

Hoofbeats

February 2026

P.O. Box 1326, Twain Harte, CA 95383



The Prez Sez



A big thank you to all who are helping this year get a huge jump start. We have made our donations to both the Back Country Horseman's Rendezvous Event and the Sheriff's Posse Motherlode Rodeo. Banners are being designed and made for both events and a beautiful ad was created to help

people understand who we are and what we do. All of this is only possible with the help from club members. We really have such a great group of people in this club. It shows how much we can do when we bring our diverse talents to the table. Also, we will be adding some wonderful and funny horse stories written by our very own Vicki Vermeer. These fun and memorable stories are based on her lifelong experiences with the horses and friends she has loved over the years.

THH President,
Joy LaMons



Visit our Twain Harte
Horsemen website at:
twainhartehorsemen.org

Or scan QR code

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, March 3 @ 6:00 pm.

Location:

Tuolumne County Sheriff's Posse Grounds,
19130 Rawhide Road, Jamestown

Officers

President:

Joy LaMons
209.222.1424

Vice President:

Lance LaMons
209.770.1407

Secretary:

Nancy Broce
209.533.2807

Treasurer:

Helga Zuber
209.581.1798

Past President:

Linda Post
209.206.8375

Directors

Cyndie Collins (Y3)
805.748.6954

Ron Stearns (Y2)
209.559.1324

Roy Smith (Y1)
209.728.7651

Committee Chairs

Hoofbeats Newsletter:

Colleen Combes
650.387.5423
ccombes@pacbell.net

Membership:

Chris Walpole
209-559-8005

Scholarship:

Janine Smith
209.591.3054

THH FB/Website:

Linda Post
209.533.8511

Upcoming Events

And so the 2026 Event season begins. For details see our event calendar.



First on the calendar is our annual **Top Hand Ride**. Get the word out to friends and family. This is a ride that is open to the public. It is being held **May 26** at Peoria during peak of wildflower season. Enjoy a friendly outing with your horse and human pals. Ride with a guide if you choose. A relaxed lunch and an award will be featured at the end.



Motherlode Parade. Saturday May 10. We hope THH members are ready to ride through the town of Sonora to represent Twain Harte Horsemen.

If you want to ride with THH in the parade – please **RSVP** Linda Post at 209.206.8375.



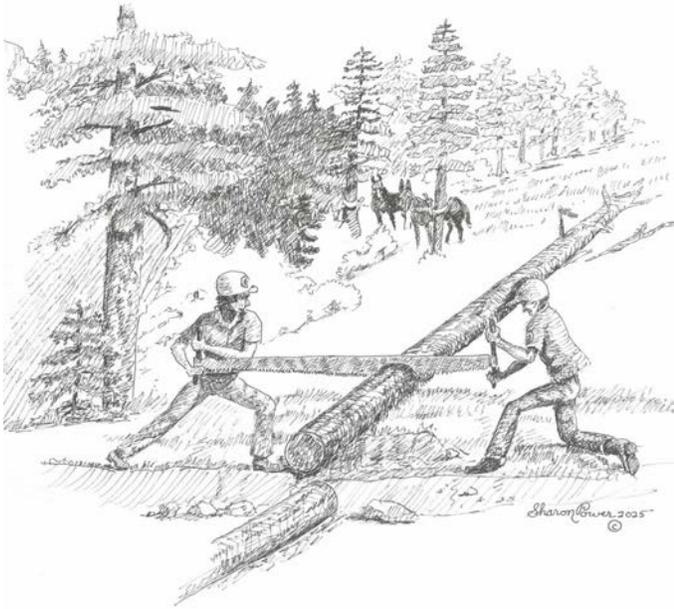
Our **High Ride** is scheduled. It will be held **July 21 through July 26**. Mike Garman will be catering again. Prices and plans will be crystalized this month. Keep an eye on your email inbox for THH **Member** (only) applications in the latter part of February. Applications for Guests will will be released March 1.



Drill Team fun with Nancy Broce is scheduled for September and October at Center Camp.



Our one-day rides start with the **Herring Creek ride** June 28. Open to the public, it is a scenic ride held at a beautiful time of the year. Linda Post is the ride captain.



Non Club events

The **2026 BCHC Annual Rendezvous** will be held March 20-22 at Diamond Bar Arena, 6055 Central Ave., Ceres, California. The theme for the 2026 BCHC Rendezvous will be "Volunteerism" to highlight the work that we all do in Backcountry Horsemen. All information and forms are now posted on the BCHC website's Rendezvous Page as well as the Home Page and under Documents & Forms. Go to <https://www.bchcalifornia.org/rendezvous.html>

Save The Date
Sponsored by California Equestrian Association

Stanislaus County
Junior Horse Show
May 16-17th, 2026

Diamond Bar Arena
Ceres, CA
www.diamondbararena.com
Open to all California Youth ages 9-19
Details to follow in February, 2026

CSHA REGION 4
TRAIL TRIALS CLINIC

SATURDAY, MARCH 14, 2026 8:00AM - 2:00PM
DOUBLE BAR G RANCH 21068 Hwy 140, Stevinson, CA **← DRY CAMPING AVAILABLE!**

WHY ATTEND?

- New challenge for you and your horse
- Expose your horse to stimuli
- Establish a trusting relationship
- Meet liked minded trail riders
- Learn tips from State Champions
- Leave ready to compete!

THIS CLINIC IS DESIGNED FOR THOSE NEW TO THE SPORT

\$60 *Horse & Rider
Instruction/practice



Registration forms

\$30 Observe and Learn
No Horse

CLINIC TO COVER:

- How obstacles are judged
- How rules apply to obstacles
- How you can improve your obstacle scores
- Improving your performance with your horse as a team
- Scoring you as your horse negotiates the course
- Ask all your questions!

CLINIC SCHEDULE:

8:00AM Registration Opens
9:00AM Orientation Meeting (*Bring a chair, no horses*)
9:30AM Group Obstacle Instruction Begins
12:30PM Lunch Break (*bring your own lunch*)
1:00PM Q & A Session
1:30PM Mock Judging of Obstacles
2:00PM Free Practice on Obstacles

A CSHA Trail Trial is approximately a 3-5 hour trail ride with 8-10 judged obstacles along the way. Obstacles can be natural landscape like creek crossings, uphill, downhill, gates, stepovers, bridges, etc. This is not an arena event!



FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Victor (209) 605-3905 or Jennifer (209)743-4890
If weather or ground conditions are questionable, call the day before!



Cow Shit Shampoo

By Vicki Vermeer

Melvin was a big, good-natured horse with a bit of a checkered past. After his short and not-so-glorious career as a pack horse, he was living at my place, looking for something useful to do.

So when my neighbor, Bill called and asked for help vaccinating his cows, I thought, Perfect! Melvin could use a job, and I could use a little excitement.

I saddled up and rode the mile or so to their ranch, imagining Melvin and me cutting cattle like pros.

But when I got there, Bill took one look and said, “You better tie him up.” Then he grinned. “Let me show you the world’s easiest way to gather cows.”

His ranch wasn’t big—just a few hundred acres. The cows were grazing on one side of the driveway and needed to be moved to the corral on the other.

Bill spread a trail of alfalfa across the drive, opened the gate, and stepped back. Sure enough, those cows followed that green buffet line straight into the corral like kids chasing an ice cream truck.

Once inside, it was time for vaccinations. To do that safely, the cows had to go through something called a squeeze chute—though most ranchers just call it the squeeze.

Now, if you’ve never seen one, picture a narrow steel alley that leads into a heavy metal contraption about the size of a phone booth. The cow walks in headfirst, and when it’s in position, the sides swing in and hold the animal snugly—tight enough that it can’t move or kick, but loose enough that it can still breathe. At the front is a head gate, a sort of collar that catches the cow’s neck just behind the jaw, holding it still so the rancher can give shots or treat an injury safely.

It’s a marvel of ranching engineering—but only if you’re standing beside it.

Bill and his buddy Hank worked the squeeze, timing the catch just right. Too early, and the cow bangs around inside without getting caught. Too late, and the cow barrels right through like a runaway bowling ball.

I had the “easy” job—keeping the cattle coming down the alley toward the squeeze. Bill handed me an electric prod, but there was no way I was zapping a cow with that thing. Instead, I found my own method.

I waved my arms, clapped, and let out my famous “Vicki yell!”—somewhere between a holler and a bugle. It worked like a charm!

One by one, the cows moved into the squeeze, got their shots, and went out the other side. Everything was going perfectly...

Until one stubborn steer decided he wasn’t going anywhere.

I climbed right in behind him, waving my arms and giving my best Vicki yell. Just then, the squeeze slammed shut.

And I learned something important about momentum and digestive systems.

When a thousand-pound steer stops dead, all that pressure behind him has to go somewhere.

What came out of that cow made a fire hose look polite. I stood there blinking, dripping, and smelling like the wrong end of a feedlot.

Everyone else was doubled over laughing. Bill finally caught his breath long enough to hand me a towel and a beer. “Guess you found yourself a new beauty product,” he wheezed. “Cow shit shampoo!”

I rode Melvin home, showered off, and came back to the barbecue smelling a whole lot better.

Over burgers, Bill admitted it had happened to him once too—though he claimed his steer didn’t have quite the same aim.

So that day I learned the golden rule of ranch life: Never stand behind anything with a tail and an opinion.

I decided cow shit shampoo probably wasn’t going to catch on. But I’ll tell you what—my hair had never had so much body.



Twain Harte Horsemen 2026 Events*

Date	Event	Event	Participation
April 24	Peoria Flat – Pre-Ride	John Watts	Members Only
April 25	Peoria Flat – Top Hand Ride	John Watts	Public
May 3	Peoria Wild Flower Ride	Cyndi Collins	Members Only
May 9	Mother Lode Parade	Linda Post	Public
May 16	Open Center Camp	Lance LaMons	Members Only
June 6	Drill Team @ Center Camp	Nancy Broce	Members Only
June 13	Herring Creek Ride	Linda Post	Public
June 26-28	Eagle Meadow Pre-Ride/Campout	John Watts	Members Only
July 21-26	High Ride	Club	Public
Sept 12	Drill Team @ Center Camp	Nancy Broce	Members Only
October 10	Kerrick Corral Day Ride	Colleen Combes	Members Only
October 17	Drill Team @ Center Camp	Nancy Broce	Members Only
October 24	Center Camp Closing	Lance LaMons	Members Only
November 7	Fahey Cabin Ride	Colleen Combes	Members Only
December 13	BCHC Columbia Parade	Linda Post	Public
December 18	Christmas Installation and Dinner		Members Only

*Subject to change