

Hoofbeats

March 2026

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



The Prez Sez



I hope all of you are well and didn't have too much damage in the recent snow storms. The road down to Center Camp is still a little rough and we did have some trees come down. Thankfully there are no trees on any major structures. We did have one tree come down on the arena fence which will take a few boards and some paint to repair. I am hopeful that we are past

the major snow storms for the year. March sure has come with a beautiful start. More rain would be nice so that we can enjoy the beautiful flowers and green grass longer. Some of the lower trails such as Peoria Flat and Red Hills have started to dry out. The poppies are starting to bloom and the grass out there is about two feet tall. Hopefully we can get out and enjoy it before it gets too hot. This month we are having our first High Ride meeting and will be going over details of our High Ride Event. We also have planning underway for our Top Hand Ride, scholarships, and a wildflower ride.

THH President,
Joy LaMons



Visit our Twain Harte
Horsemen website at:
twainhartehorsemen.org

Or scan QR code

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, April 7 @ 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



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 **April 25** 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 set. It will be held **July 21 through July 26**. Mike Garman will be catering again. Pricing has been set and our first planning meeting will be held this week. The **THH member application** to the ride is included in this newsletter. Sign up soon to ensure your place on our most popular event.



Drill Team fun with Nancy Broce is scheduled in June, September and October at Center Camp. Check our events calendar for the exact dates.



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.

Lost in the Woods

By Vicki Vermeer

I love finding new trails. I'm also obsessed with finding loops—and that can lead to problems.

Trails are starting to disappear. You can still find the old ones on vintage maps, but they're being left off the new ones. I guess the Forest Service doesn't want to rescue people who can't find their way.

One of our favorite places to ride is the Wheats Meadow Trail near Clarks Fork.

I'd discovered a trail on an old map that supposedly connected the Wheats Meadow Trail to the lower Sword Lake Trail. It was only about a mile long and looked promising.

So, I recruited Gary to help me find it, and he brought along his neighbor David—who was learning about horses and had never ridden with me before. He was up for an education.

We trailered the horses six miles up the bumpy, washboarded Fence Creek Road to Rex's Cow Camp, then took off on the Wheats Meadow Trail. It's a lovely but challenging route into the Emigrant Wilderness.

You start out crossing little creeks, climbing a forested hillside, crossing more creeks, and picking your way over rocks. It's not a trail for the faint of heart—and probably not for a beginner either. Luckily, David was mounted on a wonderful, experienced trail horse named Hunter, who took every obstacle in stride. Gary and I have been on plenty of "exploring" rides, and our horses were used to the challenges.

We reached the bifurcation where the Sword Lake Trail went right and the Wheats Meadow Trail went left. We went left toward Wheats Meadow. An hour or so later, we rode out of the rocks and timber into Wheats Meadow and the old cow camp. There was a rustic (think falling down) old log barn and the most beautiful outhouse in the mountains—made of tongue-and-groove boards someone had hauled in on a pack animal.

The air smelled of sun-warmed grass and pine needles. A light breeze rippled through the tall grass, and the horses sighed, happy to relax and graze after the tough climb. We had a wonderful lunch and then started looking for the connecting trail.

That's when the trouble started.

When you're hunting for old trails, you start by thinking about the easiest possible route. Then you look for signs that someone's been there before—"ducks" (little stacks of rocks) or tree blazes cut with an axe. Ideally, you can see the next marker from the one you're at.

Of course, that seldom happens.

This was a very old trail. Trees had fallen, rocks had been scattered by cows, and willows had grown thick as gossip. It was more of a wish than a trail.

Still, we plunged in—hopefully in the right direction. Maybe we should've brought a compass. The old map might've been helpful too.

We pushed through brush, took wrong turns, and slogged through muddy patches. Then, just when we thought things couldn't get more exciting, David's horse Hunter stepped into a hollow log buzzing with ground bees.

Hunter shot forward like he'd been turbocharged, and poor David went from casual hiker to rodeo cowboy in two seconds flat. To his credit, he hung on like a pro—though the look on his face said he might never trust me again.

After that, we all gave the "trail" a little more respect.

By late afternoon, after hours of circling and second-guessing, we realized we might have to spend the night. We'd eaten all our food, drunk all our beer, and not one of us had a coat.

I was riding my Arabian gelding, Tommy, who'd been on the Sword Lake Trail before. Finally, just as dusk settled and things were looking grim, Tommy took charge. Nose down, ears forward—he knew where home was.

Yippee! He found the trail and headed for home at a long trot.

We made much better time on the way back, even though it was almost dark and none of the trail was level—up over boulders, down steep grades—but Tommy was on a mission.

By the time we reached Gary's truck and trailer, it was full dark except for a bright, friendly full moon overhead.

We popped a beer, toasted each other, and said, "Never again."

(At least until next time.)

Author's Note:

I guess I never learn. There's something about the promise of a new trail that just pulls me in. I always think, maybe this time it'll connect... and sometimes it even does! Luckily, I have good friends who are willing to come along, and horses smart enough to find their way home when I can't. Next time, I might even bring a compass and a map.



TWAIN HARTE HORSEMEN PRESENTS

The Top Hand Spring Ride

SATURDAY, APRIL 25, 2026

at Peoria Flat



REGISTRATION 8 a.m.

FIRST RIDER OUT 9 a.m.

**RSVP to John Watts at:
209.768-2905 or
johntw1@sbcglobal.net**



The Top Hand will be awarded
this beautiful belt buckle

DIRECTIONS: From Oakdale or Jamestown:
Take Hwy. 108/120 to O'Byrnes Ferry Rd.
From O'Byrnes take first right onto Peoria Flat
Road. After 2 miles, Peoria Flat Road will end at
the Baseline Fire Center. Turn right onto Old
Melones Road. In 500 ft. turn left into parking lot.

Cost: \$20
**Lunch will be
served after the ride**

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

Twain Harte Horsemen
MEMBER HIGH RIDE APPLICATION

July 21 – July 27, 2025
Payment in full by July 1, 2024

Members are required to help set up and clean up camp as well as other assigned duties to receive a discount at the ride. Please refer to the table below to sign up for the help list.

Members who would not like to work at camp or as trail ride guides (Trail Bosses) will be asked to pay the full non-member price for the event.

Meals are provided starting with dinner on Tuesday (7/21) and ending with Breakfast on Monday (7/27).

Please respond promptly so attendance numbers can be determined. Members must have paid in full for the event by July 1st.

#__ Members paying full price of \$600 (Not working) Name _____ \$ _____
Name _____ \$ _____

__ Members @ \$400.00 Name _____ \$ _____
Name _____ \$ _____

____ JR's @ \$400.00 Name _____ \$ _____
(12 & under)

Hay is **NOT** included in the member reservation price.

Hay @ \$30/bale (choose type below, pay at Check-In)

____ Alfalfa # ____ Grass \$ _____

TOTAL ENCLOSED \$ _____

Mail to: T.H.H. - HIGH RIDE
P.O. Box 1326
Twain Harte, CA 95383
Contact: Joy LaMons – 209.222.1424

Member application continued

Please mark your preferred camp duties with numbers 1, 2, 3, or 4.

1= Most favored camp duty

2= second most favored camp duty

3= third favored camp duty

4= fourth favorite (I think you get it by now 😊)

Please keep in mind that all camp duties will be assigned to you for the entire event. All camp duties need to be completed by someone and you may not get your most preferred duty. You will be asked to do more than one camp duty for the week.

If you need to leave early please tell Joy or Lance and help find someone who can take your place with you camp duty.

Load Up (7/17)	
Haul In (7/18)	
Auction Item Collection	
Set Up Work Crew (troughs, hoses, t-posts, rope, pumps etc.)	
Parking	
Sign In Table	
Hay Delivery to campsites	
Drinking Water Stand (Refill and Clean) Hand Wash Station	
Refill TP and Clean Port-A-Poties	
Clean Shower Trailer	
Horse Water Daily Refill	
Campfire	
Trail Boss	
Art Class	
Tack Sale	
Live Auction	
Horseshoes	
Garbage Haul Out (7/28)	
Pack Up/ Tear Down (7/28)	
Haul Down (7/28)	
Unload	