

MAU MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Mounted Assistance Unit for the California State Parks

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JoDean Nicolette, President

Welcome to summer. It's hard to believe that the rain finally stopped. I hope you are able to get out there and enjoy the weather and your best friends (both two and four-legged).

As you are riding, keep in mind some common hazards. This year, due to the rain or other factors, the snakes seem to be especially prevalent. Look up and down while you are on your routes.

On a recent ride at the Lake, a goose attacked me on my horse Bear. I thought, "How funny! Goose attacks Bear!" But the truth is, I almost came off, Bear turned and ran so fast. We were ok, but Bear was pretty embarrassed afterwards. Jokes aside, the hazards can be unexpected, so please keep yourselves safe.

In this issue I'll report on the spring testing, new MAU policies, and the Play Day...great Member of the Month as well. See you out there.

JoDean

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

On Saturday April 24th, Bunny Lincoln and the crew led a terrific spring horse testing event. The weather cooperated, and several new horses and members were added to our already impressive roster. When you see them, please welcome:

Timothy Crew (BAU)
CYCLONE and COGO (Breeding Stock Paint and Spotted Saddle Horse)-Ursula Worthen
LACY (Quarter Horse)-Yvonne Theis
ANNABEL (Quarter Horse)-Astrid Wollenberg
INDY (Quarab)-Gwen Kilcherr
NOBLE (Thoroughbred)-Marian Taylor
HANDY (Arabian)-Dori Johnson
HAANK (Quarab)-Marci Cook
TIAMO (Quarter Horse)-Debra Link

These folks will be contacting us for eval rides, so let's help them all out. Thanks to Bunny for organizing another great and successful testing day... And a special thanks to the MAUs that helped out that day, including Marci, Marcia, Sarah (and Ken), and Anna. We changed the fall testing

date to September 18th, so heads up on that, and pass the word along.

MAU SPECIALIST VISITS BOARD

On April 18th our Board had its second meeting for the year. We had a great meeting. The attendees included all the usual suspects, plus District Superintendent Mary Pass, Supervising Ranger Neill Fogarty, Volunteer Coordinator Susan St. Marie, Volunteer Administration Supervisor Margo Cowan (from Sacramento!). We had lots of questions and issues that we worked out. We discussed First Aid Training and issues, other MAUs in the state, policy issues, and how our chain of supervision works. You heard about many of these issues at the membership meeting, but here are a few details: 1) California has several other MAUs, and Margo will attempt to set up a group list to get us in touch, 2) The state parks ask that you avoid administering medical care in the field to visitors in distress. In terms of liability you are covered if you act within your level of training, and 3) Susan St. Marie (through the Volunteers in Parks Program) is our direct

supervisor; the next level is Supervising Ranger Neill Fogarty. Ranger Bob continues in his usual role as state parks liaison for communication.

Member of the month

Get to know your fellow MAUs!

June member: TILLA



AKA: Mantilla De Las Sierras

Breed: Peruvian Paso

Age: 9 years old

Member since: 2008

Coloring: Seal brown with star and white “got milk” upper lip

Escort: Donna Crowley

Discipline: Trail riding and parades (photo is Petaluma’s Butter and Egg Days Parade of this year)

TILLA hates: Being goosed by Cole (who also prefers her shelter to his), and not being in front or right behind the leader on a group trail ride

TILLA loves: Apples and neck scratches. From Tilla: “It took my escort a while to figure out that I wasn’t resting my head when I laid it on her shoulder. I was stretching out my neck to give her better

scratching access. I also love dancing down the street and awe-ing parade crowds with my high stepping gait. My escort gets a little testy sometimes when I refuse to walk like a “normal” horse, but I sure look good when I am prancing.”

TILLA and Donna enjoy patrolling our magnificent state parks together. TILLA loves to move out in her gait. Park visitors often stop us to ask why she walks so funny. We joined MAU to give back for the many years Donna enjoyed running and biking in Annadel and to do our part to help preserve this fantastic resource.

PLAY DAY WILL HAPPEN!

Get ready for another rowdy and fun Play Day with your fellow MAUs! We are working with Josette Brault, who will be lending her expertise to the event set up, to schedule a day that doesn’t conflict with other horsey activities. The event will be held at the Rincon Riders arena, and we will be saddled and ready to start at 9am. When we set the date, make sure you let us know if you’ll be attending so that we’ll have a head count. Just like last year, bring your lunch, but we’ll have drinks, prizes, and horsey treats.

See you there!

WHO YA GONNA CALL?

We recently had a change in procedure for MAUs and BAUs. If you encounter a reportable

situation while patrolling, please do not call the rangers directly. This procedure has resulted in some confusion and loss of response. According to District Superintendent Mary Pass, call the Norcom Dispatch a 916-358-1300. The dispatch operator will triage the call to the appropriate on-duty personnel. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

LAKE SONOMA MAU

If you are interested in joining the Lake Sonoma MAU, contact MAUs Marci Cook (mcook@wusd.org) or Nadine Lavell (nlavell@sonic.net), or call Cindy Rowe at 707-484-8717. To participate, you’ll attend an interview/ orientation, and a horse or mule testing as required. They require 6 patrols a year, 3 hours in length. Your patrol time includes all your time at Lake Sonoma including grooming, tacking, cool down, etc. This unit will include both bikes and horses. See ya out there!

UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES

Fall Horse Testing: Changed to September 18th. Saddled and ready at 10am at the Spring Lake Parking Lot.

Fall Membership Meeting: November 13th. SCDRC 5:30 for dinner, then meeting to follow. Stay tuned for info about dinner.

