



# Divide Horsemen's Association

Spring Edition Newsletter

April 2013

*Welcome to the spring edition of our newsletter. I think you will find that DHA has lots to share in this issue of the newsletter.*

*Enjoy!!  
Charlotte*

### ***Our President's "spring" posting:***

Greetings Everyone,

Isn't it exciting that we are doing so many horsey things here on the Divide? How cool is it when you can make new friends and become a better horseperson too? Thank you to all the members who are stepping up and supporting our club and a special note of gratitude to all the board members and our web master who never shirk from taking on anything that will make our club better. People like this are hard to find.

We are approaching the heaviest riding season where many of us get out and ride. Our trails are tempting us with their grassy green carpets, flitting butterflies, poppies and purple lupine blooming everywhere. Make sure you have properly prepared your horse before heading out-- especially true if you haven't been riding much over the winter. Take your horse to an arena first, review groundwork, and make sure you can move hindquarters, do a one rein stop, and confidently handle a spook. Take advantage of our clinics, trainers, lessons, etc. and make sure you and your horse are ready to hit the trail.

Lately it seems our trails are more crowded than ever and you will almost certainly encounter other riders, hikers, bikers, and wildlife. Rattlesnakes are already coming out and quite a few folks have already seen them on the trail. Set you and your horse up for a safe and enjoyable ride. I just got back from Paso Robles Horsemen's Reunion with my friend Pam Hanback. Talk about careful preparation! These cowboys were meticulous in preparing their colts to start. No happenstance here--at least not on their part! So if the best horsemen in the world are careful, gentle, considerate and properly prepared to work with their horse--that's the example I want to follow.

Both the Wild West Stampede/Auburn Rodeo and the Horse and Soul Tour at Rancho Murieta are coming soon. I have free tickets for the Horse and Soul tour. This is a horse show that I have found consistently inspirational. Claudia Gibbens has rodeo tickets. I encourage you to get out and see what the horse world can offer you. Hope to see you all at the DHA Playday clinic coming up May 11. Until then, Happy Spring! Katie Yaranon

The March 17 clinic with Marta Michilizzi was great fun. For a March day, the weather couldn't have been better. There were ten of us participating in the clinic, and it gave us the opportunity to put our equitation skills to work. I think we all enjoyed the merriment as we partnered up while trying to keep our hand-held toilet paper from tearing - yeah right!! As well, there were prizes awarded to the winner(s). Oh, I don't want to forget to mention the nice lunch we enjoyed. There are lots more pictures to view on the DHA website. Be sure to check them out...!



***Be the kind of person that when you put your feet on the floor in the morning, the Devil says, "Oh crap! She's/He's up!"***



The obstacle clinic on April 17 was really fun too and definitely a learning experience for those wanting to perfect their obstacle training. The clinic took place at Enchanted April Farms in Pilot Hill. Samantha March was our instructor and guided us over, around and through numerous obstacles on the course. We were taught the importance of patience and exactness to maneuver through the various obstacles. The barbecue luncheon was delicious and offered a nice break before we headed back to the arena after lunch. Here are just a few pictures, and there are lots more to view on the DHA website. Be sure to check them out!!



### Cool Country Cowgirls Drill Team By Kelli Dunn

*Cool Country Cowgirls* is a new equestrian drill team on the Divide. They ride out of Cool Hills Ranch, and are 16 members strong! The team began practicing in January and will have their first competition May 4<sup>th</sup>/5<sup>th</sup> at the California State Horsemen's Association Drill Team Competition where they will compete in the Novice division. The team is a wonderful mix of teen and adult riders who have come together from various disciplines and interests to make up a cohesive group of riders who have been working hard, learning intricate maneuvers. Thanks to many local sponsors, the team has been able to purchase what they need to perform at their first competition. Later in the year, they hope to add American flags to their routines. Currently, the team practices Thursday evenings at ALT arena and on Sunday afternoons at Cool Hills Ranch. They will have their first performance/demonstration at the Placerville Horse Show on Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>. If you're interested in having the team perform at your event or for information on joining the team, please call or email Kelli Dunn at 530-903-6187 or [kldunn83@gmail.com](mailto:kldunn83@gmail.com). You can also follow the team on their Facebook page: Cool Country Cowgirls Drill Team.

These are just a few pictures of the drill team performing. Check out the DHA website for more pictures.



### Cool Horse Trails By Heidi Babcock

Cool Horse Trails - [www.coolhorsetrails.com](http://www.coolhorsetrails.com), was started in 2008. A friend and I had been talking about trying to make it easier for people to ride new places. So many times people are afraid to venture out into the unknown. So, we wanted to let them know what the staging areas and the trails are like (easy, technical, etc.) and anything else about the areas that might be of help. We also wanted to let people know if there is water, dogs allowed, etc. After quite a bit of thought and planning, a rough draft was started the fall of 2008. On February of 2009, the current web site was launched with three staging areas - Olmstead, Cronan and Hidden Falls. An informational page is done on each staging area and then pictures are added in the "picture section." In the few years since, I have added 17 additional staging areas. All staging areas so far are within approximately a two-hour drive of Auburn, and I have added google maps to help with directions. A link tab was then added to advertise services along with an information tab, which just keeps growing. I also added an events tab under "What's New" hoping to keep people apprised of current clinics, tack sales, etc. in our area. I add in alerts about the trails when I hear of them - closures, hazards, etc. and just recently added my "Tip of the Week" on the home page which I archive under the information tab with pictures when applicable. I have so many more places I want to add and other ideas to bring to the web site. So please keep tuning in to see added pictures, new staging areas, what's new and please let me know of any events you hear of or tips you might have, etc. I love working on the web site, just sometimes hard to find the time. Still have lots of pictures to add of Hidden Falls, Negro Bar, Winchester and Oroville - look for all those to be on soon. Happy to add anyone to my email list - I send out periodic updates. Happy trails and ride safe!

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Horsemen's Reunion in Paso Robles

By Katie Yaranon

If I could use only one word to describe my trip to the Horseman's Reunion last week, it would be *Magic*. Magic to witness twenty of the best horsemen in the world teach two-year old range colts to carry a human, magic to be immersed in the western ranch tradition, magic to witness the skill, knowledge and compassion of these top hands as they started each colt on the road to being a productive, confident "good using" horse.

The Horsemen's Reunion is a six-day event where 20 of the world's best hands (17 men and 3 women) come together to learn from each other and show us what they do to get a young horse started with a solid foundation. The forty colts were mostly bred by Rowly and Cathie Twisselman of Madonna Inn Ranch. The culmination of the event ends with an auction of the started colts. If there was one thing I learned, it's that you want a colt started by one of these masters.

**Day 1** Each of the cowboys drew the two colts they would be working with, and the show began. The big arena had four round pens set up, and Group 1 of the cowboys began to work their magic. These were range colts -- handled just enough to be haltered, trimmed, and doctored, but that was the extent of their education. Although the cowboys had slight variations on their methods, the overriding strategy was to get the horse joined up to them and looking to them for answers. They worked the colts on a lead line (many using a flag)--letting the colts move their feet but controlling the head, turning in both directions, following the feel of the rope, yielding hind quarters-- until some basic form of communication was established. Some of the cowboys used a pilot horse, a steady solid horse, to keep the youngsters from gaining too much speed and panicking, and most of the cowboys worked with two or three other participants in the arena at the same time. Within the time it took to leave the stands and get back with a cup of coffee, many of the cowboys had their colts circling confidently, yielding hindquarters and standing still for sacking out with the saddle pad!

Larry Mahan (yes, the Larry Mahan Rodeo Hall of Famer) used thick cotton rope to stroke and massage his colt. After the colt accepted this he started wrapping it around his colt's legs and girth. Larry's colt seemed to accept the saddle with very little discomfort. There was a lot of talk about "waiting until the horse was ready". Juan Vendrell, a cowboy from Spain, used a surcingle before the saddle, but many of the cowboys just started desensitizing with the saddle pad and saddle. Many of the cowboys ended their first session with their colt moving around carrying the saddle. When the colt was ready, they turned him into the big arena where they could move freely in all three gaits carrying the saddle. After lunch, Group Two started with their young charges. It was a full day of watching masters at work and we could hardly wait to see what day two would bring--we left in awe of the skill, experience and knowledge it takes to start a horse right.

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**"Courage is being scared to death but saddling up anyway."**

**(John Wayne)**

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## Tails From The Trails: Horse Trailer Hell!

by Delaya Diana

After conditioning all summer I wanted to do a 30 mile ride up by Fort Bragg through the Redwoods, the whole idea sounded so cool and beautiful. The ride was on Saturday so I left here on Thursday so that she could rest up for a day after a 200 mile trailer ride. I haven't trailered any significant distance since moving the 1200 miles from Colorado, usually just 8 - 15 miles for local riding. Having been to Ft. Bragg several times I knew it was a fairly easy ride there, some of it slow and curvy around Clear Lake and in the Forrest, but lots of pull outs, slow speed limits and not much traffic. The ride entry said the camp was close to Hwy 20 and would be marked with ribbons so I felt confident. Great, we get to the forest around 6:10 pm and I'm looking for signs and ribbons to mark the camp just like the ride entry said. I see pink ribbons and a sign that says 'horse camp', so I turn in on a nice well used logging road. I go on up about 2 miles and I am leaving Hwy 20 but figure it will curve back because there are lots of ribbons on this road. Instead, there is a metal gate across the road and pink and blue ribbons with dolomite arrows on the ground pointing to a small road through the woods on my left. I get out and check the gate, it's locked, so I look at the small road on the left and sure enough there are tire tracks and hoofprints, but it doesn't look much like a road for horse trailers. I'm confused, and not happy about this considering I'm towing a 3 horse gooseneck with a long bed truck. Obviously I cant go forward and I'm not sure about this small road even though it has ribbons and arrows, I had rather turn around if I can and go back to Hwy 20 and see if for sure this is the right road. I back up so that I can pull forward on the jeep road and back around towards the gate and get back on the road out. No can do. Either my trailer tires will go off the side or I will back into a tree, neither one of them will help me get turned around. Now I'm a little scared and a lot annoyed, it will be dark soon as the forest has a lot of canopy and I'm starting to use words that even my friends don't hear me say. I get out again and walk up the jeep road a bit, it doesn't look good, it's a 4X4 road and while I do have a 4X4 my trailer is not meant for that terrain especially with my horse inside.

What to do? There are no houses around as this is national forest, I can't turn around and there are clearly ribbons and arrows pointing on this road. So, I drive up the road a bit, it's not getting any better and certainly not a road that most (sane) people would pull their trailer on, so I park again and walk up the road about 1/4 of a mile, it's the same, rugged and all forest and now it's getting darker, I'm a little more scared and seriously annoyed, something is not right and I'm following the ribbons and arrows. I walk on a little farther and see a spot that MAYBE I can turn around in, but it's not at all level. I go and get the truck drive in another 1/4 mile and try like hell to turn around, no can do. Not enough room and way to uneven, I'm afraid it's too much leverage and I'm going to break the ball and hitch and then really be in a mess. It's after 7 now and almost dark, I start to panic, and I'm starting to invent new cuss words. Now I do a lot of

Delaya and Mystic on the Chamberlain Creek Ride September 2010. Before moving to California Delaya adopted Mystic from a rescue in Colorado as a completely green and untrained 5 year old, no worries, Mystic has been a delight to work with. After settling in California in 2006 the dream of Distance Riding is finally coming true, they plan to do 5 rides this ride season while taking great care to not get lost or sidetracked on the way there.'

things, by myself. Unusual things, like pull a 28' fifth wheel across the United States and into Canada (with no prior towing experience) by myself, or pack a pick up and move to Mexico, by myself. Or go to Balderson for an evening ride, by myself. (How stupid is that?!) I'm pretty brave and sometimes dumb, but not a lot scares me. Till now. I start to seriously panic, it's dark, I'm alone and don't know how to fix it, there is no cell service, I've been trying to call the ride manager. Although I've sworn off religion I decide it's a good time to be flexible so I decide to pray for help. I ask God, Goddess, Buddha, Mohammad, Epona, Shirley McClain and John Lennon to help me, and just for good measure I throw in Harry Potter, I figure it cant hurt. Apparently they are all busy or out of service along with Verizon. I wait another 15 minutes trying to think but my brain cells are petrified.

Now I'm seriously panicked. I call 911 and the phone says 'searching for emergency service', I let it go for about 30 seconds then end the call . The thought of what it would cost to have my rig air craned out by helicopter was even more terrifying than being alone in the forest for the night. And I seriously did not want to stay the night there alone wondering if I'm still going to have to be towed or air craned out in the morning. Now I'm passed the annoyed and cussing stage and completely terrified. So, I do what any one would do. I put jingle bells on the dogs collar, put new batteries in the flashlight and lantern, fill a water bottle, take my cell and my gun and I start walking in the dark up the road to see if I can find a place to turn around, it's now about 7:45. I thank all the gods in the world for dogs. There is no way I would have walked that in the dark by myself but Touf thought it was too fun and jingled all the way ahead of me. In my panic I forgot to put on my tennis shoes so I'm hiking on a jeep trail in my slip on clogs and I can feel the blisters start. It just gets getter every second and I'm so upset I'm starting to think that my mother is right, I should just marry a nice man and give up all my crazy ideas about horses and that I can do weird and fun stuff by myself. And I never think my mother is right. About 3/4 of a mile up I find a place that I'm sure I can turn around, only issue is the two hairpin curves between there and my truck, but the only other choice is to stay there all night and for some reason that idea is freaking me out. I trot back and fetch my truck and trailer and start driving up the road. On the first hairpin curve I feel the right side of my trailer dip as my tires fall off of the road, I'm in 4X4 so I punch the gas and pull it through the curve, same thing on the second hairpin only it's the left side . My poor horse is being tossed about in the back of my trailer but I don't see another option. Finally, I'm at the turn around place (I was terrified I would drive past it in the dark) so I put my lantern at the back of the clearing and after about 6 try's I manage to get it turned around. I'm too relieved to even cry. I fly down that mountain way to fast but I can't help myself. I get back to Hy 20 and about 1 mile further down I see signs that say Caution, Horse Event. I'm terrified that it may not be the right turn but I decide things could not possibly be worse than what I just went through so I take the turn in the dark and sure enough it's the right camp. It's now about 8:20 and I check in with the Campground host, tell him about the ribbons and nightmare road and he says, 'Oh, you must have been on the trail for the ride on Saturday'. I was. How was I to know I was on the HORSE TRAIL?!! The directions said follow the ribbons and I did, the first ribbons I saw. Surprisingly, Mystic was unscathed, not even a drop of sweat! I immediately forgave her for all the times she has dumped me.

The next day my camping neighbor came over to introduce herself and I'm sitting there with a beer and dull safety pin trying to pop the blisters on my feet . That had to be a lovely site but the blisters were enormous so the beer was essential (as well as other adult beverages at that point), but at least I have all my teeth so I wasn't a complete dumb-butt redneck. Turns out they took the wrong road as well (as did several other people) only

they realized they were too far from Hwy 20 and they all had the good sense to turn around at the split in the road before it dead ended at the gate, and, they had full daylight and moral support. The logging road seemed fine to me so I thought it led to Camp, like I said, not a lot scares me. Till now, I'm still scared in my sleep! I might need therapy to get through this one and my neck and shoulders feel like I've been beaten with a bat. With all the things I've done I've been overwhelmed a lot as I don't always think things through ahead of time, but I've never been completely panicked before. Not even when I had a stand off with a bear while hiking on the trail with nothing but a water bottle in my hand. Oddly enough this was so much worse!

On the bright side, the area was beautiful, the trails were carefully marked with those DAMN RIBBONS AND DOLOMITE ARROWS and the ride went great. Mystic was wonderful she got all A's and B's with great P & R's, she pulsed down quick, in fact she was at or below 60 by the time we got to the check in. Ride time was 5 hrs and 16 minutes, plus a 1 hour vet hold and a 15 minute vet hold, and it was a full 30 mile ride. Almost makes me wish I had moved to that area, wonderful riding trails through the forest that are maintained by the logging industry, hardly any rocks and lots of canopy and 20 miles from the coast. It was a perfect ride.

While I will NEVER, EVER IN A HUNDRED BILLION YEARS take a road I'm not sure of again, I'm calmer now and I realize that my mother is not right. I'm not likely to give up my horse or my crazy ideas and marry a nice man. Unless he owns a helicopter with an air crane as that could be the ultimate in sex appeal. That could possibly be as sexy as a man on his knees cleaning the barn. Yee-haw.

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I have a little story to share with you. This is about no horse that you could imagine, so let me tell you about him.

I think the first time I saw this big beautiful black horse was at the Horse Expo a few years ago. I must say, at first glance he was rather impressive to look at and so different from any horse I had ever seen in my lifetime anyway. It appeared that he would probably be the easiest keeper you could have in the barn. And, let me tell you that his grooming needs would be minimal at best. His conformation was questionable to say the least, but I understood that he could give you any gait instantly and without apprehension.

That was the last I had seen of this grand beauty until recent times when his name came up in conversation. I was very curious to read more about him and find out where he was stabled. I was able to find the website giving more information about him and found the training facility where he resided. I inquired about going to see him as he was just an hour's drive to Sacramento.

When I arrived, I heard that he was in a very special location in the barn area because of his value. I kind of surmised that he would be a rather expensive and rare horse. The trainer directed me to where he was staged, and he looked exactly like the way I last saw him at the Horse Expo. With great excitement, I climbed aboard and with the

adjustments of my stirrups and the push of a button, we were off!!!

You see, Simon is a mechanical horse and the best lesson horse I have ever ridden - yahoo and away.....



Happy riding!!  
Charlotte

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Be sure to mark your calendar for the third Wednesday of the month and join us at 6:30 p.m. at the Greenwood Community Center for the DHA meeting/potluck!

2013 Board of Directors:

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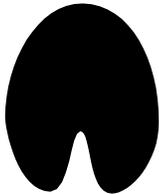
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## Upcoming Events:

### October 7-9:

Ultimate Trail Course, Dunnigan - \$70.00 for each person with a horse. Contact: Jeanne Telaak ([cooltrails@hotmail.com](mailto:cooltrails@hotmail.com)), 530-885-9153, or Carole Wade, 530-888-1150 ([cwade2@sbcglobal.net](mailto:cwade2@sbcglobal.net)).

### October 8: Tevis Race

October 15-16: Fall Horsemanship Clinic with Russ Grossman, Contact: Cool Hill Ranch, (530) 305-1977 or [russ@russgrossman.com](mailto:russ@russgrossman.com)

October 22: UC Davis Day. For further information, you go on-line to <http://animalscience.ucdavis.edu/horsebarn/>

December 10: \*\*DHA/EDETF\* Joint Holiday Party, 5 p.m., American River Grill, Cool \*\*\*live music\*\*\*

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