



TRAP Tails

Trail Rider Awards Program
California State Horsemen's Assoc.

Chair Chatter

It's been a busy couple months and I apologize for not getting the February newsletter out. So this is a combined issue for February and March.

It's finally started raining here in California, we have been blessed with some great riding weather but we desperately need the rain and snow. They have started voluntary water rationing here where I live and so we cut back where we could but with only 2 of us in the house, no lawn and drip irrigation that's been turned off, there's not much more we can do. If they go to mandatory rationing I will have to get a livestock exemption. Hopefully it will not come to that.

The drought has also impacted the National Forests here in California. I was checking for reservations and they all say that water conservation was in effect and we need to be careful with water usage in the campgrounds, etc.

That brings up the increased risk of forest fires this year. I think my worst fear is of fire. I don't have bars or keyed deadbolts on my house because of it. I want to be able to get out if necessary.

I have the same feeling when camping. I don't know about you but I always park my rig facing out so if necessary I can vacate in a hurry. I know how to hook up my truck in less than 2 minutes and will leave everything behind except family if necessary. That means that Buddy **MUST** load when asked!

The wildfire last year on nearby Mt. Diablo brought to manys' attention the need for horses to load in an emergency situation. I cannot stress enough how important this is. If your horse is hesitant loading, don't just shrug it off and say 'It's not important', it is! Take the time to teach your horse to load quickly but quietly every time you ask. Hopefully you will never be in an emergency situation but it would be terrible if you had to leave them behind just because they would not load.

If you don't know how to teach them get some professional help, it's cheap insurance and a definite stress reducer!

Ok, I'll get off my soapbox!

Have fun and ride safe!

Marie and Buddy



Feb/Mar 2014

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My granddaughter, daughter and I at Skillman in Tahoe Nat'l Forest July 2013 - It's a family affair!

Chevrons & Awards Presented

Congratulations to riders who reached the following milestones since the last issue.

Awarded in January 2014

Nancy DeGan, Region 3, 2,000 Hours

Welcome

Welcome to our new TRAP members, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact either your Region or State TRAP chair.

February 2014

Kim Bredehoft, Region 5
Elizabeth Balke, Region 2
Tammy Baxter, Region 12
Patricia Cheney, Region 5

January 2014

Caitlin Lanterno, Region 18
Sheree Nuxoll, Region 5

Trails Database

All hours received for 2013 have been added to the Trails Database. You rode a whopping **19,386 hours** last year with a total of 8,112 rides! WOW! That is the largest number since we started keeping track in 2006!

Because of the dry weather 2014 is off to a good start also with a total reported through February of 911.25 hours.

Please be sure to send your hours in at least every two months so if I get a request to provide data on a park I have the most information available. Also so I don't get a huge bunch at the end of the year!

Thanks and congratulations on a great year!

Newsletter Contributors Needed!

Special thanks to Patricia Tuck for her contribution of her camping adventures in this issue! This newsletter's purpose is to promote trail riders and that means you! Do you know of a special place to ride or camp with your horse? Do you have a camping recipe you can share? What about a tack tip? We are all looking for ways to save a little money these days!

Please share your ideas and adventures with your fellow TRAP riders and send me items and pictures! You can send via e-mail at cshatrap@yahoo.com

Clarification on Reporting Type of Hours

Last year to make it easier on your reporting efforts we changed the logs so you only have to indicate what type of riding you are doing if you are doing Trail Patrol, an Organized Ride or Trail Work. Some are confused.... Trail Work means you were working on construction or maintenance of a trail, not working (or training) your horse on a trail. I have called several folks because of multiple entries under "Trail Work" when it just did not seem feasible that they were actually doing physical trail work for two weeks straight. Sure enough they were "working" (or training) their horses on the trail.

Additionally an Organized Ride is a ride hosted or arranged by an organization, eg Club rides, Trail Trials, Twain Harte Horsemen's High Ride, Region 4's Silver Lake Ride, etc. you get the idea. It's not when you get together with a couple friends and hit the trail. I hope this makes it faster and easier for you to report your hours! Any questions let me know. Marie

HORSE CAMPIN'

Contributed by Patricia Tuck, Region 1

When Marie asked me to write a bit for the TRAP newsletter in September, I said, "Sure, no problem"—knowing that the rain would force me indoors and it would be an easy thing to sit down and spin some tales for you. Well, that plan went astray along with our much needed rainfall. So, here it is almost February, the camping trips for this year are being planned, and it's time to let you know about some great places to consider for your next equine adventures.

Willow Springs Guest Ranch

Those of you who read about my adventure in US Rider magazine last fall have some notion about this place. I have visited the ranch four times and so enjoy the trails, the owners, Keith and Patty Barnhart, and the other guests. The ranch is northwest of Lakeview, Oregon—about a 10 hour haul from Napa. The roads there are good and scenery along the way is spectacular. I would recommend you pack a lunch or stop in Klamath Falls for picnic goodies since after leaving Klamath, there is little in the way of dining available.

Keith and Patty are cattle ranchers, and if you check with them before you go, you can plan your trip, as I do, to work with the cattle. Trails are well maintained on the ranch and on nearby forestry land. Riding can be an all day affair or a 2-3 hour trip up to the upper pasture, Coyote Flat, and back.. I highly recommend going to the Cox pass trail especially in mid June when the wildflowers are in full glory.

There are pipe corrals and plenty of room for your horses, or you can rent one of the fine mounts Keith keeps at the ranch. Bring your own hay and supplements, obviously, and, while Keith does his own shoeing, it's best to make sure all is good before you head out on any horse trip.

Meals are provided at an additional cost and to skip those would be a big loss. Keith cooks cowpuncher breakfasts—fresh eggs from the ranch chickens, buckwheat pancakes, French toast, or Mountain Dew biscuits! Bring along your lunch supplies or ask for a pack along lunch, if you want to. Dinners are cooked in Dutch ovens and served outdoors so that you can enjoy the company of the other guests, sunsets on the palisades, and some of Patty's poetry and short stories. Patty is an award winning author as well as an expert hunter, gardener (you will sample from her gardens during your meals), and all around interesting person.



On the way to Bob's Lake

There are two comfortable duplex cabins (four rooms) for guests, built by Keith. Each is named after a famous Western artist and decorated with antiques in ranch style. An extra cot can be provided if you want. While there is no electricity in the rooms, there are full bathrooms, hot water, and lanterns are provided for you. I bring an extra so I can have plenty of reading light. Cell phone service is great.

If you want to go and have questions, they have a website and are available via email and phone.

Cuneo Creek Horse Camp

There are probably more of you who have experienced the beauty of this Humboldt Redwoods treasure. I have been in August with the WANAC (we are not a club) two years in a row and love the place. The camp is about 5 hours from Napa, most of which is on the freeway. Make sure you get good directions to the camp—some people miss the turnoff and wander for awhile. The entrance to the camp is a drive through magnificent redwoods on a narrow, winding road. Be prepared to make room for people exiting as you enter.

Facilities at the camp include a group campground with lots of pipe corrals, water, a sand pit for rolling, and a manure bunker. There are separate campsites as well with their own corrals. Hot showers cost a quarter for five minutes and there are flush toilets with electricity! Our groups hired a cook so meals were included and were most filling and yummy. The park ranger gave us an orientation and answered questions about trails, wildlife (BEARS) and “must sees”.



Patricia and Jackson on the trail

The trails are well maintained and marked and maps are available. Most of the rides are 4-5 hours if you do the complete loops. Do not miss the ride through the redwoods and the trails on that side of the camp. Behind the camp, the Indian Orchard, Peavine to Thornton loop is a great ride. There is water for the horses in streams on the trails—that is, there was when I camped. Take advantage of these since the trail back to the camp, Homestead, is open and can be a warm finish to your day on your pony.

There are black bears at the camp who provide apple and pear tree acrobatic entertainment during dinner. So, use the bear boxes at each campsite and “bear” in mind proper precautions. I camp in a tent and was totally comfortable. Mosquitos were not a problem in August nor were ticks. Lots of turkeys!

I hope this helps you make your camping plans for the season. I am off to some new spots this year and hope you all let us know about your favorites.



Thank you to Patricia for sharing her adventures! In case you were wondering, she rides a Rocky Mountain gelding named Jackson. They make a great team!

Just some of the sights in the Redwoods!

**Trail Rider Awards Program
California State Horsemen's Assoc.**

Mail Rider Logs and TRAP registrations to:
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