they are usually safe, obedient, responsive, and a pleasure to ride.

There are ten levels in dressage competition. In *Introductory Level A&B*, the horse is asked to walk, trot, go forward freely accepting the bit and

the rider's aids. **Training Level** has the same requirements including the canter. **First Level** includes the above plus the horse must show that he has developed "thrust" (pushing power) to achieve balance and throughness, with a lengthening of stride added in the trot. **Second Level** is the beginning of collection. The horse's frame becomes increasingly beautiful as his hind leg steps under, shortening his frame, carrying more weight. The neck is arched and the back is round. More advanced movements are also introduced in **Second Level**, such as "shoulder in" and "haunches in". The horse becomes coiled like a spring, ready to respond to the rider's aids.

**Third Level** requires more collection, lateral movements, flying lead changes and even greater balance and self carriage.

**Fourth Level** adds lead changes every third stride. All movements and maneuvers become more precise and demanding.

**Prix St. George, Intermediate I and Intermediate II**, the next three levels, bring increasingly difficult and advanced movements, preparing the horse for the highest Level,

**Grand Prix.** This is the level of Dressage that you will see in the Olympics. Among the movements are lead changes in every stride (one-tempis), half pass, canter pirouettes, piaffe, and passage. The lightness of hands - the instant response to the rider's aids - is truly amazing and magical to watch! The horse and rider's confidence and trust in one another is a thing of true beauty - the kind of partnership we all seek!

Imagine a wild stallion - neck bowed, prancing and dancing at a trot as if he had springs in his feet. Go to a dressage show and watch the higher level requiring a high degree of collection and you will see the same thing.

Horses of any breed, crossbreed, mustangs and mules can all be taught and trained in dressage. (A friend and local veterinarian owns a mustang schooling second Level). Any saddle, Western or English, can be used in riding dressage - the saddle makes no difference. A bridle with a snaffle bit and you are ready to go! Should you have an opportunity to attend a dressage show, by

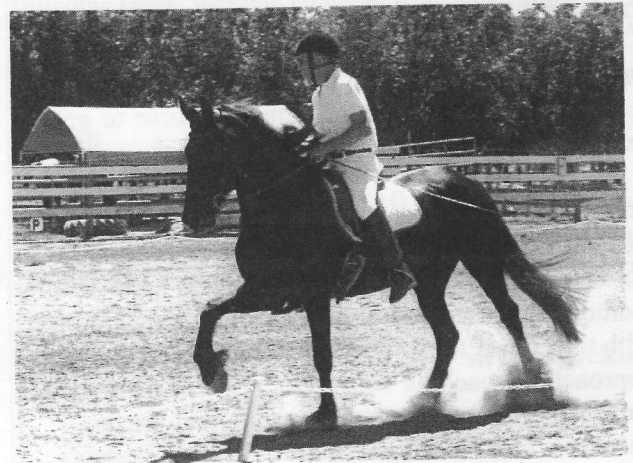
all means do so - you will most likely encounter friendly faces who love horses as you do. Their goal is to enjoy their horses, improve their riding skills and advance the horse's skills as well.

Dressage is a journey to become a better horseman/woman and to develop a better horse.

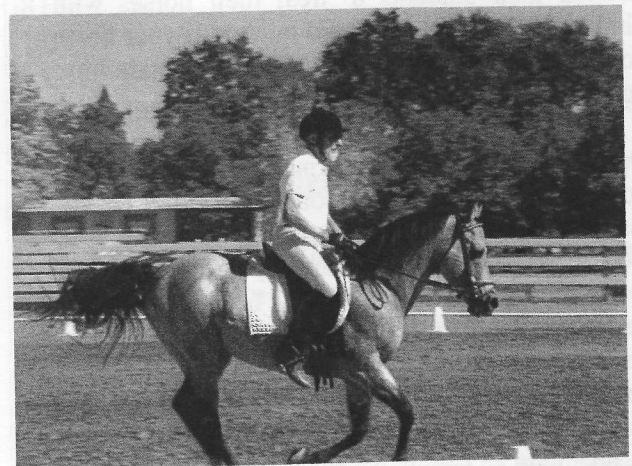
Happy trails, partner!

Dave Claus

Dave Clause Training Stables  
Clearlake Oaks, CA.



Dave Claus riding "Hasse", August 2006  
Lake County Dressage Schooling Show



Dave Claus riding "Ryder", October 2005  
Lake County Dressage Schooling Show

## WINTER RIDING IN LAKE COUNTY

With winter upon us, it is still important to take advantage of breaks in the weather to get horses out and exercised. Mentally, horses confined in the winter get bored, antsy, and more prone to develop bad habits such as weaving and cribbing. Physically, one of the best deterrents to winter colic is regular exercise to keep up gut motility and function.

But where to ride? Local trails are often extremely muddy and slippery, dangerous to ride on and extremely destructive to trail surfaces. This article hopes to offer some good alternatives to riding trails in the winter.

We are very lucky that Lake County has many dirt and gravel roads to explore in the winter and exercise your horse. Note: some of these areas may be NOT be suitable for large groups or a large number of rigs. Please be aware that these dirt roads are public and may have vehicle traffic. We also encourage you to contact Lake County Road department first for legality of parking. Park at your own risk and do not leave valuables in your car. When parking in public areas or on county road easements, please be careful not to leave trash or manure behind. Always be considerate of vehicle traffic, hikers and bikers.

Many Lake County equestrians have ridden the following areas:

**Boggs Mountain State Demonstration Forest** off Hwy 175 near Cobb has a parking area below the Heliport with a bathroom and Friends of Boggs kiosk. Many Cal Fire roads will be rideable in the winter, even with snow. Please do not ride muddy or soft trails! Call Forestry office (707) 928-4378 for information and updates and <http://boggsmountain.org/> for more info about riding at Boggs. Middletown area has parking at the **Trailside Park on Dry Creek Road**, right off Hwy 175. If park trails are muddy, riders often head south on Dry

Creek road, cross the creek and continue right on the road paralleling Dry Creek. After crossing a bridge, the road turns to dirt and has a nice climb. Round trip is about 7.8 miles; about 1/2 ride is pavement and half dirt.

**Kelseyville area: Mt. Konocti Rd.** For years, riders have parked just off the access road to Mountain Vista Middle School and ridden up the Mt. Konocti dirt road (Konocti rd.) to the gate, approx 7.4 miles round trip. Consistent climb and beautiful views. Room for no more than five rigs. No public access past gate at this time.



Lakeport area: **Highland Springs Recreation Area**; end of Highland Springs Road. Please do not ride the trails when muddy. A great ride is on the **Toll Road**. At the Y at the dam, head right approx 2 huge miles to the area right before the pavement turns to dirt. Overflow parking about 1.8 miles out. One can ride to Sheldon Creek Camp ground and back (approx. 15 miles), or the cattleguard on the Mendocino County side. (18 miles round trip). Traffic is light but be aware of it.

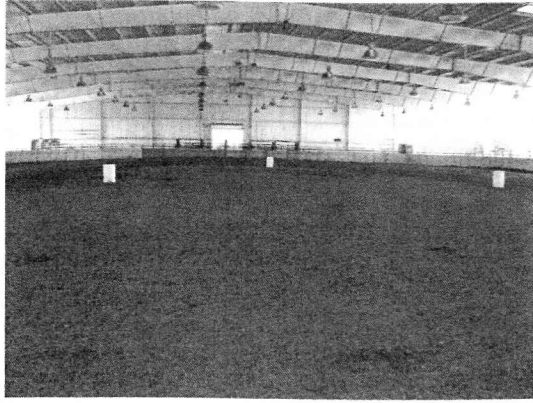
### Clear Lake Junior Horsemen's Winter Silver Buckle Series Gymkana

Jan 8 Feb 5 Mar 5, 2011

Lake County Fairgrounds 9:00am

info: 707-349-6847





A few rigs can park by the **Gun Range** sign in the Park. Ride over the step over by their fence and ride **East Highland Road** about a mile and return. A side easement road turns right at the Gun Range and heads uphill about a mile to a locked gate. Please respect that gate and all private property.

Riders can also park at the usual **big parking area near the "Y"**, ride up the pavement a half mile and turn right up a dirt road, around the green gate and up the hill. Two gateposts before the top will give you the county boundary. Please do not go any further as it is private property. It is a great climb for energetic horses with a beautiful view coming down.

**Clear Lake Oaks area. High Valley Road** (Rd 220) has room for 3-4 small rigs on the side of the road right after the pavement ends; approx 4.1 miles from Hwy 20. Views of Clear Lake are wonderful! High Valley dirt road runs for approx 7.7 miles until it hits Bartlett Springs road (M12). One can ride left down Bartlett Springs road 5 miles to the pavement, or turn uphill toward Sawmill flat and continue toward Bartlett Springs resort for an all day ride, or turn left heading north towards Pinnacle Rock. See Mendocino Forest map (available at Forestry office on Elk Mountain Rd, Upper Lake) for details.

**NorthShore. Bartlett Springs Road.** Parking across from Tulip Hill Winery for a few small rigs. It is about 6.6 more miles to the top, and riders can access roads mentioned above. The views are tremendous

Note: riders used to park a few rigs here. There is currently no sign that states NO PARKING. The fence is the Ceago property line. Ceago welcomes wine tasters to park rigs after a ride, at their facility, a block south on highway 20.

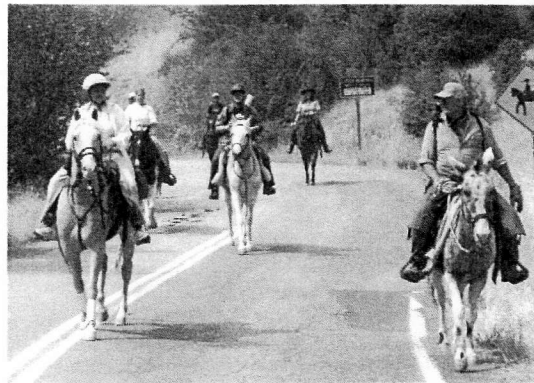
**Walker Ridge Area.** According to BLM Ukiah field office, right at the entrance onto Walker Ridge road a person can make a left turn onto a vehicle parking area used by PG&E, CalTrans and REACH helicopters. You can then ride the extensive roads around Walker Ridge and Indian Valley. Contact BLM Ukiah Field office for PDF maps at

<http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/fo/ukiah/maps/ukiah.html>,

or call 707-468-4000

Adventurous riders can check out **Middle Creek ORV** staging areas about 8 miles out of Upper Lake or Reiff Road out Morgan Valley below Lower Lake.

For those of you who are not dedicated trail riders and like to school your horses, many local stables have offer riding in the winter for a reasonable fee in all weather and/or covered arenas. Please call first for times and cost.



**Lake County Fairgrounds, Martin Street, Lakeport.** \$8 per horse must fill out waiver and proof of insurance first. Big covered arena M-F 9-5 check with them at 263-6181 for weekend availability and footing conditions.

**Gaddy Shack Arena, 350 Gaddy In, Corner of Soda Bay and Gaddy.** \$10 haul in fee, 1 all weather arena, not covered. Call Debbie



## TRAIL FIRST AID

This first informational article will talk about emergency items to carry for trail riding. There are lots of handy things to bring along but I am limiting items to what can reasonably be carried and most essential. This is for day rides. I am happy to write another article with everyone's additional suggestions.

1. **Benadryl** (diphenhydramine) This is an antihistamine for allergic reactions and comes over the counter as 25mg and I would suggest the cheapest generic. 1-2 pills can be given immediately for bee stings, rattlesnake bites and any other allergic response. If your dog or you get bit or stung give 1-2 tabs immediately. This will not cure the bite or sting but it will help to blunt the allergic reaction. Benadryl is very safe. 100mg will not hurt you so do not hesitate to give at least 2 pills. Drowsiness is the side effect.
2. **Vet wrap or polo wraps.** Vet wrap is less bulky. This can be used for any kind of injury on person, dog or horse and holds up if wet. It can stop bleeding with pressure. It fits around all angles and joints. The advantage of polo wraps is they are softer and stretchable. You must be careful with both not to wrap too tight and cut off circulation.
3. **Kotex pad or mini pad.** They make fabulous dressings especially on extremities. Many are individually wrapped so stay clean. They are absorbent and also protective. A full pad is spongy and can alleviate pressure of a firm wrap.
4. **Tylenol or Motrin** (it is always nice to have a vicodin in case of more serious injury)
5. If you have enough room take a **hoof boot** or gorilla or **duct tape**. If you lose a shoe these can help till you get back to camp. (we did duct tape at Chamberlin Creek) Tape can be used to splint injuries and fix tack.
6. In the summer it has been suggested to carry a **6 inch piece of hose** tubing in case your horse gets a rattlesnake nose bite. If the nose swells this can keep a open airway.

Carleene Cady Carleene@hughes.net



## Nationwide Trailering Assistance

With an annual fee comparable to that of other roadside assistance programs, USRider's plan offers service anywhere in the continental United States, Canada and Alaska and includes the typical flat-tire repair, battery assistance and lockout services. In addition, the Equestrian Motor Plan offers services designed with horse owners in mind, including 100 miles free towing for the tow vehicle and/or horse trailer, emergency veterinary, stabling, and farrier referrals, and more, for just pennies a day. USRider membership costs just \$119 annually, plus a \$29 new member activation fee. Associate memberships for family members are available for just \$79 each. USRider waives the new member activation fee for members who add an associate member when they join. Join USRider today by calling 1-800-844-1409 or by visiting [www.usrider.org](http://www.usrider.org).

**GREAT NEWS:** USRider has created a special limited-time program just for Lake County Horse Council members! *For any member of LCHC who joins USRider between February 1 and February 28, 2011, USRider will donate \$10.00 to LCHC for each new primary membership.* Call 1-800-844-1409 to join – be sure to identify yourself as a Lake County Horse Council (LCHC) member. Or, join online at [www.usrider.org](http://www.usrider.org)

**This is going to be our February fundraiser! Please follow the directions carefully to ensure that we get our credit. Tell your friends. This is a wonderful opportunity for Lake County Horse Council members!!**

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## ***Mounted Shooting* – the most fun you can have atop a horse**

By Deb Brown

I was introduced to the sport of Mounted Shooting by accident. There was a public arena in a park in my neighborhood down south, and one weekend the arena and adjacent campground were booked by a Mounted Shooting club for a two-day competition. I saddled up and rode the few blocks to the park, to see what all the “boom-boom-boom” was about.

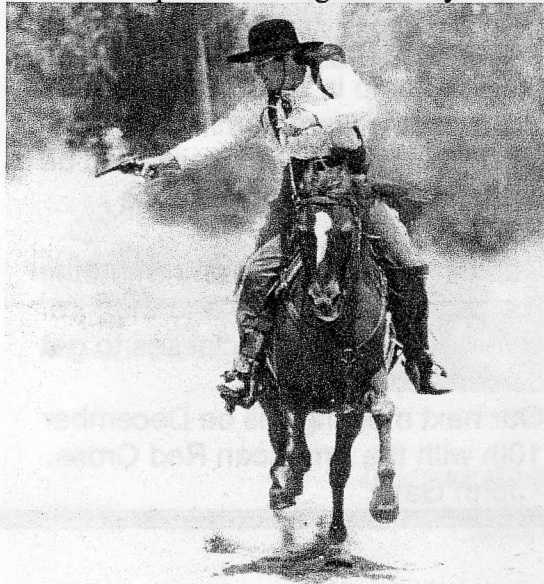
At the arena, I found about 50 riders gathered around the fence, and what a colorful scene they made! One of the fun things about this sport is that they encourage (sometimes, require) period western clothing of the 1800's era. The real aficionados spare no effort to look as authentic as possible – any one of them could have ridden right out the pages of a Louis L'Amour novel (I never saw so many slick-forks and center-fired rigs in one place before).

But it actually took me a while to appreciate the above details, because when I first rode up to the arena, I could not take my eyes off what was going on inside it. A rider was galloping around shooting a six-gun at balloons stationed along the way. **Boom! Boom! Boom!** My horse laid his ears back at the noise, but his own curiosity drew him forward to the arena fence.

The first and most obvious question: how dangerous is that? Answer: they use black-powder blanks, not live ammo. There is still danger, but it is mostly limited to the horse and rider in the arena, not the watching audience. Though I never joined the Wounded Knee Club myself (premature firing while drawing, peppering your own leg with powder burns), I saw others do it (ouch). I always wore eye protection, and used ear protection for my horse. The firing gun is closer to his ears than mine, after all. That day, I got contact numbers and practice location information, and soon plunged into Mounted Shooting with joy. I've had plenty of fun on horses in my life – I've rounded up cattle in beautiful high country, run races

short and long, ridden thousands of miles of trails, competed in cutting and team penning, and did the High School Rodeo/gymkhana thing in my youth. And I'm here to tell you, NOTHING compares to the adrenalin-packed thrill of Mounted Shooting!

The sport requires a type of spontaneous horsemanship different from what you see in gymkhana or rodeo events. Whereas the pattern for pole bending or barrel racing never changes, with Mounted Shooting, you never know in advance what patterns you will be running in competitions. There are some 60 patterns in the rule book, and they vary from really simple to really complicated. At the beginning of each competition, all 60 numbers are put in a hat, and 4-6 numbers are drawn (depending on whether a one-day or two-day match). Those are the patterns you will run that weekend, and no one is allowed to rehearse their runs in advance. Add to that “freshness” two six-guns and ten balloons waiting to be popped, and you've got quite a challenge of horsemanship and shooting ahead of you.



Anyone interested in attending a clinic or helping start a Lake County mounted shooting club is welcome to email:

[Deb\\_LCHC@yahoo.com](mailto:Deb_LCHC@yahoo.com)

**Meeting of Lake County Horse Council Subcommittee On Emergency Services for Equines In Case of Disaster**

Meeting was held on December 1, 2010 at the ASPA office in Lakeport.

Present -

Animal Control -- acting head Bill Dickerson and Sarah

Middletown Cal -- Fire Captain Greg Bertelli

Lake County Horse Council -- John Gay and Paul Marchand M.D.

We discussed chain of command in case of natural disaster or emergency. Chain of command goes; OES, then Cal-Fire, then Animal Control, then Lake County Horse Council.

The Lake County Horse Council's job would be to arrange for trailers for transporting horses and other large livestock. We would also keep a current listing of boarding facilities willing to help in an emergency.

If our people were certified by OES for disaster relief, we would then be covered under their insurance policies.

Captain Bertelli is working with other fire captains and OES and the Fire chief to have training classes to get us certified with OES.

Our next meeting will be December 10th with the American Red Cross.

- John Gay

**Meeting regarding disaster in Lake County**, which department does what during a fire, flood, or earthquake, in regards to the animal population both large and small, and both livestock and pets.

Persons present:

From Lake County Horse Council: Paul Marchand, M.D., Lynnette Bertelli, and John Gay

From County of Lake Health Services: Karen M. Tait M.D.

From American Red Cross: Maggie O'Brien S.R. Director of Volunteers, and Pam Plank

Deputy Social Service Director Jennifer Fitts

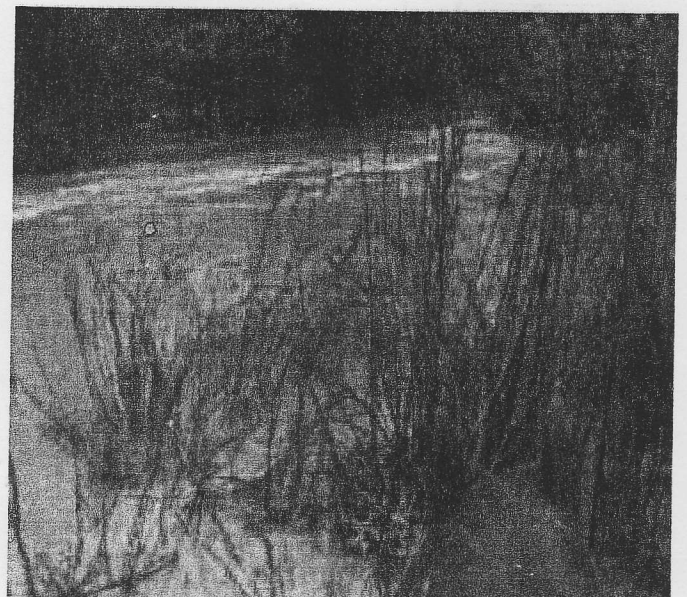
Lake County Sheriff's Department: Gerald D. Wilson

Animal Control Director (acting): Bill Davidson

I spoke with Michelle Staples regarding her giving classes.

My wife and I have purchased Michelle's 3 books to teach the LAR Large Animal Rescue classes.

- John Gay



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 Middletown residents also have **Central  
 Park Arena** that may be rideable  
 depending on footing conditions. Free.

Those who keep their horses fit over the  
 winter will have a jump-start on the spring's  
 activities, continued communication,  
 training and overall health benefits. Lake  
 County Horse Council Trail Advisory  
 Committee welcomes emails to  
[greymare56@gmail.com](mailto:greymare56@gmail.com) with comments or  
 more suggestions of places to trail ride in  
 Lake Co. We are working on a current  
 inventory of all equestrian trails and camps  
 in Lake County. Happy Trails!

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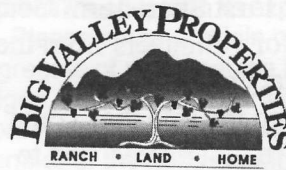
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## **LCHC Trails Advisory Committee - Meeting Report**

*Submitted by Deb Baumann, Chair*

Our first meeting was held on Friday November 19 at the Roundtable Pizza in Lakeport at 8pm. Thirteen people attended, including several LCHC board of directors as well as others from the horse community. Introductions allowed everyone present to describe their background and interest in the topic of trails in Lake County. First order of business was to elect a Chair and recording Secretary, Deb Baumann and Kim Riley respectively.

Next order of business was to establish the committee's Mission and Purpose. The group unanimously agreed that the Trails Advisory Committee would endeavor to support the LCHC's mission to promote and preserve the horse as agriculture, industry and recreation in Lake County (etc, as per LCHC mission statement).

Next order of business was Short and Long Term Goals. First Short Term Goal agreed upon was for volunteers from the committee to contact other Horse Councils to research the role that Trails Committees have in other areas, and to bring their findings back to our committee's next meeting. Those volunteering to provide research were Karen Sullivan (Marin County Horse Council), Marty Brookman (Peninsula Horse Council) and Carol Biggs (Sonoma County Horse Council).

Other Short Term Goals discussed included an inventory of existing and potential Lake County trails, trail heads, parking areas, and camping grounds that accommodate horses, with a Long Term

goal of creating maps and signs at the trail heads "Courtesy of Lake County Horse Council."

Many great ideas were presented and there was lively debate. This is a great group that brings many diverse opinions to the table. In addition to addressing needs of local horse owners and trail riders, we are keen to see Lake County become a destination for equine tourists. We look forward to helping the Horse Council raise awareness among the local businesses (not just horse related, but hotels, B&B's, restaurants, etc) that Lake County's beautiful scenery and miles of trails can attract significant tourist traffic to our area, thereby improving the local economy and preserving Lake County as an attractive and desirable location for horse people to come play or stay.

Before adjourning, the group agreed to meet every other month, and set the next meeting date for the evening of January 14, 2011.

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## Around The Ring With Horsemoe

Hi, my name is Maureen Brasier. I am treasurer for the Lake County Horse Council. I also have a boarding facility on Highland Springs Road and I have been showing in the AQHA circuit for a lot of years.

I want to share my riding days with everyone whether they are good or bad, and meet new equestrians along the way. Being involved in the Horse Council, I have found that there are a lot of horse people that I haven't had the pleasure to meet.

So I am creating a section in the journal where I will write about my riding routines, whether I am preparing for a show, trying something new like dressage, or just going down the trail. I am sure that I will hit a subject that someone may like to share their thoughts and experiences on. I would like to visit some other facilities around the lake and ride with new friends and then share the experience. I would also like riders to ask advice on any problems they may be having with their horses. I can share their questions with several different trainers in the area and see what advice they would like to give! You can also let us know if you have any new equine additions to your home! I want to create this section for inspiration, education, and enjoyment for us because we all know that our equine partners have given this to us!!! So let me hear from you!!! Please send me your ideas to [horsemoe@yahoo.com](mailto:horsemoe@yahoo.com). This will also be a place where you can share some great cooking recipes as well. Here is one of my favorites:

### **COWBOY COOKIES:**

Ingredients: 2 Cups of Flour, 1 teas baking soda, ½ teas of salt, 1 teas of baking powder, 1 cup of unsalted butter, 1 cup of sugar, 1 cup dark brown sugar, 2 eggs, 1 teas vanilla extract, 2 cups rolled oats, 1 package (6 ounces) semisweet chocolate chips, ¼ cup of pecan halves chopped.

Directions: Preheat oven to 350. Line two baking sheets with parchment paper. Sift the flour, baking soda, salt and baking powder together onto a piece of wax paper and set aside. Cream the butter and both sugars together until light and fluffy, then add the eggs one at a time. Stir in the vanilla and then add the flour mixture and mix well. Add the chocolate chips and the nuts and mix well.

Drop the dough by teaspoonfuls ½ inch apart on the prepared baking sheets. Bake in the center of the oven about 15 minutes. Transfer to wire racks to cool. Makes about 4 dozen cookies. ENJOY !

## **President's Message**

The Lake County Horse Council was formed in 2010 to promote the Horse as an Industry, in Lake County. We are here to have a voice to support Equine interests. Our membership is what makes us effective. The more members, in the Lake County Horse Council, the more impact our recommendations have.

Lake County is developing a sophisticated Trail system for horses, cyclists, and hikers. We are blessed with beautiful scenery and a favorable climate for outdoor activities, and are working to create a plan that serves everyone's enjoyment.

What we need is your membership commitment. Your membership enables us to have strong representation for the horse community, as a whole. We, as horse owners, make huge financial contributions to the local economy, and need to be recognized as such. With your membership we get that recognition and voice for you and our equine friends.

If you have a particular interest relating to horses, please join the Horse Council and attend some of our Committee Meetings.

We have 12 committees working for your benefit. The more members we have, the more impact our voice has. Other goals of the Horse Council are to Educate, support private and public equine facilities, keep a calendar of horse community activities, projects and events. We are planning seminars on Insurance and Liability as it relates to recreation.

We are planning fund raisers, including a Tack sale, BBQ and Barn Dance and Poker Run.

We are fortunate to have a very strong Board with an impressive collection of experience. It is an exciting time for us. Please come and join us. The Horse Council is an aggregate of many equine interests. We have riders, judges, suppliers, Veterinarians, and horse enthusiasts represented. You don't even have to own a horse to be a member of the Lake County Horse Council. Just become a member and come out and have fun with us.

We are looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting. There will be door prizes, raffle prizes, snacks and camaraderie. We have a say in the planning for the future of horses here. Our goal is to make constructive recommendations regarding these plans.

Happy Trails,  
Carol Biggs, President

## NEVER LOOK A GIFT HORSE IN THE MOUTH

or

### Why horses need their teeth done every year just like you and I

*Dr. Jeri Waddington, DVM  
Clearlake, CA.*

Dental health is important to be checked yearly whether you are a dog, cat, human or horse. It is really rather funny that I perform dentistry as much as I do because personally I have always hated going to the dentist. It is however one of the areas of medicine and surgery that I get the most sense of accomplishment. The level of comfort that you can bring to an animal after you have repaired a dental issue (abscessed tooth, sharp points cutting into the tongue, wave, ramps, hooks) is impressive. It is also a pleasure to see an older thin horse gain weight back to look again like its former youthful self.

*So why do horses need their teeth floated yearly?* Horses by their very nature as grazing animals are made to constantly eat and grind up course forage (grass, hay, grains) which they can then utilize for energy. Their front incisors, tongue, and lips help them grasp and bite off the grasses while the real work is done by their long row of molars in the back. The molars are relatively flat and knobby allowing an excellent grinding surface for the circular motion they use to help break down the hard stalks of the plants that they eat. It is this grinding motion that helps grind not only their food but also slightly grinds the tooth itself which helps keep the teeth level and minimize sharp points.

It is also the actual conformation of the horse's head that makes it so that it needs to be cared for (floated) on a regular basis. The upper teeth (arcade) of the horse are slightly wider than the lower teeth and the upper arcade often sits slightly forward of the lower arcade. Horse's teeth also erupt/grow continuously throughout their life to be worn down slowly over their lifetime. In a perfect world the circular grinding motion will keep the teeth level and point free, but in reality we need to go in usually yearly to file these sharp points off. The upper teeth get points on the outside, which can cut into the cheek of the horse and the lower teeth get sharp points on the inside that can cut into the tongue of the horse. Since the upper arcade sits slightly forward of the lower arcade this usually sets us up for sharp points (hooks) on the 1<sup>st</sup> upper molar and sharp points (ramps) on the last lower molar.

If the points, hooks and ramps remain and are not filed away yearly they can stop the horse from being able to properly grind its food. Since horse's need to make the circular grinding motion to break down the grasses and hays they will not be able to get all the nutritional value from their food. Older horses are especially susceptible to weight loss due to dental issues.

*So what's involved in floating horse's teeth?* Basically what we do is file off the sharp points and re-level the dental arcade. Sounds pretty simple right. Actually it is pretty involved, and almost an art form. Generally we start with sedation, put on a speculum (a mechanical tool to keep the mouth open so we can see all the teeth clearly) and then we file the sharp points down to level. Usually we pay special attention to the 1<sup>st</sup> molar, putting in a "bit seat" where the bit will rest in the mouth. I've been told it is like installing power steering. The incisors need leveling and any wolf teeth need to be removed (the tiny tooth that sits just in front of the molars). While not all horses have wolf teeth it is important to know early so that they can be removed before the horse goes into training.

*So who actually does the dentistry?* Usually your regular veterinarian will examine your horse's teeth each spring while giving your horse their vaccines. Dentistry, (equine, canine, or feline), requires a veterinarian. There are a few options though; either your regular veterinarian or an equine dentist who works with a veterinarian is able to perform dentistry. Both veterinarians and equine dentists are highly trained to give your horse the best dental care possible.

*What kinds of tools do you use?* Animal dental care has come a long way. Not only do we have the traditional hand floats that have been used since the days of James Herriot, but we also have a wonderful array of mechanical equipment. The beauty of mechanical equipment is that it allows us to be quicker, more focused, and efficient. The dental mouth speculum allows a much better view of the entire mouth so that we can get a full finished mouth. Stocks and support equipment help keep the horse standing while sedated.



The mouth can tell you not only the age of the horse but helps allow you an insight into the care that the horse has or has not been given, sometimes it can even give you a reason for why the horse is acting up or misbehaving. It is not hard to imagine that a horse with sharp points poking into its tongue or cheeks will be resentful of a bridle or bit. Hopefully with routine dental care we can keep a happier healthier horse, dog, cat or human.

*The Lake County Horse Council wishes to thank Dr. Waddington for her continued support.*

### Jogging the Web

Here are a few Horse related websites.

[www.californiahorsemen.com](http://www.californiahorsemen.com)

[www.marinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.marinhorsecouncil.org)

[www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org](http://www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org)

[www.aqha.com](http://www.aqha.com)

[www.appaloosa.com](http://www.appaloosa.com)

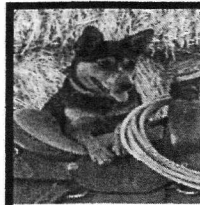
[www.california-dressage.org](http://www.california-dressage.org)

[www.iehja.com](http://www.iehja.com) (Inland Empire Hunter-Jumper Assoc.)

[www.napahorsemen.org](http://www.napahorsemen.org)

[www.royrogersrangers.com](http://www.royrogersrangers.com) (mounted shooting)

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**Lake County Horse Council Biography:**

**Valarie Sullivan, Vice President**

**A Gift Horse Equine Rescue and Rehabilitation**

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I was introduced to horses nearly 42 years ago and have enjoyed them every day of my life since! At our rescue, we not only save and rehabilitate unwanted horses but also pride ourselves in putting these horses to use as productive members of a family. The personal goals that I have achieved in using rescue horses as therapy mounts have been realized over and over again and I want to share with EVERYONE the joy and companionship that owning horses has brought into my life. My Grandmother introduced me to horses and I think that it is imperative that we all do what we can to ensure that this generation, and many generations to come, is able to own, use, enjoy and love horses. The Lake County Horse Council is a way to encompass our collective power and have it grow in a way that benefits everyone for generations to come.



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