

Hoofbeats

April 2026

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



The Prez Sez



I hope you all were able to enjoy a bit of the beautiful lighting storms we had this last week.

We have so much happening within the next few weeks. April is well underway and we are now sneaking up on our Top Hand Ride happening April 25th.

Hopefully the intense April showers will bring us some gorgeous Peoria flowers to enjoy on our ride. Preparations are well underway and we would love to have you all come

and join us to take part in the fun, the ride and the great company.

Also right around the corner is the Motherlode Parade. It is always so nice to see all of our horses washed, beautiful and walking down Washington Street representing our great club in our local parade. If you are interested in riding in the parade please contact Linda Post by April 18th.

Cyndie Collins will also be hosting a wildflower ride at Peoria on May 3rd that should be plenty of fun as well.

Last but not least will be the opening of Center Camp on May 16th. This is definitely a fun filled month.

THH President,
Joy LaMon



Visit our Twain Harte
Horsemen website at:
twainhartehorsemen.org

Or scan QR code

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, May 5 @ 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



The annual **Top Hand Ride** is around the corner. It is being held **Saturday, 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. Get the word out to friends and family. This is a ride that is open to the public.



THH will hold a wildflower ride **Sunday, May 3** at Peoria. This ride is open to the public and is free. Spread the word, bring your friends. It will be a relaxing 2-3 hour ride. Start time is 10 am. To RSVP, contact Cyndie Collins by email: cyndie.morrobbay@yahoo.com or phone: 805.748.6954



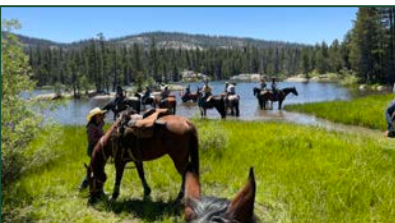
Motherlode Parade. Saturday May 9. We hope THH members are ready to ride through the town of Sonora to represent Twain Harte Horsemen. If you want to ride with THH in the parade – please **RSVP** to Linda Post by April 18, at 209.206.8375. So far, Judy, Carson, Vicki and Janine are stepping up.



Our **High Ride** from **Tuesday, July 21 to Monday, July 27** is set and applications have been pouring in. We are almost full. THH members, except for affiliate members, pay the base price, enough to cover cost. The **THH member application** to the ride is included in this newsletter. Sign up now to make sure we get you in. Member application is attached to this newsletter.



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 popular **Herring Creek ride** happens on **Saturday, June 28**. It is open to the public. The scenic ride is held at a beautiful time of the year. High country wild flowers will be blooming. The 3.5 hour ride passes the impressive gargyle rock formations with lunch at Herring Creek reservoir. Linda Post is the ride captain. Contact her to RSVP by phone or at twainhartehorsemen.org.



The Motherlode Parade Saturday, May 9

It's that time of year again! The parade is Saturday, May 9th at 10:00 am. We meet at 7:30 am at the Cal-fire parking area, ride to the judging area for 8:30 judging, then wait for the parade to start at 10:00. We are usually back to the trailers by 11:00.

Who is riding? Please respond to this email by April 15 so we can get you entered... I know of Helga, Cyndie and Linda. Maybe more from the meeting but I can't remember!

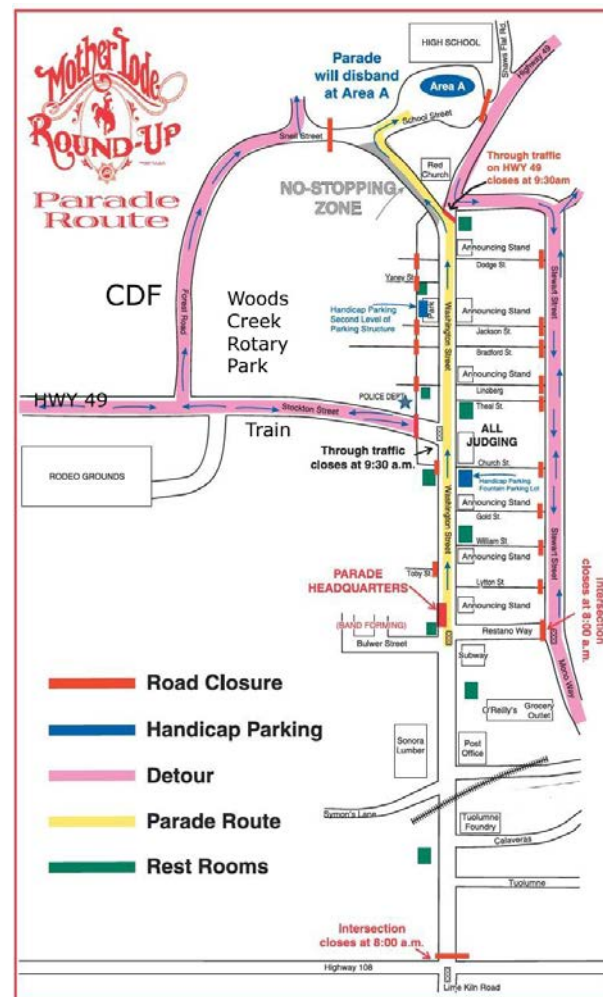
We have a saddle pad cover and neck scarf for you. You will need a white long sleeve shirt, darker jeans, boots, straw hat, leather cattlemen style gloves and a clean horse.

Any questions, text or call Linda 209-206-8375.

Again, please reply if you are riding by April 15! Also, please let me know if you want to carry a flag.

THH Parade Parking:

Turn on the south side of the bridge off Hwy. 49, across from the Steam Engine at Fairground, onto S. Forest Road. It is the second driveway on the left.



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**



Wildflower Ride at Peoria

Sunday, May 3, 2026

**Join us for a relaxing 2-3 hour equestrian ride
through the grassy hills of Peoria just below
Jamestown, CA.**

The ride is sponsored by the Twain Harte Horsemen and is free and open to the public. Ride Captain Cyndie Collins will guide riders along scenic trails that wind through meadows, over streams, and along ridges with great views.

Easy parking, picnic tables, hoses for water and pit toilets are available at the staging area. Bring your lunch to either enjoy on the trail or back at the staging area.

DIRECTIONS: From Oakdale or Jamestown:
Take Hwy. 108/120 to O'Byrnes Ferry Rd.
After turning onto O'Byrnes from 108 take
the first right onto Peoria Flat Road. After two
miles, Peoria Flat Road will end at the gates
of the Baseline Fire Center. At that point, turn
right onto Old Melones Road, then in only
500 feet turn left into the parking lot.

Ride out is at 10 a.m.

Contact Ride Chair Cyndie Collins to RSVP.

Text or call: 805.748.6954

Email: cyndie.morrobay@yahoo.com

Here Comes Trouble

By Vicki Vermeer

Every family has one summer that becomes legend—the one filled with laughter, mischief, and just enough chaos to make it unforgettable.

When our niece Johanna—better known as Joey—was fifteen, her exasperated mother sent her to spend the summer with us. We were happy to have her. Her hair had finally grown back to its natural beautiful blonde after that little “statement phase” when one side was shaved with a peace sign hiding under a flap in the back. Our daughter Kelly—crazy busy as always (I still wonder where she gets that)—snatched Joey up right away and took her to work.

At the time, Kelly worked for Davie and Gary, who ran the stagecoach concession in Columbia State Park. Every morning before dawn, the girls would clatter off in Kelly’s old truck, bound for the corrals. Nothing wakes you up like shoveling manure at sunrise.

After the corrals were clean, they’d help hitch up the coach horses and drive them into town to haul tourists around old Columbia. Kelly’s job was to be the bandit—black hat, toy gun, and her little mare Munchkin. Munchkin took her role very seriously: she robbed the passengers of every peppermint and caramel they had.

Joey’s job was hauling buckets of water for the thirsty coach horses. It was hot, dusty work, and she rested whenever she could. After a long day, the girls would drag themselves home, eat whatever I managed to cook, and Joey would collapse face-first onto the bed. Kelly, however, had other plans. She’d let Joey sleep a few hours, then shake her awake. “Come on,” she’d whisper. “We’re going out.”

And off they’d go, returning bleary-eyed and giggling long after midnight. Then up again at dawn, to do it all over.

One night, Kelly decided Joey needed to learn how to drive. “It’s only fair,” she said. “Aunt Pat taught me when I was fourteen.” Joey did great—right up until she didn’t. She missed a turn and drove straight through a fence. The truck was fine (it was practically indestructible), no one was hurt, and the girls patched the fence like nothing had happened.

Later that summer, I decided to take Kelly, Joey, and my young friend Denise on a horse camping trip in the mountains. Kelly and I had just replaced the floor in our old stock trailer, and we loaded it to the roof—four horses, and enough clothes and gear for a small cavalry.

We were headed to the Twain Harte Horsemen’s High Ride. The best part? They fed us. Cooking has never been my high point. My kids once gave me a little horse figurine that says: Born to ride, forced to cook. It still lives on my refrigerator, and it’s still true.

We had a grand time—beautiful mountains, good horses, and the kind of laughter that echoes through the trees. But one evening, the girls got bored. And when teenage girls get bored, you can count on mischief.



Their brilliant idea? To swap Paul and Lucinda’s two bay horses for John and Sandee’s two bay horses. It might’ve worked—except young John Henry was still awake and watching from the back of his parents’ camper. Change of plans. The girls decided to trade Paul and Lucinda’s bays for Bob and Judy’s paint horse and palomino instead. Surely no one would notice that. They noticed.

At dinner, Paul wrapped an arm around Kelly’s neck and announced, “Gotcha, horse thief!”

Everyone roared with laughter, and Kelly, still grinning, unhitched our truck and took Joey off to nearby Kennedy Meadows for a little “vacation.” Denise and I stayed behind to run the talent show, but later that night we followed them up the mountain.

When we got back to Eagle Meadow camp, the place looked like a rummage sale after a tornado. A gaping hole yawned where our gear had been, and our trailer—backed up to a tree—had several “bodies” hanging from the branches in effigy. We grabbed our sleeping bags and spent a not-so-restful night on a friend’s deck, listening to a bear sniffing around below.

When Joey finally got home, her mother took one look at her and said, “Joey’s a lot better... but did you do that?”

Author’s Note

Every family has a “Joey summer”—that wild, wonderful stretch of time when a kid shows up needing a little direction and ends up finding a whole lot more. Ours came with dust, horsehair, laughter, and the occasional fence repair. Kelly was always the ringleader, and Joey learned quickly that life in our world came with early mornings, long rides, and a good dose of mischief. By the end of the summer, she was sunburned, strong, and smiling—and her mother was right: Joey was a lot better. Maybe it was the mountains, maybe it was the horses... or maybe it was just the magic that happens when you throw a teenage girl into a summer full of adventure and love.

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	Cyndie 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 and guests

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	