

# Paradise Horsemen's Association

P A R A D I S E H O R S E M E N A S S O C . C O M

## P R E S I D E N T ' S M E S S A G E

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Hello all,

The Paradise Horsemen's Association has been busy since our last newsletter. Some of us enjoyed the campout that the Trail Committee set up. This was a success for the first time out. I would like to see something of this sort set up for next year with more participation.

I would like to thank those who have come out to support both the Ranch Hand Trail Challenge and our Poker Ride this year. Some came out to participate while others have continued to volunteer their time to help make these events happen for our club. This club would not be what it is without our volunteers. It takes the time and effort of these people to be able to put on any event we do. If we had more volunteers that would help even for just one event during the year, just think of the great things that would be happening with the club and at the arena in the years to come. THANKS TO OUR VOLUNTEERS

As we approach the fall time of year, we need to be thinking about what we as a club would like to see happen at our arena in 2011. Please share your ideas at the beginning of this process so we have time to plan these event for all to enjoy.

Also as we come to the end of the year, we need to be thinking about our vacant Board position and elections. We are looking at filling the vacant position of Vice President interm, and holding elections for Treasurer, Secretary, and Fund Raising positions. Please think about what role you would like to do in order to help this club move in a forward direction.

Now has been the time for riding. I have been fortunate to have spent a lot of time in the saddle this year. The campout at Skillman, a great ride along the Tahoe Rim Trail with Jack and Mike, riding around Meadowbrook Ranch and from Doon Grade Ranch. It has been a good year. I would hope that others have had the opportunity to ride and enjoy the scenery that is around us

If you would like to share any ideas with me personally, feel free to contact me at: [rockingmranch@clearwire.net](mailto:rockingmranch@clearwire.net).

Russ Mullins  
President

Meadowbrook Ranch Office 530-873-1580 Paul & Cindy Vandegrift 530-873-3353

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### Reminder

Come out to the next meeting to be held at the Paradise Association of Realtors Office on September 8th, 2011. General meeting will start promptly at 6:30pm. This office is located at 6178 Center Street in Paradise off of the Skyway. We truly hope to see you there!!

### Old Farmer's Advice

"Life is simpler when you plow around the stump."

## BASIC HORSEMANSHIP 101 OR DRESSAGE TRAINING LEVELS

There are times when I sigh as once again I explain that Dressage is, at least at the training levels, just Basic Horsemanship 101. The word Dressage means training. Yes, it is a discipline, yes, it is stylized, yes they wear formal wear when showing. Like all the other styles of riding, great emphasis is placed on clothes, tack, etc. That said the training for all riding disciplines starts with getting on the horse putting your legs on each side of it and asking it to move, stop, turn and change gaits.

Yet all riders interested in becoming a horseperson should learn how the horse moves under them at the different gaits. How your body on the horse affects those gaits, and that what you do on the horse with your hands, seat, legs and equipment, can cause the horse to respond for better or worse. For the most part what YOU do when you are with your horse both on the ground and in the saddle will be the determining factor on what your horse does. If your horse doesn't stop, you don't need a more severe bit, you need to learn how to stop your horse using correct techniques. You need to go back to training level 0 and start over, frustrating, oh yes, time consuming, oh yes.

Learning how to use your natural aids (legs, seat, hands, upper body) correctly will remove the necessity for a spur. Do I mean that spurs are bad? No, but they can be dangerous on the heel of a rider who doesn't know where or how to use them.

Teaching the horse to move away from the pressure of your leg, requires that the leg be in the right place, which means that you need to learn how to sit correctly and how the leg, seat and hand work to get the action you want. If the horse doesn't understand you he will not be able to do what you want him to do. Basic horsemanship 101.

The saddle you ride in does not determine how you will ride. Western, Hunt, Saddle Seat, Endurance, Cutting, Dressage, Bare Back pad, or any other type of gear that we can devise, only determine some style or other, some purpose that we humans are trying to achieve. Often I've been asked what saddle I prefer. If it has stirrups that will go to the right length and a seat that will fit my behind, I'm pretty comfortable in most any type of saddle. A horseperson will adapt to the rhythm of the horse under her.

Bits are the same way. I prefer a snaffle bit without any variations, no twists, no chin straps, no shanks, just a plain snaffle. I start young horses in a hollow mouth piece snaffle. Once at the HorsePark in Kentucky I saw a bit made of copper that was from the BC era, that bit was a recognizable snaffle. It confirmed something for me, something about continuity and our long history with this animal. When I was young in Oklahoma we started our young horses with a Bozal hackamore.

## Poker Ride at Meadowbrook Ranch

On August 27th, several riders got together to enjoy the beautiful trails at Meadowbrook Ranch. After riders finished the initial ride they were given the opportunity to explore the various trails Meadowbrook has to offer. Riders had the chance to ride their horses through the water, or even swim with them. Afterwards, everyone met back at the Red Barn for good conversation and food. This years high poker hand was won by Tiffany Thom with the second high hand going to April Battles. Junior raffle was won by Ashley Mullins. The raffle for the hay donated by Vanella's was won by Josh Skillman. Big Thank You goes out to Meadowbrook Ranch for the use of their wonderful facility and Carol for her warm hospitality.



## 2012 Calendar of Events

In the coming couple of months, the Paradise Horsemen's Association will be finalizing their 2012 schedule of events at the Paradise Horse Arena. We are looking for your input in what you as members want to see happen in 2012! You can either email your ideas or come to the September meeting to share your ideas.

Emailed submissions can be emailed to Russ at:  
[rockinmranch@clearwire.net](mailto:rockinmranch@clearwire.net)

## PHA Campout

At the end of July a few members got together for a scheduled PHA campout at the Skillman horse campground off of Hwy 20 north of Nevada City. Jack and Russ went up a day ahead of time to set things up. Stacy, Ashley, and Josh headed up the next day, but not without incident. About the time they got to Oroville, a trailer tire blew. Despite it being morning, it was quite hot at the off ramp. Thanks to a wonderful family for their help, Stacy and the kids we back on the road heading to the campground. Upon arrival, lunch was prepared before an afternoon ride. Horses saddled, riders mounted the journey began. Trails were nice, but a bit dusty (according to Ashley). The ride along the Pioneer Trail was not enough for our posse of riders, they ventured out on the multi-use trails as well. Long story short, the first day of riding consisted of a lot of hills, water crossings, and time. Our ride in the Tahoe National Forest that day was about 9 hours in the saddle. Some of our weary riders were quite thankful for Monkey Butt. This did not stop our riders from spending more time in the saddle, a ride after a tasty breakfast and one in the afternoon before dinner that was fit for a king. Jack and Russ probably spent about 26 hours or so in the saddle riding on that trip! All in all the food was outstanding, company was wonderful, and some of the views were what it is all about in riding horses.

Old Farmer's Advice

"Don 't interfere with somethin' that ain't bothering you none."

## JEFF CRAWFORD'S HORSEMANSHIP CLINIC

Jeff Crawford will be holding another horsemanship clinic at the Paradise Horse Arena on September 17th, 2011. come on out and learn how to have a better respectful relationship with your horse both on the ground and saddle. Jeff's clinic will run from 9:30 am to about 3:00 pm. Be looking for a flyer in your email with specific details. Jeff can be contacted at (530) 514-9393 or visit his website at: [www.JeffCrawfordHorsemanship.com](http://www.JeffCrawfordHorsemanship.com).

## Volunteers needed for cleaning trails

PHA is looking for a few volunteers to help with trail clean up at Meadowbrook Ranch. We would like to adopt a section of trail to help keep it maintained. This year Paul Vandegrift graciously allowed PHA to use the Meadowbrook Ranch. I would like to see us show some support back by meeting at Meadowbrook with our nippers and pruners and work on some of the trails. I personally spent an hour cleaning up some of the trails before our Poker Ride this month.



### Allan MacDonald

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# APRIL BATTLES

Sunday, September 11th, 2011— 9:30a.m. until 1 p.m.



**At the Paradise Horse Arena**  
(located in upper Paradise on Moore Road)

**Come and**

**learn how to keep your horse  
healthy, sound and rideable into**

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**For More information, contact:**

**April Battles**  
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## NEWSLETTER REMINDER

Newsletter submissions are due into Stacy Mullins by the general meeting on the second Thursday each month. Submissions may be about a ride you have been on, something you have done with PHA, equine related topic, or about an upcoming club event.

Submissions may be sent to:  
rockinmranch@clearwire.net or 1657 Wee Dell Lane, Paradise, CA 95969

## Dr. Darling's Vaccination Clinic

Dr. Darling's vaccination clinic is scheduled for September 17th

The clinic will start at 9:00am and go until 12:00pm. Dr. Darling will also have on hand basic vaccinations for your other animals. If you need a vaccination that is not as common, such as the rattlesnake vaccination for dogs, please contact Dr. Darlings office at 892-8910 to ensure he brings them. So bring your animals for their annual vaccinations up to the arena.

### DARLING VETERINARY CLINIC

SMALL & LARGE ANIMAL

2520 DOMINIC DR., SUITE 145  
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OFFICE: (530) 892-8910  
FAX: (801) 720-3696  
DARLINGVETCLINIC@YAHOO.COM



GARY DARLING, DVM

## Thanks

The Paradise Horsemen's Association would like to send out a heartfelt thanks to Robert Vanella from Vanella Farms for their gracious donation of \$140 of hay for our Poker Ride this year. This summer Vanella Farms has opened a new location for your hay and feed needs in Durham. Vanella Farms is a distributor of Bar Ale Feed product to include Equine Focus.



The new location is located at 2379 Durham Dayton Hwy.

Next time you are there, let them know what their support to our organization means.

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Old Farmer's Advice


"Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it back in."

## PHA Play Day

Even though we changed our play day date and not a huge crowd of horses and people attended we had a blast. With the Presidents "speedy" horse Bleu and his wife's well tempered horse Tasha, they raced against My new mustang John Henry with Tiffany riding and me riding my old palomino Buddy. Beanie baby team race and jousting with flour and noodles was a blast. I can't wait to try another play day and have an enjoyable ride with Nikki, Tiffany, Rosie Smith, Diana DeSpain, Russ, Stacy and Ashley. See you all next time  
Josh Skillman

## Newsletter info

The newsletter is now offering ads. The cost for a business size ad is \$15.00, 1/4 page is \$25.00, and \$45.00 for a half page. PHA members will receive a 50% discount for their ads placed in the newsletter. Monies raised from the selling of ads will offset the cost of printing and postage.



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## BASIC HORSEMANSHIP 101 OR DRESSAGE TRAINING LEVELS

Cont. from Pg 2

Those techniques we learned from the Spanish coming up from Texas. The horse was taught to move forward and understand what his we wanted him to do for several years before he ever carried a shanked bit. Those horses learned to work with just a touch of the rein or a shift of weight. What makes a horse confused and potentially dangerous, is not your equipment, not the horse, but you the rider. So what makes a well trained, forward, happy horse, a well trained, happy, forward thinking rider.

By Gloria Conly

Gloria Conly moved to Paradise from Kentucky in 2006. She is a lifetime student of the horse and riding, fell in love with and trained Morgan horses in El Cajon Ca for many years. She ran a training/ boarding stable, ran a full lesson schedule, showing Morgans and Arabians mostly. For years she taught riding to Southern California students, introduced many to the beauty and grace of the Morgan horse, but also imported warm bloods from Argentina. She was a student of Charles de Kunffy and numerous others. "I became disenchanted with the showing world's use of artificial, even cruel means of training, switched to dressage techniques, and have been using those exclusively. Developing the horse and rider potential has been my goal for many years."



## Paradise Horsemen's Association

P.O. Box 672  
Paradise CA 95969

### SCHEDULE OF EVENTS FOR 2011

#### September 2011

- 5<sup>th</sup> Labor Day Ride Doone Grade Ranch BBQ \*\* ♦
- 8<sup>th</sup> PHA General Meeting
- 10<sup>th</sup> California State Horsemen's Association Gymkhana Show **Date**  
**Changed**
- 11<sup>th</sup> Clinic by April Battles on Equine Bodywork & Nutrition
- 15<sup>th</sup> PHA Play Day ♦
- 17<sup>th</sup> Horse Clinic with Jeff Crawford & Dr Darling Vaccination Clinic
- 24<sup>th</sup> Trail Ride Colby Mountain \*\*
- 19<sup>th</sup> Trail Ride Upper Bidwell \*\*

#### October 2011

- 1<sup>st</sup> Junior PHA Campout ♦
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Junior PHA Campout ♦
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Trail Ride Lakeland in Oroville \*\*
- 13<sup>th</sup> PHA General Meeting
- 15<sup>th</sup> Trail Ride Potter's Point in Oroville \*\*
- 29<sup>th</sup> Halloween Play Day ♦

#### November 2011

- 7<sup>th</sup> Trail Ride Saddle Dam \*\*
- 10<sup>th</sup> PHA General Meeting
- 19<sup>th</sup> Trail Ride Upper Bidwell \*\*

#### December 2011

- 3<sup>rd</sup> Town of Paradise Tree Lighting \*\*
- 8<sup>th</sup> PHA General Meeting

♦ PHA Members Only  
 \*\* Events not at the Paradise Horse Arena  
 (All events subject to change)

## LABOR DAY RIDE

On Monday September 5th, we will be holding our Labor Day Ride. This year we will be having it at Doon Grade Ranch in Magalia. This ride will be from Doon Grade Ranch to Sterling City and back. After the ride, we will hold a pot-luck lunch in which PHA will be providing the Tri-Tip and will have beverages on hand. Ride out time for this ride is 9:30am. Parking will be at the lower lot to Doon Grade Ranch or the Camp-ground area. Hope to see our members there.

### Important Notice to All Members

**The Paradise Horse Arena is not a public arena to be used by non club members. The use of the arena is for members only unless other arrangements have been made, i.e., open show, clinics, etc. Members need to remember to safeguard the combinations.**