

# Tack Room Topics

## President's Message



### Special Interest Articles:

2010 Calendar  
2009 Day of the Horse

### Event Highlights

Holiday Party  
Sierra Camping Trip

### Up Coming Events

Denton Cook Clinic  
CMDTRA Crab Feed

### Also Included:

\* 2010 Renewal Membership & Liability forms

\*Club Sponsors aka Participating Merchants

Don't forget to ask for your SRVHA discount!

Welcoming letter from our President Victor Dequin.

Hi all, can you believe the year 2009 has come to an end. As the officers and board members of 2009 pack their gear, I would like to thank them for the all the hard work they have put into the club and club functions. I hope to see them again on the board in the near future. And now, I would like to welcome, the new officers and board members to the club for the year 2010, we have work ahead of us. Also, I would like to welcome back all the members that renew their membership and the new members to the club and would like to stress to the members who haven't renewed their membership yet, time is running out, it time to get it done if you want to be in the 2010 roster. This is a fun club and a club to be proud of. We have many club functions planed for the coming year. We had a great holiday party with a change over of club officers and board members led by Jack Abraham. I would like to thank everyone for being there and thank all the club members who helped make it a great party. Thank you to Jim and Michiyo Ambrosius for once again hosting the party at the home

We have three potlucks planed at the Alamo women's club, a horsemanship clinic by Denton Cook, Trail Trials, the Breakfast Ride, the Moonlight Ride, camping at Jack Brooks a Trail Trials teaching clinic, Pelican Inn Ride, Turkey Ride, and The Day of the Horse Ride. Check the included calendar for the dates of these upcoming events. These events can not happen without your support. This is your club and we want to make it a club you can be proud of. We will have a signup sheet at the next potluck for anyone to let us know if you have time to help make these events successful. Also feel free to let us know if you have any ideas for future events.

Thank you for the opportunity to be your President for the year 2010, I only hope that I can do as good a job as the past Presidents have done, I am going to give it my best. Saddle your horse and support our weekday and weekend rides. See you all on the Trails. Have fun!

**Tack Room      January – March 2010**

## 2010 Tentative Calendar

Feb. 12	Friday	Alamo Women's Club Dinner
Mar. 12	Friday	Alamo Women's Club Dinner
Apr. 09	Friday	Alamo Women's Club Dinner
Apr. 24	Saturday	Denton Cook Clinic
May 16	Sunday	SRVHA Trail Trials
Jun 05	Saturday	Breakfast Ride
July 24	Saturday	Moonlight Ride
Aug 27-31	Friday - Tuesday	Horse Camping at Jack Brooks Campground in Woodside
Sept. 25	Saturday	Lauren Murrell Trial Trials Clinic
Oct. 17	Sunday	Pelican Inn Ride
Nov. 14	Sunday	Turkey Ride
Dec. 12	Sunday	Day of the Horse Ride San Ramon

Weekday rides will be lead by Bob Cooper on the following Fridays

2/19, 3/19, 4/15, 5/21, 6/18, 7/16, 8/20, 9/17, 10/15, 11/12, 12/10 please  
Contact him at (510) 816-7870 or email [cfbc@earthlink.net](mailto:cfbc@earthlink.net) for more  
information.

## **SRVHA – Horsemanship Clinic with Dennie Cook – April 24, 2010**

Contact – Nicole Vernon at (925) 325-2904 [vernonnicole@ymail.com](mailto:vernonnicole@ymail.com) to reserve your spot. All day clinic \$125.00 per person \$25.00 to audit. Location TBD.

Denton (Dennie) Cook has more than thirty-five years of well-rounded experience with horses. His relationship with horses began at a young age, helping his father, Henry Cook D.V.M., in his large animal veterinary practice. He learned how to handle horses without force or intimidation.

These early foundations sparked his love and respect for horses and lead him to become a life long student of the horse. Along the path, he was privileged to work with several great horsemen, including his friend Joe Wolters and Bill & Tom Dorrance.

His desire to work with cattle and give the horses a "job with a purpose" lead him to spend the last fifteen years as a working cowboy in California, Nevada and Wyoming.

Having worked with horses of varied temperaments and training levels, Dennie has developed a special talent. Through patience and sensitivity, he works with each horse's individual personality and ability. He employs a soft feel and remarkable timing to read, anticipate and respond to the horse when even a slight change has occurred. Dennie has the ability to put this philosophy into practice by consistent and successful handling methods that he imparts to horse owners during his clinics. His clinics have proven to be successful for several reasons. The experience shared by horse and owner helps to build a strong foundation for future success.



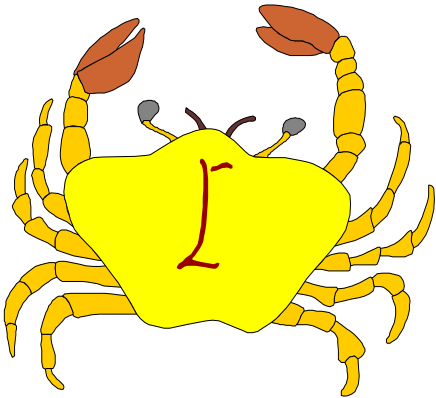
## 2009 Day of the Horse by Jane VanderWerf

The Day of the Horse Event was a little different this year. Since we had plenty of notice that the day would be rainy, I decided to change the focus from parading our horses up and down the Iron Horse Trail to collecting food for the Contra Costa County Food Bank. Victor Dequin and my husband, John, set up our food collecting tent in the Park and Ride at Sycamore Valley Road in Danville. Two of SRVHA's past presidents, Mary Wunderlich and Jane Taylor, came to bring food and support the effort. We also had a group of 4H kids and their parents who brought donations and stayed to help us collect from passersby in spite of the blustery, rainy day. We had several members drop by to deliver canned food, including Sonja Koch, daughter of member Heidi Koch. We asked Sonja about the trip her and her horse, Max, took to compete at the 2009 National Reining Finals in Oklahoma this year and the great news that she has received an athletic scholarship from the Fresno State University equestrian team. It was an inspiring story of hard work for us all to hear- especially the young riders. Pictured below are Alina Spyrka, Margie Dowd, Kelly VanderWerf and Bailey Newlin



**CONCORD MOUNT DIABLO TRAIL RIDE**  
**ASSOCIATION**

1600 Trail Ride Road, Clayton



**CRAB FEED**

(Hot and Fresh!!)

**Sat., January 23th, 2010**

**3:00 PM**

**\$45.00 per Person**

**SEATING IS LIMITED TO 100 PEOPLE**  
**Children under 5 years or Pasta only \$15.00**

**MENU:**

Salad, Pasta, French bread, Dessert & CRAB

**NO HOST BAR**

(All outside alcohol must be declared - subject to \$10 corkage fee)

Crab order must be placed by Jan. 16; therefore money **MUST** be received by Jan. 16TH in order to confirm your reservation.

***Tack Room***

***January – March 2010***

## Annual Holiday Party – January 09, 2010



New Board Members from left to right; Bob Cooper – website and weekday rides, Steve Henkel – By-Law; Denise Boucher – Secretary, Linda Post – Membership/Roster, Victor Dequin – President, Christine Carey Insurance, Nicole Vernon – exiting president



**Tack Room**

**January – March 2010**

## Rent Our Club's Saddle Fitting Pad!

SRVHA members at our February pot-luck dinner saw Carmi Weininger demonstrate a unique saddle fitting pad. Carmi owns the ReactorPanel Saddle Company in Oakland, which sells saddles and pads for improving saddle fit. One key to knowing whether a saddle fits well, she explained, is a thick plastic pad filled with squishy red gel called a Port Lewis Saddle Fitting Pad (Figure A). After riding your horse for 25 minutes with this pad directly beneath your English or Western saddle, you can get crucial information: Any place where the saddle pinches or squeezes your horse creates an easily visible thin or clear spot in the red gel (Figure B). "We find that something like 80 percent of the saddles we test don't fit," Carmi says.

SRVHA purchased one of these saddle-fitting pads and you can now rent it for \$10 (plus a refundable \$100 deposit). Contact SRVHA (see below) to get your name on the rental list. By sending an electronic photo of the pad to Carmi after you complete your 25-minute test, she can also help you decipher the test results and improve your horse's saddle fit. Maybe it's disposition, too...

**List Sign-up:** Write to Jan Dommer at [janethopson@earthlink.net](mailto:janethopson@earthlink.net) or call 925-837-9440.

**Contact Carmi:** Send a note and/or photo to Carmi at [info@reactorpanel.com](mailto:info@reactorpanel.com)



## Talk about the trail ride of a lifetime – Barbara Boehme



Try riding an elephant through the Thailand jungle. The Elephant Conservation Center in Lampong Thailand is a unique place where individuals can stay and attend 1, 3, or 5 days of "mahout" training. Each elephant has one mahout or "trainer" who cares and trains their elephant for as long as they stay employed at the center. Some mahouts have remained with their elephants for as long as 20 years. They develop bonds with their elephants as close if not closer than we do with our horses. During our stay we learned about the life of elephants, their care, daily bathing, and how to ride and command them. We also performed in daily shows at the center while the public watched the elephants demonstrate painting, dragging and stacking logs as well as feeding the elephants treats and taking photos. While the conservation center is government run it is less commercial than other camps making it even more special. An elephant hospital is on site and cares for injured animals and the proceeds from the shows at the center support the hospital. This is an experience of a lifetime and if you love animals and adventure I highly recommend it. For more fun check out my U Tube video "Barbara bathing with elephant Tatawan" Happy Trails!

## **Al Kaplan, our very last living founding member of San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association, passed away December 28, 2009 at age 83.**

He had been married to Ann Wiedemann Kaplan, who passed away August 24, 2006 at 79 after 55 years of marriage. Ann and Al had been members of SRVHA for over 50 years. They often invited club members to their ranch in Norris Canyon for a trail ride followed by a B-B-Q. They are survived by three girls: Christine, Haley (given name Hazel) and Freda.

For the last few years, Al had been residing at Diablo Lodge, which is an upscale assisted living facility in Danville. When Norm Sims visited California in late October, Diane Anderson, Mary Wunderlich and Norm went out to Danville to visit with him and relive some good old times over a very nice lunch in their common area. Al was doing very well at that time and we had a good day touring the grounds and seeing where he hung his hat. He had a bronze cowboy statue at his front door entrance and a picture of a cowboy on the wall next to his favorite chair. Al was robust for a guy in his mid 80's, and looking back now, I'm glad we had that time together. A piece of history has slipped away with the passing of this man who saw the Diablo Valley emerge from it's cow town beginnings to the affluent community it has become. This picture of Al was taken at the Ride for Research, a cause to raise money for Equine medical research, which they both supported for many years.

The family is planning services on Saturday, January 23rd at the Danville Presbyterian Church, 222 West El Pintado Road in Danville. Time is 2 pm with a reception following the service. The easiest route to the church is to exit at Diablo Rd. and go west towards town, then turn right at the first intersection onto W. El Pintado. The church is shortly after the bend.

Bob Cooper and Mary Wunderlich are collecting memory pictures of Al and his adventures with San Ramon Valley Horsemen and would welcome your input. Members of SRVHA who share in the legacy of this man's life are invited to join us to celebrate those times. Coop and Mary will be providing a storyboard of SRVHA pictures to the family that will be displayed at the reception. Contact Mary at [mjwunderlich@comcast.net](mailto:mjwunderlich@comcast.net) and Bob at [cfbc@earthlink.net](mailto:cfbc@earthlink.net)



**SRVHA Board Members**

**President**

Victor Dequin

925.825.8237

[vicpdeq@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vicpdeq@sbcglobal.net)

**Vice President - TBD**

**Secretary - TBD**

**Treasurer -TBD**

**Committee Chairs**

**Compliance/By Laws**

Deborah Johnston

408.221.7123

[dj2bit@wildblue.net](mailto:dj2bit@wildblue.net)

**Roster/Membership**

Linda Post

925.997.5303

[Post.linda@ymail.com](mailto:Post.linda@ymail.com)

**Correspondence -TBD**

**Insurance - TBD**

**Bar/Historian**

Val Turner

707.429.8551

No E-Mail

**President Ex-Officio**

Nicole Vernon

925.325.2904

[vernonnicole@ymail.com](mailto:vernonnicole@ymail.com)

**Website**

Bob Cooper

925.447.9712

[cfbc@earthlink.net](mailto:cfbc@earthlink.net)



An Adult Riding Club

## 2010 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

**Please NOTE: Membership is on calendar year get your 2010 renewal in early!**

**PLEASE UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION and please print clearly:**  
*(To be included in the directory, renewal must be submitted by 2/1/10)*

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business/Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

*(SRVHA will email information whenever possible in order to save postage.)*

Number of Horses Owned: \_\_\_\_\_ What Breed(s): \_\_\_\_\_

What type of activities are you interested in? Would like to volunteer your organization skills and/or a little time for your club? Let the Board know what you can do to help.

Trail Riding \_\_\_\_\_

Potluck Dinners: \_\_\_\_\_

Trail Maintenance: \_\_\_\_\_

Club Management: \_\_\_\_\_

Horse Training: \_\_\_\_\_

Newsletter: \_\_\_\_\_

Clinics: \_\_\_\_\_

Pack Trips: \_\_\_\_\_

Overnight Trail Rides: \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Programs: \_\_\_\_\_

Weekday Rides: \_\_\_\_\_

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

ANNUAL DUES: \$30.00 per person

\$45.00 per couple

Please read the Trail Rules. Date and sign this completed form, along with the *Release of Liability* form (signed by each individual member) and mail, along with your check made payable to SRVHA, to:

## **San Ramon Valley Horseman's Association**

P. O. Box 403

Danville, CA 94526

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_



## MEMBERSHIP RELEASE OF LIABILITY

PARTICIPANT: \_\_\_\_\_ TELEPHONE: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ CITY: \_\_\_\_\_

I acknowledge that horseback riding is a sport which carries inherent risks of injury and damage to myself, my horse and property. I knowingly assume all risks, whether known or unknown, of horseback riding.

I hereby release the San Ramon Valley Horsemen's Association.

(hereinafter referred to as S.R.V.H.A.

from all liability for any act of negligence or want of ordinary care on the part of S.R.V.H.A.

, or any of its agents.

In consideration of my participation in events organized or sponsored by S.R.V.H.A.

I waive, release and discharge S.R.V.H.A.,

their directors, officers, agents and members, their representatives, heirs, executors and assigns from any and all claims of liability for injury or damage to myself, my animals or my property arising out of my participation. This agreement is binding upon my executors, heirs and assigns.

I expressly waive any rights I may have under California Civil Code 1542, which states: "A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him might have materially affected his settlement with the debtor."

I agree that I will indemnify and hold harmless S.R.V.H.A., their officers, directors, members and agents against all claims, demands, and causes of action, including court costs and actual attorney fees, arising from any proceeding or lawsuits brought by or prosecuted for my benefit, in which this release is upheld.

S.R.V.H.A., its agents or employees shall not be liable for any damage which may accrue from any cause or as a result of fire, theft, running away, state of health, injury to person, horse or property.

I acknowledge that I have read this Release of Liability and Trail Rules and know and understand their contents.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Participating Merchants

## Alamo Hay & Grain



Specializing in a complete line  
of pet and livestock needs

\*SRVHA MEMBERS RECEIVE 10% OFF  
ON ALL HORSE RELATED PURCHASES\*

3196 Danville Blvd Alamo, CA 94507  
(925) 837-4994

Hours: Mon - Sat 8am-6pm  
Sunday 9am-4pm

## WESTERN SADDLERY



English Tack  
Western Tack  
Supplements  
Remedies  
Riding Apparel  
Barn Supplies

*SRVHA receives 15% off  
on all purchases*

7038 Commerce Cir  
Pleasanton, CA 94588  
(800) 833-5085

Mon-Fri 7:am - 5:pm Sat 7:am - 2:pm



370 Hartz Ave.  
Danville, CA 94526  
925.743.1197

Next to Christine's Salon  
Tue -Thur 9am - 8pm  
Fri - Mon 9am - 5pm



### Sponsor of the SRVHA

Just show them your membership card for  
a level 2 (5 - 10%) discount on horse related  
purchases excluding hay.

228 Hookston Road Pleasant Hill, CA  
925-940-1200

M-F 8am - 6:30pm Sat/Sun 9am - 5pm

P. O. Box 403  
Danville  
CA. 94526

Would you like to see something  
in our next newsletter email?  
vernonnicole@ymail.com

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We're on the Web!

*Visit us at:*

**[www.srvha.org](http://www.srvha.org)**

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**SAN RAMON VALLEY  
HORSEMAN'S  
ASSOCIATION**  
P. O. Box 403  
Danville, CA 944526