



Rancho California Horsemen's Association

October 2011

October Greetings, Everyone!

REPORTS FOR THIS MONTH INCLUDE:

- **Recap of Oakridge Ride**
- **Upcoming Annual Meeting and Ride**
- **Murrieta Veterans Day Parade**
- **Galway Downs**
- **Trails Map Update**
- **Trails Issues**
- **Forks In the Trail**
- **New Member**

OAKRIDGE RIDE

Well, if you were not with us (don't mean to rub it in), you missed a good one!!! 29 riders enjoyed the beauty of Oakridge for just under 3 hours. Jana & Glen Dorr opened up their awesome ranch to us for a great time that was enjoyed by all. Upon arriving at the ranch, noticed there was water containers set out for our horses. After the ride, rinsing off our horses was encouraged. Glen did a stellar job in leading riders over hills to a beautiful view of Lake Skinner. After our return, we all sat around with our lunches & cookies in the shade provided. **A BIG THANK YOU GOES OUT TO JANA & GLEN FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY.** We hope to make this a yearly event as Oakridge has many scenic trails for riders to enjoy. **DON'T MISS THIS RIDE NEXT YEAR!!!!**

P.S. Our Val Hat for Valeri Sexton netted a whoppin' \$130.00 that was sent to her. GOOD JOB RIDERS!!

UPCOMING ANNUAL MEETING & RIDE

Yep, it's that time again. IT TIME FOR A PARTY!!! We're hoping to have a very successful renewal of memberships this 2012. So save this date:

DATE: Saturday, January 21, 2012

TIME: Ride out 9:00am SHARP (Have a great ride planned). If you just want to join us for the party, that's ok too.

PLACE: Glenoak Hills Club House (DePortola Rd./Via de Oro)

COST: \$15.00 Covers Catered Lunch & Soft Drinks & Dessert – BYOB

More information about this will be forthcoming along with 2012 Membership Forms and 2012 Release Forms that are required for all riders who ride with us in 2012. MARK THOSE 2012 CALENDARS!!!



IN HONOR OF OUR VETERANS

The Murrieta Veteran's Day Parade is going to be held on Friday, November 11th!

Any experienced trail rider who wishes to ride with the newly formed "Wine Country Riders and Friends of Veterans" entry may reply to these emails to sign up (jkoth@dslextreme.com or kerrietuley@verizon.net). No club affiliation is required. This entry is open to community trail riders who will assume their own risk by signing the city's waiver/release. The event will be covered by the city's liability policy per their representative. (We have attained the City of Murrieta's approval for our equestrian entry.) The parade is a large parade with many entries and plenty of sensory obstacles including a jet fly over so it's not for everyone or every horse.

We just ask that only experienced riders and horses participate.

Please contact Juanita Koth 951-515-9964 or Kerrie Tuley 951-375-0650 for questions.

At this time we just need an accurate headcount in order to submit our entry packet to the city. We will also need side walkers and pooper scooper volunteers, any takers for these jobs? (Without

them we cannot enter.) Please plan to use any patriotic tack you may have and to wear your authentic cowboy gear/clothing (chinks, chaps, hats, scarves, gloves, ropes, etc.).

No riding club logo wears please.

Let's show our Veteran's how much we trail riders appreciate them!

GALWAY DOWNS

Robert Kellerhouse is offering discounts again for the big International Event on the November 3 weekend. Last year a few of us went for the final day (show jumping). This year shall we try to get a group to go over on Saturday to watch the cross-country? That could be fun. Give Lorraine a call @ 949-439-7579.

TRAILS MAP UPDATE

Great news as of Sept. 29 - the portion of our trails map that falls into the proposed expansion of Wine Country (which is pretty much all of the trails other than those in Glenoak Hills and the BLM land), have passed one important hurdle! The Community Plan Advisory Council accepted without comment the map as proposed by the Trails Subcommittee (which consisted of a mix of vintners, equestrians, and County Staff). This means the map will go before the Planning Commission (likely in December) and then the Board of Supervisors as part of the Community Plan. I know this may sound like a bunch of gobbledy-gook, but this process really is important for getting the trails LEGAL and therefore secure. **EARLY ALERT** - we will need LOTS of equestrians to show up at the Planning Commission hearing (which I believe they will try to hold in Temecula rather than the typical place in Riverside, for the convenience of Wine Country residents). We'll need you to tell them why the trails are important to you (not just to visit wineries, but for daily well-being of your horse and you!) and how important it is to our rural ambiance. They need to know that you live here because it is a horse-friendly place, and you want to work with them to keep it that way. We will send the meeting date and logistics info. as soon as we get it (meeting is not set yet).

In the meantime, we are sectioning off bits of the map and would like volunteers to ride portions of it soon just so we can be completely up to date on conditions. If you are willing to join Lorraine, Kerrie, and Gil in this effort, please send us a note to info@rchatemecula.org. As we confirm these sections, we'll start distributing maps (even though we'll need to mark them DRAFT until final approval). By the way, approval will only mean we have the desired paths marked. The next phase of the project will be to get the easements we lack granted. We'll need help from those of you who are silver-tongued to help with that phase!! **WE KNOW YOU ARE OUT THERE!!!**

TRAIL ISSUES

De Portola to Linda Rosea via trail that borders Josh Stephenson property - the northern portion will be graded soon, but there's a big drop off just south of Josh's property. We have conferred with Josh about how to fix this portion so we get this important artery re-opened. See future emails on this.

Safer Street Crossings

We have been working with the Department of Transportation and the CHP to increase the safety at the 7 street crossings in Wine Country (5 along DePortola, one on Glenoaks Road and one on Anza Road). Larger "YIELD TO EQUESTRIANS" signs have been installed, and they appear to be having a positive effect. In a few days, we will be launching an educational program to help both motorists and equestrians follow safer practices at these crossings. This includes distributing flyers to all wineries and homeowner's associations to explain to motorists how to behave when they approach the Yield signs. In addition, local reporters have agreed to write articles helping to educate the public. This effort is being co-sponsored by RCHA, the Riverside County Department of Transportation, CHP, and the Temecula Visitors and Convention Bureau.

For fellow equestrians, it will help if you do the following at the crossings:

- Wait for gaps in traffic before entering the striped areas**
- Make sure motorists are fully stopped before you enter the crossing zone, and be aware that motorists BEHIND the first car can sometimes try to pass by going around the stopped vehicle**
- Be courteous and acknowledge when motorists slow down and stop for you.**
- Ride defensively - don't assume motorists understand that they should stop.**
- Report any difficulties (and positive suggestions) to info@rchatemecula.org**

The CHP will bring its trailer and flashing signs out for our next group ride, to see if these help. We are fortunate to have the experienced representatives in the Traffic Department and CHP contributing to this effort

Roundabout And Striped Crossing On Rancho California Road Going In

Work has already begun on the first roundabout at Anza Road and Rancho California Road. Two horse crossings are planned on the east (first) and west ends of Rancho California. These will be specially designed with solar powered flashing Yield signs, and stopping points well back (20-30 feet) from the crossing. The first of these will be set up along with the first roundabout, as a trial, and will be located near Wiens winery. We'll keep you posted.

FOR FORKS IN THE TRAIL

- Member Juanita Koth temporarily out of the saddle due to injured arm
- Member Valeri Sexton home after snake bite
- Board member Kathy Burleson sidelined for X months with knee injury

We hope these strong cowgirls are back in the saddle soon!!

- Our own "local legend" Pat Ommert featured in Sept. issue of Western Horseman magazine with beautiful pictures and full page feature in section on "Women of the West". WAY TO GO Pat!!!!

Other News

Santa Rosa Plateau Riders rode through our beautiful trails visiting Peltzer Farm, Falkner Winery, Maurice Car'rie and Van Roekel for an early fall ride.

One of our favorite horse-friendly wineries, Keyways, has been sold. We plan to welcome the new owners and find a way to thank Terri Pebley Delhamer again for all the help she has given RCHA, TEWR and all riders in getting the county's attention to how well horses and wineries can mix for the benefit of all, including all the tourists who love seeing horses tied at the hitching posts. As the transition to new ownership happens, please be extra courteous so the new owners get a very positive first impression!

Another horse-friendly winery is celebrating 25 years in Temecula. Stop in and wish Phil and Carol Baily congratulations. We and they recognize that lots of riders are not visiting yet because the trail to their hitching post has been and still is in the making, but it is getting closer (hooray!). In the meantime, they have fine wine and a wonderful restaurant, both in Wine Country and in Old Town.

NEW MEMBERS

A big "HOWDY" welcome to our new members:

Jan & Judy Fluegge

Pauline Stotsenberg

Colleen Chase

Richard & Rebecca Crook

Beth Butler/Barbour

Look for a small profile on our new members in the next newsletter.

THAT'S IT & HAPPY TRAILS