



# Tilden Wildcat Horsemen's Association Newsletter

January-February 2008

## TWHA Annual Membership Meeting Set for Monday, January 28

TWHA will hold its annual membership meeting on Monday January 28th starting at 7 p.m. at Bay Laurel Arabians in Orinda

Our speaker at this year's meeting will be Debby Young, the owner and manager of Grizzly Peak Stables for the last 36 years. During that time, Debby has amassed a wealth of experience in Western, Dressage and trail riding, and will address issues of Horse and Rider Training and Fitness for Balance and Endurance in the Arena and on the Trail, including rider position, putting the horse "on the bit," negotiating trail obstacles, and trail riding. A question and answer session will

provide an opportunity to delve into the questions you most care about.

Our meeting will also include an update on plans for 2008 TWHA club and trail events, and elections for our 2008 board. We begin with a potluck dinner starting at 6:30: the club will provide pizza, so please bring an appetizer, salad, dessert or other food to share if you can. The meeting will begin at 7 p.m. Bay Laurel Arabians is located at 77 Tres Mesas in Orinda. From Grizzly Peak Blvd. turn at the Steam Trains onto Lomas Cantadas and then take the first right turn just downhill from Grizzly Peak Stables.

## TWHA Member News

The new year is upon us, with sunshine, blue skies and green grass this week. So far this year's rains, measured at about 17 inches to date up at Grizzly Peak Stables, are about 50% higher than last year's, but still a full 9 inches less than 2 years ago.

Even so, that was one remarkable storm on January 4, with winds up to 100 miles an hour and about 5 inches of rain within 36 hours. Power was disrupted, and in North Berkeley, TWHA members and others found their phone and internet services off for up to a week or more.

These storms always seem to hit Grizzly particularly hard; this year the stables had 2 trees blown down, one onto the road, the porta-potty tumbled on its side, recycling and garbage containers blown halfway down the hill, and a large section of roof blown off one of the barns. Roof shingles littered the ground in front, and Fidencio battled to get the rollup door on the hay barn back in its tracks. Definitely a scary day, and one that will take a while to fully recover from.

At OHA and at Bay Laurel Arabians, trees blew down; fortunately no people or horses seem to have been injured in the storms. In recent years these storms have come right around the turn of the calendar to a new year, so hopefully that means

the worst of the winds is behind us, even if we still hope for lots more rain.

With the rain, of course, comes mud and we have an added responsibility to avoid impacting the trails negatively during the winter with our horses hooves. On page 9 we reprint an article on this topic from a past newsletter. In Tilden, Seaview

*Continued on page 2*

## TWHA Events:

**Monday, January 28--TWHA Annual Membership Meeting--**at Bay Laurel Arabians. Dinner at 6:30, meeting at 7. Guest Speaker Debby Young, elections-see article above for directions

**Wednesday, February 6-TWHA Board Meeting--**starts 7:15 at Kirsten Whitsett's at 17 Middle Road, Lafayette. Help plan 2008 TWHA events. Call Kirsten at 925-283-1997 if you need directions

## TWHA Holiday Party

About 25 TWHA members gathered for the annual TWHA party at Grizzly Peak Stables on December 9. The party was held at the Grizzly Peak snack bar, with a cantina theme provided by the tamales, tacos, chips, salsa and guacamole provided by Patricia Ambrocio and her family. Members were able to catch up on the last year, review the TWHA photo albums, and a splendid time was had by all.

For the first time we held a gift exchange and more than half the group participated. These were to be white horse gifts, inexpensive or unused recycled gifts of interest to horse owners. The format, sometimes called Dirty Santa, had people drawing numbers and getting to choose their gift in the order of their numbers. Members were able to choose a wrapped gift or any that had previously been opened. This got very interesting towards the end as numerous gifts changed hands. A nice knife, a bottle of wine, Trick-onometry, a book of tricks to teach your horse, a Star Wars light saber style horse sweat scraper and other items traded several times with great frivolity before all the gifts were opened.



*Morris, holding Trickonometry, Jen Rader in the background, Elise with the light saber sweat scraper, Judy with the Unicorn and Alison with a Native American horse book at the TWHA Holiday party*

## TWHA Member News

*Continued from page 1*

Trail is generally a good one for winter riding, and trails such as Grizzly Peak, which are higher up, are generally in better shape than the lower trails, such as Wildcat Gorge and Arroyo.

TWHA enters the new year with more members signed up in advance than ever before, thanks to the discounted 2 year renewals introduced last year. There are still a few of you who never renewed for 2007; we hope that you will rejoin now, and there are many who have not yet paid for 2008. Please use the renewal form on page 6 of this newsletter, and consider the 2-year option, which will help ensure TWHA's stability and excuse you from having to remember to renew until 2010. Membership this year entitles you to a 10% discount on horse tack and supplies at both the Orinda Village Horse Shop and the Vista Madera Tack shop in Oakland.

This is our first newsletter distributed to our members primarily as a pdf email attachment. It still has the look, feel, and general layout of the print newsletter, and probably will as we continue to make the printed version available upon request.

But now you can see our pictures in color, and the newsletter can be delivered to you much quicker, with savings on volunteer time and labor as well as paper, ink, trees and expenses. More of our TWHA funds can be devoted to trail advocacy and equestrian events.

We are a bit short on member news this time around, perhaps because we are aware of less because it is winter, and most of us are not too active on the trails when they are wet. Very few organized rides in the winter, and trail work projects grind to a halt. We can say that TWHA member **Christie Larner** has sold Enya to Wakean MacLean, and Dovey to Vibeke Norgaard, both OHA members, so both will continue to live in the OHA pasture. Christie and TWHA member **Jim McTigue** will be moving their Missouri Fox Trotters, who had been up at Grizzly Peak, down to OHA soon. Jim helped design and implement the new Grizzly Peak Stables web site at [www.grizzlypeakstables.org](http://www.grizzlypeakstables.org)—and did a nice job with it.

*Continued on page 8*

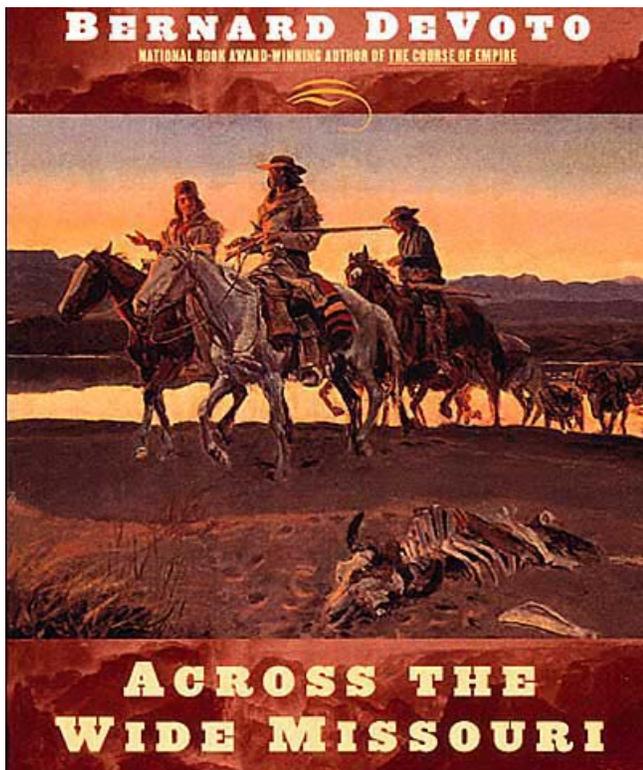
# Camping with DeVoto

by *David Whittall*

One of my favorite authors is Bernard DeVoto. His ability to transport me to a bygone west with all its historic characters set against the colors, sounds, tastes and scents of their landscape never fails. DeVoto found his artistic analogue in the person of Charlie Russell, the cowboy painter 33 years his senior. Their message was a eulogy for the open, unfenced west that predated the gold rush and pioneer exodus of men, machines and civilization. On the cover of DeVoto's Pulitzer Prize winning story of the Rocky Mountain fur trade "Across the Wide Missouri" - is one of my favorite paintings by Charlie Russell - "Carson's Men".

The painting depicts three westering horsemen, ascending the declivity of a river bed with the sun rising behind them, backlighting the mountains and plains in the eastern distance. They are in leather garments, evidently self-made. Their hats are low on their heads and their rifles slung across their laps. On each of their pommels, hangs a rope, on their cantles, only their trapper stripe blankets. There will be no tents this night, these riders sleep under the stars.

There is something in this painting that stirs an urge in me.



*Modern explorers David and James Whittall riding Iman and Quincy.*

As much as I love riding our beautiful California trails and meeting up with fellow horsemen at AERC and NATRC events, there is something intrusive about the creep of the kitchen, dining room and indeed entertainment center into the trailers that become ever more modern and pollute our horse campgrounds with noise, fumes and clutter. I have the urge to be free of this and to camp like Carson's Men.

Is it not possible, in our back yard of 65 EBRPD parks, with over 97,000 acres, and 1,100 miles of trails to camp like this again? I asked this question to myself on a recent camping trip at Lake Chabot. Anthony Chabot Park is a 5,067-acre reserve set around the banks and surrounding hills of Lake Chabot in the Oakland Hills. The park is very well organized, the drive-in campsites are comparatively isolated from one-another, have water and good fire pits and wood available for purchase and there are several clean bathrooms with hot showers. I was tent-camping with my 8 year old son, James, at one of the drive-in sites and saw potential for a different type of camping trip. I discussed my plans with the ranger there and he was more than enthusiastic. He showed me a campsite just below

*Continued on page 4*

## Oakland City Council Approves City Stables Renovation

After numerous public hearings over the past few years, the City of Oakland has finally heard the voices of the hundreds of equestrians, neighbors and citizens who have urged them to renovate and reopen Oakland's City Stables. In December the City Council finally decided to spend the \$500,000 available from Oakland's Measure K and State Proposition 12 to renovate the stables so that they can be re-opened.

These funds will be used to re-grade the corral areas, install new fencing and corral shelters, to build a new hay barn and to renovate the lower barn. In addition citywide recreation funds, and not just district recreation funds, will be made available to fund programs for Oakland youth at City Stables, so it will not be solely up to the new concessionaire to fund those programs. These changes will make the stables far more attractive to potential concessionaires and make it much more likely that the stables could be reopened within the next year.

This follows nearly 3 years of negotiations with applicants who sought to re-open the stables. The Metropolitan Equestrian Preservation Society had urged the City to renovate the stables, but the city wanted to find a concessionaire first. Potential bidders were appalled at the condition of the stables, which suffer from years of deferred maintenance, and the city was unable to find a bidder that they thought was qualified and had the financial resources to manage the stables. In addition the City has insisted all along that the stable provide

access to horses for inner city youth who otherwise would not get that opportunity. Somehow they expected concessionaires to fund and provide that opportunity.

The city's voters had approved Measure K in 1990 to acquire and rehabilitate the stables, and the City had purchased the former Vista Madera Stables in 1994. Little was spent to rehabilitate the property, however, and although the stable remained open, its physical condition deteriorated until it was closed in 2004 as the city balked on making needed repairs in a timely fashion. In addition to city funding, there are potential sources of private support for the stables; MEPS had promised in-kind services and donations that might have matched the total currently available to the city if they had been selected to operate the stables, but the city would not deal with them.

Fifty years ago there were 16 stables and numerous ranches in the Oakland hills. With the closure of City Stables there are now only 4 stables remaining. City Stables, bordered by the East Bay Regional Parks, is ideally suited as an equestrian access point to EBRPD's recreational trail system that extends for hundreds of miles. The stable's arenas, buildings, and land offer a unique opportunity to provide a place for public programs that can reach a diverse cross section of society. The stable can provide horse boarding, training, lessons, camps, and youth and educational programs, horse boarding, training and lessons for Oakland and other area residents.

## Camping with DeVoto

*Continued from page 3*

and to the right of the entrance booth. It is ideal for horse-camping.

So when the rains clear you will find me, with my twelve year old daughter Zoë, and perhaps a friend or two, setting out from Peter Rich's Bay Laurel Arabians barn, where we keep our horse. We will have no guns but will be otherwise like Carson's Men, packing our bedrolls, spare lead-lines, water, food, a pan and first aid gear. We will ride up to the steam trains and turn south onto the Lomas Contadas entrance to the Bay Area Ridge Trail. We will cover most of the trail which runs southward for 39 miles from Kennedy Grove to Cull Canyon. We will ride through five of the six different EBRPD parks that stretch unbroken from Richmond to Castro Valley. Through oak forests, deep redwood groves, across creeks and up grassy knolls we will spy Mount Diablo, Mount Tamalpais and the Bay as well as deer, red-tailed hawks and multitudinous other

feathered and furry beasts along the way.

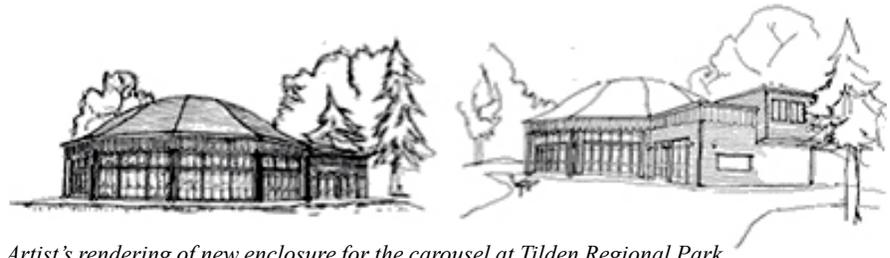
Several of the few concessions to modernity that we will make, as horse and human foraging is no longer the way, include dropping off a few flakes of hay or alfalfa and a couple of buckets prior to the trip, buying firewood from the ranger station and enjoying a hot shower in the morning. I may even bring some DeVoto to read by the firelight. Otherwise, I plan to enjoy the simple beauty of sleeping under the stars, listening to the breathing and snorting of our horses and waking to the warmth of the sun on my face. Well fed and well rested, we will make the return journey as we came, silently, of our own propulsion.

This type of trip is possible in many more parts of the EBRPD system. In fact, this is how it used to be done – without trucks and trailers, generators, microwaves, cans and plastic wrappers. Just remember to check with the park authorities before you set out, make sure you notify others of your plans and clean up after yourself and your horse.

# Tilden Carousel Closes for Renovation

On January 1, the East Bay Regional Park District will temporarily close Tilden Regional Park's historic carousel to begin a state-of-the-art construction and renovation project. The 1911 Hershell Spillman carousel spent several decades at various locations throughout the country before settling in Tilden Regional Park in 1948. An instant attraction, the carousel has provided enjoyment for generations of East Bay residents. The carousel, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, has unique hand-painted carved animals which are now all antiques. As the popular attraction nears the century mark, the Park District's main concern is to further protect the carousel from deterioration by wind and fog.

The District sought an attractive yet durable weatherproof enclosure for the carousel and hired Bruce Boyd, Architects



Artist's rendering of new enclosure for the carousel at Tilden Regional Park

and Planners of Nevada City, to design one. The new design includes a unique component of doors and windows that fully enclose the structure in a charming setting without detracting from viewing the carousel. For the public's convenience, the enclosure provides more warmth inside during the cooler months and allows several of the doors to be opened during the summer months.

ew lighting will also be added for both aesthetics and safety for patrons.

During the construction of the enclosure, the District will also replace the carousel platform and restore the musical organ. Various other rotunda and site maintenance issues will also be addressed.

"The carousel is the Park District's most beloved asset," states District General Manager Pat O'Brien. "As with any antique, it requires continuous repair and renovation. We've restored various components of the carousel over the years, including replacing mechanical workings. But, this new enclosure is by far the largest undertaking of its kind, and definitely the most important. Thankfully, we received the funding from Measure CC and also a large grant to enable us to move forward."

The entire construction and renovation project is estimated to cost just over \$700,000 with funding from Measure CC, a parcel tax measure passed by voters in 2004. Additional funds are from an American Express Partners in Preservation grant, the Regional Parks Foundation, and the Park District. The project is expected to be completed by June 30, 2008, and then the carousel will be reopened to the public.

*Reprinted from the East Bay Regional Park District Newsletter. For more info contact Shelly Lewis, EBRPD Public Information Supervisor at slewis@ebparks.org*

## Lessons from the Southern California Fires

by Roxanne Greene

*Editor's Note: Images of stranded horses and other animals in the Southern California wildfires late last year horrified many of us in the East Bay. Long time endurance competitor and volunteer Roxanne Greene and has a number of good suggestions in this commentary.*

Now that the smoke is clearing, people are returning home and life resumes, it is time to take stock of emergency plans in place and find the areas that need refinement. One of the sore points evident from the beginning was the coordinated evacuation of pets and livestock from affected areas. When the numbers come in, it will be apparent we let our four-legged friends down.

As a volunteer who assisted in the

movement of horses around Valley Center, I heard similar stories from other volunteers and want to provide some guidance for livestock owners because the sad truth is, many people who live in the backcountry are not prepared to deal with the need to move their animals should it become necessary.

We heard numerous complaints from people who didn't appreciate the way their animals were handled and who had better ideas about how the job should be done, but we wouldn't have had to do this job for them if they had owned their own trailer. If you have horses or other livestock, you should have a trailer. It is the only way to ensure your animal will be moved when, where and how you want, with no delay.

*Continued on page 6*

## Lessons from Fires

*Continued from page 5*

Even if you cannot afford to buy a trailer at this time, borrow one from a friend and teach each of your animals how to enter and exit the trailer calmly. Precious minutes that could have been used to evacuate other animals were wasted because many people did not take the time to familiarize themselves or their horses with proper loading and unloading techniques

You should already own a halter and sturdy lead rope of the appropriate length for each of your animals. It would be great if you also had a tag with the animal's name and your basic contact information on the halter. Airport luggage tags work great for this because they can be stored until needed and attached quickly. You should have already trained your animal to walk calmly on a lead rope and follow basic commands. If this is something you've always meant to get around to, get around to it now. Many volunteers were hurt needlessly because animals were not taught how to behave.

If you have a large number of animals, it would help the evacuation centers if your animals were socialized in such a manner that they could be placed together in stalls or tied next to each other to maximize the space available for evacuated animals.

At the first sign of danger, put the halters on each of your animals and take them out of the larger enclosures to shorten the time it takes to catch them. If you do not have a small pen, leave them in the pasture until the time you know a volunteer is coming to evacuate you. Then catch the animals and tie them with access to food so they remain calm and busy until the volunteers arrive.

While you are waiting for volunteers to evacuate your animals, pack vital medicines, special feeds and water buckets for your animals to use at the evacuation centers. A length of water hose would also be helpful. If you own a truck,

load some hay to evacuate with your animals. Have a card prepared for each of your animals with its name, age, description, your contact information, your veterinarian's contact information and any and all physical, mental and health information that caretakers will need to know. Put it in a sandwich-sized Ziploc bag so it doesn't get wet.

If in spite of all your training your animal still kicks or bites, tie a noticeable red ribbon to the animal's tail so all who handle the animal can avoid being hurt or having other animals injured.

When volunteers have safely evacuated your animal, please thank them. We are not paid for this and are not reimbursed for the gas we use. A tank of diesel costs \$100 and a single trip with a load can use nearly a tank. We usually don't have time to eat and only drink the water we remembered to grab on our way out of the house. Don't ask about going to the bathroom. Our trailers were kicked and dented and a number of us were battered and bruised. Many of us did not sleep for days and were worried about having enough time to evacuate our own animals. A lot of us also had evacuated animals at our own houses to care for.

When you have livestock at

evacuation centers that does not mean you should rely on the volunteers to care for your animals. Show up twice a day to help feed, water and clean up after your animals. Check with the on-site volunteers to see if they need food, water, or time for themselves to care for their own animals or get some sleep. There is a wonderful community of caring animal lovers out there, and you should take some time to get to know them.

When your animals leave the evacuation centers, offer a donation to the groups that cared for your animals. Come back when your animals are settled and assist the evacuation center. Ask what you can do to help before you leave and follow through.

A huge thank-you is owed to the many volunteers who evacuated animals and cared for evacuated animals, the feed and hardware stores who donated food and equipment and the owners of the evacuated animals who made everyone's job easier.

*Valley Center resident Roxanne Greene is a member of the Escondido Mounted Posse, a social club formed in 1948 that promotes horsemanship and the city of Escondido. For more information, email her at [bookkeepingrox@yahoo.com](mailto:bookkeepingrox@yahoo.com).*

### TWHA 2008 MEMBERSHIP FORM

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_  new

Address \_\_\_\_\_  renewal

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Check here if you would NOT like to receive TWHA emails \_\_\_\_\_

Names/Birthdays of equestrian members \_\_\_\_\_

Horse name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have a trailer? \_\_\_\_\_

Events you may be able to help with \_\_\_\_\_

2008 Dues enclosed: \$20 individual \_\_\_ \$25 family \_\_\_ \$10 junior \_\_\_

2008-9 Dues enclosed: \$35 individual \_\_\_ \$45 family \_\_\_ \$15 junior \_\_\_

Send form, and check to:

Jenni Smith, 811 Villa Ln. #3 Moraga, CA 94556 .(925.376-5580)

# Bay Area Horsemen's Calendar

**Sunday, January 20 – Horse /Show Trail Clinic**—Leap of Faith Farms, 1550 Castle Rock Road, Walnut Creek, CA. Clinic with David & Cheryl Busick, Top Ten in the World for the past 12 years, and World Champion AQHA Trail Trials 2000. Not a lesson in trail riding, this clinic is for those who show and compete (or want to) in Western Trail. For all breeds and levels of horse & rider. \$75. Trailer-ins are welcome. To register, call (925) 938-9550 or e-mail: [info@leapoffaithfarmsllc.com](mailto:info@leapoffaithfarmsllc.com) [www.leapoffaithfarms.com](http://www.leapoffaithfarms.com)

**Sunday, January 20 – Horse Owner's Awareness Workshop** –starts 2 p.m. Livermore Horses, Cross Road, Livermore, CA. Discussion of animal communication, establishing boundaries. Space limited to 15 participants, please RSVP. Contact Tracy, [t\\_racer007@yahoo.com](mailto:t_racer007@yahoo.com) <http://animaltalk.meetup.com/89/calendar/>

**Wednesday, January 23- CSHA Region V Meeting**—starts 7 p.m. at Denny's restaurant, 807 Camino Ramon, Danville, CA. Everyone welcome, come to learn about CSHA and its programs and activities for the year; hear an update from the state convention in November. For information, contact Carolyn, (209) 836-0596 or e-mail: [president@csharegion5.org](mailto:president@csharegion5.org).

**Friday, January 25 to Sunday, January 27—California Dressage Society Annual Meeting**—at the Holiday Inn in San Jose. Fun, interactive, educational; Hands-On Workshops, Panel Discussion, Chapter Reports, Awards, Luncheons, Silent Auction Chapter Baskets, Special Banquet for Awards, Horse Show computer software, meet the CDS Directors, and Calendar session. For information contact Connie Davenport at: (530) 265-0950 e-mail: [davenport@saber.net](mailto:davenport@saber.net)

**Saturday, January 26—Concord Mt. Diablo Trail Ride Association Crab Feed**—starts at 3 p.m. at 1600 Trail Ride Road, (at the end of Russelman Road) Clayton, CA. Hot & fresh crab, salad, pasta, French bread, and dessert. \$50/per person, limited seating. No host bar, no outside alcohol allowed. Always a sellout, make your reservations early. No refunds after Jan. 21. More info from Laurie, (925) 672-3978. Mail check to: CMDTRA Crab Feed, P.O. Box 419, Clayton, CA 94517.

**Sunday, January 27—CDS Dressage Show**—at Yarra Yarra Equestrian Center, 5378 Tassajara Blvd., Pleasanton. Limited stabling available, \$30. For more info contact Patrick Adams, (925) 829-5017.

**Monday, January 28—TWhA Annual Meeting**—

featuring speaker Debby Young, TWHA board elections, and planning for 2008 events. Starts at 6:45 for dinner, meeting starts at 7:00 at Bay Laurel Arabians

**Saturday, February 2—Gymkhana Show**—starts 8 a.m. Robertson Park, 3476 Robertson Park Road, Livermore, CA. Timed events on horseback, friendly, family fun. Covered arena, will be held rain or shine. Must be a CGA member, sign up available at the show; join the Vineyard Vaqueros. Call Melissa, (209) 830-9074 or e-mail: [mjel@comcast.net](mailto:mjel@comcast.net). [www.calgymkhana.com](http://www.calgymkhana.com)

**Wednesday, February 6-TWhA Board Meeting**—starts 7:15 at Kirsten Whitsett's at 17 Middle Road, Lafayette. Help plan 2008 TWHA events. Call Kirsten at 925-283-1997 if you need directions

**Saturday, February 9—Disaster Preparedness for Horse Owners**—9 a.m.-12:30 p.m. at the Marin Humane Society, 171 Bel Marin Keys, Novato, CA (off Hwy 101). Learn from experienced veterinarians the basics of identifying lameness or colic, how to check a horse's vital signs and how to clean and bandage wounds; be prepared for day-to-day emergencies. Marin County Sheriff's Posse will discuss how to evaluate situations with downed or trapped horses and when professional assistance is needed. Learn how to prepare for fast evacuation, how to get a panicked horse into a trailer, and how to deal with a downed or trapped horse. \$20/adult; \$10/under 16. Presented by Marin Horse Council. For information and to RSVP contact Lauren at [eqevac@marinhorsecouncil.org](mailto:eqevac@marinhorsecouncil.org) or Marina (415) 488-0950 or [Eizenzimmer@hotmail.com](mailto:Eizenzimmer@hotmail.com). Website: [www.marinhorsecouncil.org](http://www.marinhorsecouncil.org)

**Friday, March 14-Second Annual Cowboy Poetry Event**—sponsored by the San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association at the Alamo Women's Club. More info from [fancyexpress@sbcglobal.net](mailto:fancyexpress@sbcglobal.net)

**Monday, March 24-Friday, March 28--Grizzly Peak Stables Spring Horse Camp**--Spring Session--a great way for 7-11 year olds to start learning about horses. Grooming, horse care, lunging and riding lessons. For more info call Debby Young at 925-254-8283, or visit [www.grizzlypeakstables.org](http://www.grizzlypeakstables.org)

For more Bay Area equestrian events go to:

[www.horseNpony.com/horsinaround](http://www.horseNpony.com/horsinaround)

## Bay Area Ridge Trail Opened to Public in Pinole Watershed



Hikers set off from the Bar-X Corrals in the Pinole Watershed on the first public hike on the Pinole watershed, above, shortly after the ribbon cutting, shown on the right. About 15 equestrians, led by TWHA member Judy Etheridge, participated in the day's events.



open to bicyclists at this time]. The Pinole Watershed Trail can be reached from a trailhead on Bear Creek Road just west of its intersection with Alhambra Valley Road in Pinole, or from Sobrante Ridge Regional Park. Trail use requires an EBMUD Trail Use Permit, available from EBMUD at <http://tinyurl.com/3bhwxk>

200 people attended the opening ceremony on a beautiful fall day as the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council and the East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) dedicated a new section of the Bay Area Ridge Trail on Saturday November 3. The long-awaited trail, 7.5 miles through the beautiful Pinole Watershed, provides spectacular views of the East Bay hills and the Carquinez Strait. 310 miles of the Bay Area Ridge Trail are now complete and

open to the public.

The new trail connects with existing Ridge Trail in Sobrante Ridge Regional Preserve (East Bay Regional Parks District), creating nearly 10 miles of continuous Ridge Trail. It is also a key link in a planned 50-mile loop trail around the Carquinez Strait.

The Pinole Watershed, formerly closed to the public, is accessible to hikers and equestrians [the trail will not be

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council thanks REI and EBMUD for their sponsorship of this trail dedication and the volunteer work day on National Trails Day, June 2, 2007 to prepare this newest segment of the Bay Area Ridge Trail.

*Editor's Note: The above was reprinted from the Bay area Ridge Trail Web side at [www.ridgetrail.org](http://www.ridgetrail.org), where a good map of the Pinole Watershed trail is available*

## TWHA Member News

*Continued from page 2*

Meanwhile TWHA member **Kim Zvik** sold Pasha and has purchased a new large Arab, Camouflage, to keep Cooper company on the OHA pasture. Camou has gone off for training after a brief visit at OHA, where he impressed with his jumping ability. "What fence?" he was heard muttering one day as he returned to the Pavilion from the ring pasture. A friendly, inquisitive personality, he should do well at OHA.

Before moving to Connecticut,

TWHA member **Kari Weil** moved her horse Peanut from Grizzly Peak out to pasture near Modesto. Sadly Peanut ran into some health issues there and had to be euthanized in November. We extend our sympathies to Kari for her loss.

TWHA member **Bobbie Landers** has found someone to share her small barn at Bear Creek Road, so she now has someone to go trail riding with there. Bobbie has been looking for more equine participation in the Orinda July 4<sup>th</sup> parade, and is hoping TWHA may take a more

active role in that. Please contact her at [bobbielanders@yahoo.com](mailto:bobbielanders@yahoo.com) if you might be interested.

Once again, if you want to read more member news, go out and make some of your own—and then tell us about it! Member news is the first thing people read in the newsletter, and your friends would love to read about your interesting horse adventures—maybe even your dull ones just because it's you. So please don't be shy—keep us up to date ! Note that photos are always welcome.

## A Fine Day to (Not) Ride

Here comes winter, and just in time! Gone's the dust and heat. Welcome to cool and moist. But experienced trail riders know to pay attention to the weather and the rain gauge...soggy trails are not the place to be.

When the trails are excessively wet, just a few horses passing through can cause long-term damage to the trail bed. Loose soil, further loosened by horse, hiker or mountain bike travel, can lead to erosion, trail widening and dramatically increased maintenance requirements. Too much trail damage and we all risk losing access to the trails we love to ride.

Real horsefolk already own a working knowledge of mud, and can find trail maintenance lessons right in their own paddocks. Following a heavy rain, compare an occupied paddock to one that is smooth and vacant. The empty paddock will drain and dry days earlier than the

turnout where a horse constantly kneads the footing. Hooves make hummocks that hold water. The same phenomenon is evident on trails...a trail allowed to drain well before use will need minimal maintenance, even after many seasons, while a trail used too soon will be a problem forever. Furthermore, the trail not ridden when wet will be ready to ride sooner.

Find the going getting sticky? Head back to the trailhead. Better yet, plan ahead and find trails that have been "hardened" for those wet days when you absolutely have to get out and ride. Some rocky fire roads which are well drained are fine to ride when wet. Softer trails through the woods and meadows often need week to dry.

Got the itch to ride? Maybe you could plan some alternate horse activity—read a horse book, catch up on cleaning your tack, do some ring work, go to a clinic,

take a lesson, fix your fences, organize the tack room, clean out the horse trailer, get your truck and trailer serviced.

If you're new to trail riding, you may be wondering why we are so concerned. Trails need a solid base to prevent erosion, and trail use when soil is wet loosens the critical top layer, opening up channels for runoff. Show the land managers that we care about the trails. Erosion and user damage increases the possibility that the trails will be closed, perhaps permanently.

Remember riding on public trails is a privilege, not a right. Please show that we in the trail riding community are responsible enough to deserve that privilege.

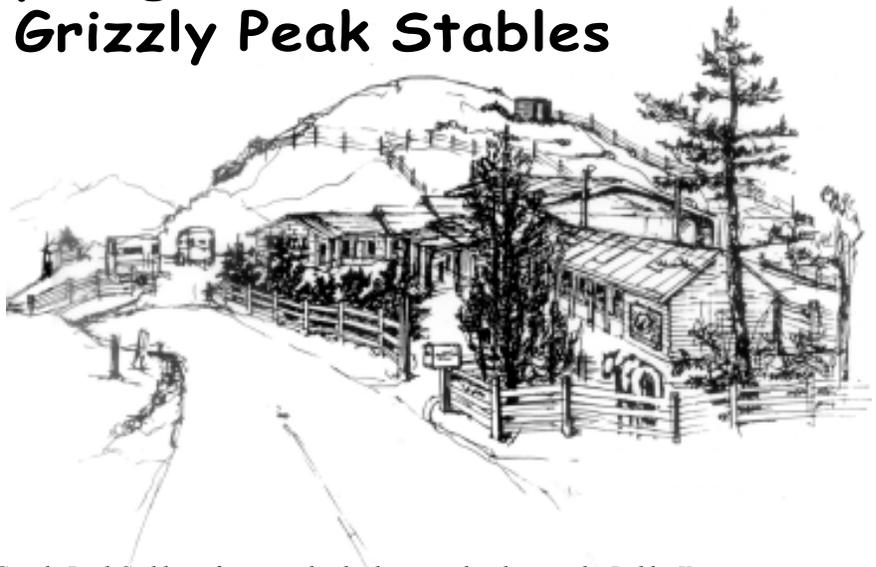
TWHA reminds all riders: Please don't ride on we trails! And spread the word to the less knowledgeable. Your example sets the pace.

## New Web Site Spotlights Opportunities at Grizzly Peak Stables

Grizzly Peak Stables has a brand new website at [www.grizzlypeakstables.org/](http://www.grizzlypeakstables.org/)

The website includes information about lessons, camps and boarding at Grizzly, along with photos, including some of TWHA members, and drawings by Debby Young, the owner and manager, who will be the speaker at our TWHA Annual Meeting.

For the first time in several years, Grizzly has stalls available, including double sized stalls, stalls with paddocks and stalls with half-day paddock turnout. Grizzly has both an indoor and an outdoor arena, as well as great trail access to the Regional Parks and the Bay Area Ridge Trail. Training is available for boarded horses, in the arena and on the trail, and lessons on ranch horses are offered for the horseless as well. This year Debby will be offering spring and summer camps,



*Grizzly Peak Stables a few years back, shown in this drawing by Debby Young*

a great way for 7-11 year olds to learn about horses and riding on proven camp horses. Spring camp will run from March 24-28 and summer camps will start on June 6. Camp registration forms, and

details on all these opportunities are available on the website. In addition OHA members and Bay Laurel riders can arrange for arena access with Debby – contact her if you are interested.

# Glossary of Horse Terms

**Hock:** Financial condition of all horse owners.

**Stall:** What your rig does at rush hour in an unfamiliar city on the way to a big horse show

**A Bit:** What you have left in your pocket after you've been to your favorite tack shop.

**Fence:** Decorative structure built to provide your horse with something to chew on.

**Horse Auction:** What you think of having after your horse bucks you off.

**Pinto:** Green coat pattern found on freshly washed light colored horses left unattended for 2 minutes.

**Well Mannered:** Hasn't stepped on, bitten, or kicked anyone for a week.

**Rasp:** Abrasive metal tool used to remove excess skin from ones knuckles.

**Lunging:** Popular training method in which a horse exercises their owner by spinning them in circles until dizzy.

**Gallop:** Customary gait a horse chooses when returning back to the barn.

**Nicely Started:** Lunges, but not enough health insurance to even think about riding him.

**Colic:** Gastrointestinal result of eating at horse fair food stands.

**Colt:** What your mare gives you when you want a filly.

**Easy to Load:** Only takes 3 hours, 4 men, a 50lb bag of oats, and a tractor with loader.

**Easy to Catch:** In a 10x10 stall.

**Easy Rider:** Rides good in a trailer; not to be confused with "ride-able".

**Endurance Ride:** End result when your horse spooks and runs away with you.

**Hives:** What you get when receive the vet bill for your 6 horses, 3 dogs, 4 cats, and 1 donkey.

**Hobbles:** Walking gait of a horse owner after their foot has been stepped on by their horse.

**Feed:** Expensive substance used to manufacture manure.

**Dog House:** What you are in when you spend too much money on grooming supplies and pretty halters.

**Light Cribber:** We can't afford to build anymore fencing or box stalls for this buzz saw on four legs.

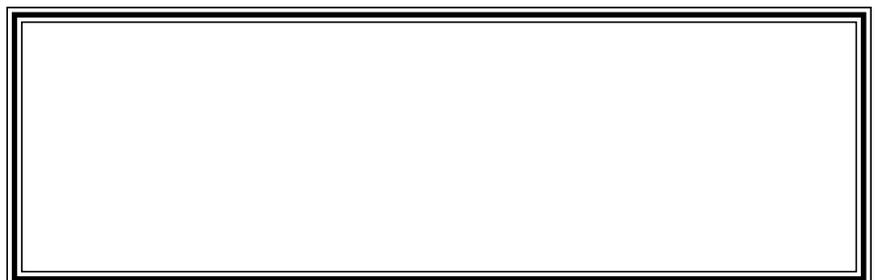
**Three Gaited Horse:** A horse that. 1) trips, 2) stumbles, 3) falls.

## Tilden-Wildcat Horsemen's Association

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

50 La Encinal

Orinda CA 94563



*address correction requested*