



April 2024

# NEWSLETTER

P.O. Box 1329  
Mariposa, CA 95338

[www.mariposamountainriders.com](http://www.mariposamountainriders.com)  
[mariposamtntiders@gmail.com](mailto:mariposamtntiders@gmail.com)



April 1!

## 2024 Officers & Board

President: Carla Kelly  
Vice- President: Jamie Zoller  
Treasurer: Suzette Combs  
Secretary: Kathy Maxwell  
Directors:  
Jeanne Casner  
Pat Martin  
Jessica Swager

## 2024 Chairs

Newsletter, Publicity, Web: Carol Suggs  
Club Advisors: Gwen Nitta & Carol Suggs  
Insurance: Suzette Combs  
Membership: Kathy Maxwell  
Merchandise & Parades: Jessica Swager  
CHSA liaison: Jamie Zoller  
Trail Team Organizer: Peggy DeBuyser

## President's Letter

This month, I am thinking about all the green grass and wildflowers that are popping up on the farm. Many of us have been in the mountains long enough to know that it is important to regulate the amount of time our horses are turned out in pasture. It seems every year, I hear of someone who has sporadically turned their horses out to graze only to find they start to founder. Just like changing feed during the winter, it is important to get your horse use to the sudden abundance of grass. As our days start to heat up the quality and richness of the grass will increase. Make sure to slowly regulate your horse's pasture time to avoid this problem.

As you read this month's Newsletter, you will see our April calendar has an excellent slate of events. The April 7th "Ride & Learn" at Cathy Orth's should be a really fun ride. Chris Phillips is presenting an education lecture on Equine Insurance which I am sure many of you will find valuable.

As we move two weeks later to April 20th, you will want to pack a lunch and ride the BLM land in Hunters Valley with Jackie Braxton.

Both of these rides will be excellent rides to see some of the different landscapes that make up Mariposa County. Bring your friends, enjoy the spring weather and have a good time with your club.

Carla



April: Wendy Brown, George Naas, Jessica Varney

May: Adrian Wolfe

June: Sharon Bechler, Lille Charman

# APRIL RIDES

April 7 Sunday The 56 Ranch, Cathy Orth



2801 Old Highway, Catheys Valley



9:30 am check in 10:00 am ride out

It's a potluck so bring something to share. We will eat when we get back, approximately noon and Chris Phillips will do a presentation on equine insurance.

Terrain is moderately hilly, using quad trails, you will encounter mini horses, cattle and goats.

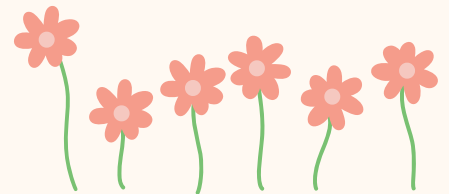
Directions: From Mariposa use Highway 140 going towards Merced, turn left onto School House Road. Take School House to Old Highway, turn left on Old Highway. Go exactly 1 mile until you see a white fenced entrance with a green gate on your left. Look for the address, leaning against an old piece of farm equipment & sign that says "The Orths", The first (green) gate will be open. Look for signage that says "MMR" with an arrow. Travel on the dirt road about 3/4 of a mile from Old Highway, (don't go up on the right or left and follow the fence line on the left) you'll get to a gate at the end of the main road with a metal flower piece on it; the gate code is 1619 (we may have it open).

Depending on weather, signage will direct you to the correct location for parking.

April 20, Saturday Hunters Valley/ BLM Jackie Baxton

9:30 am check in 10:00 ride out

Hilly topography, good trails, great views. 2 +/- hours.



From Mariposa, take Hwy 49 N, turn left onto Bear Valley Rd.

Go past Hunters Valley Access Rd. Turn right on Hunters Valley Rd. Stay on Hunters Valley Rd, past Detwiler Rd, make a slight left on Hunters Valley, go past Cotton Creek and the second Detwiler. Go over cattle guard and turn up onto the second dirt road. This will be flagged to help you find the way. Questions? Contact Jackie at [jackelalope@gmail.com](mailto:jackelalope@gmail.com) 209-205-0036

# Report from March Ride- from Jessica Swager



A HUGE THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO CAME OUT 🍀🍀🍀🍷🎩

We had 13 riders! Stacey Rustigan, Cindy Suarez, Joy O'Meara, Savannah and Luke Frost, Cathy Orth, Luann and Casey Mello, Debbie Laughlin, Jamie Zoller, Wendy Brown, Kevin Barry and Jessica Swager.

Wendy led us out down road 607 at 10:28 am we got back to Footman Park at 1:08 pm, which makes it 2.5 hour ride for the first ride of the season!

No one could have asked for better weather, amazing blue skies, green land, sun shining and big friendly smiles. I think we're all going to be sporting farmers' tans!

Nice staging area, plenty of parking and picnic tables were a plus. Wendy entertained us with some poetry and we enjoyed the great group of horses and people! I strongly believe everyone thoroughly enjoyed this ride.

Sorry if you couldn't make it, maybe next time... Two rides available in April 😊



"Best in Green":  
Kevin, Cindy &  
Stacey!





# March Meeting Recap

Great meeting and a lot was accomplished! We welcomed some new members in, Jessica reported on the recent ride, merchandise sold and raffle earnings. Jamie let us know that Beth is wanting to have a trail clearing day; discussions were held about our upcoming raffles for the vacation rental and teeth float; Directors and Officers insurance has been obtained; upcoming plans for the Obstacle Challenge event in June with Posse; purchasing more merchandise inventory and the status of our pending non-profit status. Next meeting is set for Thursday April 18th at 6:30 p.m. Happy Burger.



## Between The Ears



Over the winter your horse may have gotten a little fluffy and that doesn't mean hairy... remember that it can take anywhere from 4-6 weeks to leg a horse back up after they've been on a break, depending on the activity level you ride at. Horses need time to recover physically and mentally. So gradually get them going again, and make sure you are cooling them down properly. We are still pretty chilly at night so try not to put them up wet. If that's an issue invest in a lightweight fleece cooler blanket to whisk that moisture away. Or rub them down with old bath towels.

Spring is a great time to worm, vaccinate and get those teeth checked. Consult with your vet to see what you need!

Our sincere condolences to the Kuryla- Mero family on the passing of Steve who lost his battle with cancer in March. Our thoughts are with you as you navigate this loss.



# Trail restoration day! Sunday April 28th

Submitted by Beth Kellner



MMR members and friends are invited to join a volunteer trail stewardship day in April.

Mariposa Trails is currently working on a number of trails used historically and currently by horses and mules. Keeping these trails open is a volunteer effort. On Sunday April 28th we are planning a stewardship day for horse folks (NO horses, we will walk in), to work on a trail of interest to riders. We will meet at the Jerseydale Ranger Station at 9:30.

Mariposa Trails provides the PPE (like gloves, goggles, hard hats), tools, and project plan for the day.

We have trail restoration work happening on the Skeleton Creek Trail – this is a non-motorized use trail reopened to horses again in early 2022 but impacts from the Oak Fire followed by the winter of 2022-2023 caused significant damage. We are currently working on restoration, hoping for a reopening for equestrian use by early this summer.

We are also working on the Owl Creek trails, the lower section of the “Short Manzanita loop”, is open with log step overs as of March 20th but needs work to remove invasive shrubs and non-native blackberries before it is engulfed again. It is also part of a larger restoration project in the Owl Creek drainage.

There are other trails of rider interest we would like to work on in the Sweetwater area but it will take volunteers who are interested to get it on the schedule.

If you are interested in joining us on April 28th or for more information, please contact Beth Kellner at 206-793-2091 call or text or email [2mbk39@gmail.com](mailto:2mbk39@gmail.com).

If you are interested planning a stewardship day at another time, or for a specific trail we can arrange that too! There are open days in early April and mid-May, just give Beth a call.

Mariposa Trails mission is Building Trails and Community - Providing Trail access and promoting its' use for Adventure, Health, Stewardship, Education and Community Prosperity. For more information [www.mariposatrails.org](http://www.mariposatrails.org) .

Our Mariposa Trails Map and Guide is a good reference for trail locations and is available locally at the Visitor Center, Mariposa Market Place and Pioneer Market.

# MERCHANDISE

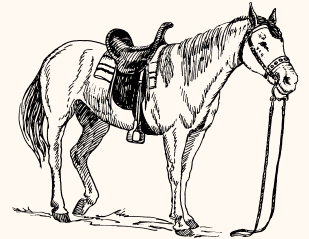
Want MMR merch?

Check out our website for items that are available or contact Jessica 209-201-8421

jessica\_swager@gmail.com or message her on our FB page!

# Happy 😊 SHOPPING

## Obstacle Challenge Race June 30 Camp Creek Ranch 3097 Triangle Rd, Mariposa



This is our annual fundraiser with MMR and Mariposa Sheriff's Posse. This year we've changed it up and the event will be using American Horsemen's Challenge Association for our rules guidance. Basically you get scored on how you do the obstacle, scored on your horsemanship as you do the obstacle and your overall time for the course. We are excited to have Sandy Unruh join us as our judge for the day. For those who have paid for practice time, the arena will be open for you to practice before the competition starts. There will be three divisions: Juniors (18 and under), Legends (55 and over) and Open. We have buckles for the winners in each division, 2nd place buckle styled key chains, hand forged hoof picks for 3rd and chore buckets for 4th. Check out for more event details and entry form at [www.mariposamountainriders.com](http://www.mariposamountainriders.com) or contact Carol for more info at 209-347-7759 or [mariposarodeo@gmail.com](mailto:mariposarodeo@gmail.com) preregistration is highly recommended. Lunch will be on site for purchase. Spectators ok to bring chairs and pop ups if desired. No dogs please.

### SPECIAL SHOUT OUT TO OUR SPONSORS:

CASNER RANCH (Larry Casner), YAMSON HAY, MARIPOSA  
FEED & SUPPLY, S & M WATER TRUCK, YOSEMITE FALLS  
WELL DRILLING, STEVE MAXWELL, SILVER VALLEY  
RANCH (Bill & Carol Suggs) & MIRANDA CATTLE COMPANY  
(Stan & Corrina Miranda)





# CALENDAR 2024

Check the website or current newsletter for updates. We also will be adding in CSHA events for our region. Parades are also being listed whether or not we will participate depends on member participation. Dates subject to change. with each months newsletter we will drop the prior month events.

## April

- 4/6 & 4/7 CSHA Region 4 Clinic/Trail Trials, Sat & Sun (Horses of Warriors Arena) Jamestown
- 4/7 Catheys Valley Ride, Sunday, (Cathy Orth), talk with Chris Phillips re: Equine Insurance
- 4/18 Business Meeting 630pm Thursday, Happy Burger
- 4/20 Hunters Valley Ride/BLM, Saturday (Jackie Baxton)
- 4/20 Raymond Parade, Saturday
- 4/20 CSHA Region 4 Obstacle Challenge, Saturday, Bridlewood Equestrian Center, Copperopolis
- 4/27 & 4/28 CSHA Region 4 Trail Trials, Saturday & Sunday, Peoria Flats, Jamestown
- 4/28 Mariposa Trail Stewardship Day, clearing trails (see article in April newsletter for details)

## May

- 5/3 Butterfly Festival Parade, Saturday, Mariposa
- 5/11 Motherlode Round Up Parade, Saturday, Sonora
- 5/16 Business Meeting 630pm Thursday, Happy Burger
- 5/18 & 5/19 CSHA Region 4 Trail Trials, Saturday & Sunday, Groveland
- 5/25 CSHA Region 4 Obstacle Challenge, Saturday, Bridlewood Equestrian Center, Copperopolis

## June

- 6/8 Long Ranch Ride, Saturday (Jamie Zoller & Peggy DeBuyser)
- 6/15 & 6/16 CSHA Trail Trials, Saturday & Sunday, Groveland
- 6/20 Business Meeting 630pm Thursday, Happy Burger
- 6/30 Obstacle Practice & Challenge Race 730am Sunday, Camp Creek Ranch (Carol Suggs)

## July

- 7/13 & 7/14 CSHA SCE Benefit Trail Trials Saturday & Sunday, Goat Meadow
- 7/18 Business Meeting 630pm Thursday, Happy Burger
- 7/20 & 7/21 CSHA Region 4 Obstacle Challenge, Sat & Sun, Bridlewood Equestrian Center, Copperopolis
- 7/28 General Meeting, Lunch & Learn: Livestock Evac Prep & What to Expect, Sunday, 10:30am Kelly Ranch

## August

- 8/10 Mariposa Rodeo Royalty Dinner and Crowning, Mariposa Fairgrounds
- 8/15 Business Meeting 630pm Thursday, Happy Burger
- 8/17 & 8/18 CSHA Region 4 Trail Trials Saturday & Sunday, Eagle Meadows, Pinecrest
- 8/31 Labor Day Parade, Saturday, Mariposa

## September

- 9/19 Business Meeting 630pm Thursday, Happy Burger
- 9/20 Teleki Ranch Ride, Saturday (Sandy & Roy Steele)

## October

- 10/17 Business Meeting 630pm Thursday, Happy Burger

## November

- 11/8- 11/10 CSHA State Convention
- 11/21 Business Meeting 630pm Thursday, Happy Burger
- 11/30 Bass Lake Tree Lighting and Parade, Saturday, Bass Lake

## December

- 12/1 Holiday Party Sunday location TBA
- 12/14 Merry Mountain Christmas Parade, Saturday, Mariposa



# Sponsors/Advertisers

Please support these sponsors/advertisers as they help to support MMR, whether it's in providing sponsorships at our events or perhaps by purchasing space here in our newsletter. We appreciate the support! Electronic newsletter rates: business card ad 13 months \$100. 1/4 page ad 13 months \$150. Any other sized ad, contact newsletter chair for pricing. Must provide photo ready ad in jpeg format. Classified ads: text only. 30 word limit \$5.00 per ad (members get 2 classified ads for free per calendar year). Other horse clubs or organizations may submit items for consideration.. Please note that our club newsletter is intended to provide informational items to our members about our upcoming events, reporting on past events and pertinent club information. Photographs, articles of interest, stories, poems etc may be published, space permitting and must be approved by the President.



**Mariposa Feed & Supply Co.**  
Anthony Leard, Manager  
(209) 966-3326  
P.O. Box 1965  
Mariposa, CA 95338



**YAMSHON  
ALFALFA RANCH**

**Carla Kelly**  
5752 French Camp Rd.  
Mariposa, CA 95338-9596

MOBILE  
209-819-9773  
okellyranch@gmail.com



**Mariposa Equine  
Services**

Jeanette L. Mero, DVM  
3041 Poppy Lake Rd  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
Tel - 209-966-6497  
Fax - 209-966-6538  
Email - drjmero@gmail.com

Full service ambulatory practice  
All large animals seen



**MARIPOSA COUNTY FAIR**

**PREMIUM ALFALFA HAY**  
Since 1976  
Cattle, Horses, Sheep, And Goats

Lic. # 691117 [www.YosemiteWell.com](http://www.YosemiteWell.com)



**Yosemite Falls  
WELL DRILLING**

Mark Harris  
Owner

phone: 209-966-4461  
fax: 209-966-4484  
email: yosemitefalls@sti.net

5040 Fairgrounds Rd.  
PO Box 1808  
Mariposa, CA 95338



**HAPPY TRAILS ENTERTAINMENT  
PRESENTS  
COWBOY POETRY**  
by  
*Wendy Brown-Barry*  
[www.wendybrown-barry.com](http://www.wendybrown-barry.com)  
email: wendybrown@sti.net  
Mariposa, CA (209) 966-3095

## Newsletter Submissions



Got something for the newsletter? Contact Carol at [mariposarodeo@gmail.com](mailto:mariposarodeo@gmail.com) by the 20th of the month to get something in the next months' newsletter. Submissions must be approved by the President.