

MAU MONTHLY

Newsletter of the Mounted Assistance Unit for the California State Parks

Volume Number III

Issue Number 4



May 2010

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

JoDean Nicolette, President

Happy Spring! I hope you all are getting out there in between rain drops and enjoying the emerald countryside. I saw a bob cat my last time out.

I have some great news to report. At our next MAU Board meeting we will be having a special guest: Margo Cowan, State Parks MAU Specialist. She'll be helping us work out some of our persistent questions and issues, such as First Aid training.

Some projects for this year include an MAU docent/scavenger hunt ride combination, and continued work on developing the Lake Sonoma MAU/BAU. We have had two informational and sign up meetings so far for Lake Sonoma. We'll keep you posted.

I'll report on the spring horse testing next issue, but make sure you thank Bunny for her great work when you see her.

As always, ride safe and well.

JoDean

OUR MAU WINS STATE WIDE AWARD!

The California State Parks Foundation has awarded the Mounted Assistance Unit for the Diablo Vista District (that's us!) the 2010 Grassroots Champion Award! This award recognizes organizations that contributed to keeping the state parks open during the budget crisis in 2009. As you likely recall, our members organized and participated in a Special Patrol Day on August 22 last year to demonstrate support for the state parks and the people who keep them safe and open. Several other members were active in educating the public both in and out of their uniforms. Thanks to all who contributed, both on and off their horses, and congratulations again on your great work!

MAUs Recognized At 2010 EQUUS AWARDS

If you missed the Equus Awards this year, you missed a GREAT evening. Many folks called it the best Equus Awards dinner ever! The organizers told me that they had to shoo folks out at the

end (*ahem...*Nancy and Carol!). The special MAU folks who received awards were Carol Barnes, John Ryan (the first non-equestrian to ever win an Equus Award!), and Marci Cook's Arabian AA-Allusion ("Lu"). Lu is the second horse ever to be inducted into the Equus Hall of Fame. Please take the time to nominate folks and horses that you feel are deserving...What fun to see our members recognized!

Member of the month

Get to know your fellow MAUs!

May member: *Sunny*



AKA: Beacon Spotlight
Breed: Tennessee Walking Horse, Spotted Saddle Horse
Age: 9 years old
Coloring: Bay and white tobiano
Escorts: Patti Williams
Member since: 2002
Discipline: Trail riding

D2 loves: Carrots, apples, and his buddy Poncho

D2 hates: Standing still and staying clean

D2's Rave Ride: All over Annadel State Park, and the variety at Point Reyes National Seashore

Patti and Poncho joined the MAU in 2002. Poncho has been retired for the past 5 years. Sunny started patrolling in 2005. He has it "down pat!" He automatically steps off to the side of the trail when he hears or sees other park visitors coming and lets them pass by safely. He is always eager to be petted and told how pretty he is by all he encounters.

DOCENT TRAINING A GREAT SUCCESS

I'm sure you are not surprised to hear that this year's docent training was a huge success. Susan St Marie outdid herself again with her attention to detail and organization. Several MAU and BAU new members attended. When you see the following new graduates, give them a hello and a congratulations:

Timmy Crew, Greer Geiger, Kelly Henson, Dori Johnson, Nadine Lavell, Nancy Martin, and Ursula Worthen.

Docent attendees for MAU are now required to attend at least four sessions---the initial intro, then one session at each park. Luckily the training is so well-organized and interesting, the commitment is easy and enjoyable. Welcome aboard to all new grads!

RIDERS' READ

submitted by Bunny Lincoln

Johnny's Jacket, by James Naugle (2009: Eloquent Books, Durham, CT). Johnny's Jacket is written by local author and horse trainer James M. Naugle. This exciting book is set in the Montana wilderness, where Jennifer Gates and her trusty Tennessee Walking Horse Dixie, and Jack Russell Terrier Dot are forced to flee. The trio must survive the rugged wilderness alone. This story is gripping, and the book is hard to put down. Johnny's jacket is Jennifer's step-father's hunting coat...all she left home with. To read more about Johnny's Jacket and James Naugle, or to order a copy, visit www.nauglesnovels.com.

DOCENT OPPORTUNITY

The Volunteers in Parks Office is offering a special Docent Enrichment trip to Oakland on Saturday, May 22. Attendees will participate in a Jack London Waterfront Tour, plus a talk with Carol Bookman, owner of First and Last Chance Saloon at Jack London Square and Jack London Foundation Person of the Year. The trip departs from Sonoma County at 10am, location TBD. You'll return by 5:30pm. Space is limited to 20 people. Please RSVP by May 14th. To reserve space, please send a check for \$10.00 made payable to Zelda Bettman at P.O. Box 4506, Santa Rosa, CA 95402. Please include your phone number. For more information and to arrange carpooling, contact Zelda Bettman (707) 529-3521.

This event is limited to 20 participants.

WILDFLOWER TOURS

If you missed the April 17th Wildflower Ride led by Marci Cook and Marcia Phillips (the M&M's), you missed a fun and informative ride. Relax, you've got another chance! The M&M's are offering another ride on Saturday May 8th at Lake Sonoma. Be saddled and ready at Lone Rock at 10:30am. Bring your lunch! The next ride after that is May 22 at Annadel. Be saddled and ready at Spring Lake Parking Lot at 10:30. If you want to read ahead and be the teacher's pet, Marci suggests you check out Wildflowers of Northern California's Wine Country and North Coast Ranges by Reny Parker. For more info email Marci at mcook@wusd.org or Marcia at jermar123@gmail.com.

LAKE SONOMA MAU

Stayed tuned. We have started up meetings regarding a patrol unit for Lake Sonoma. We have had two information meetings so far with the Ranger staff and BCHC. As soon as we set up horse (or mule) testing, we'll let you know. This unit will include both bikes and horses. For more info, call Cindy Rowe at 484-8717.

