

Hoofbeats

May 2026

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



The Prez Sez



Boy time sure is flying and the weather has finally gotten warm. We had a great day putting on the Top Hand Ride and one lucky rider from Modesto won the Top Hand buckle. There was a good turnout and all of the riders and horses came back for a tasty lunch with chili, side dishes and desserts. It was a great event.

The wildflower ride went well and the riders had lots of fun playing on some of the obstacles from the previous weeks trail trial event.

We also had seven horses and riders in the Motherlode parade. The horses and riders showed up early, put

on their matching tack and accessories, painted the horses hooves, hoisted their flags and rode off for early judging. They all looked great and and rode so well that they won the Sweepstakes award that came with a huge trophy.

Our year has been so much fun so far and there is so much more to come. We will be opening Center Camp this Saturday and having a BBQ to follow. The Herring Creek Ride will be on June 13th. Herring Creek is a very beautiful ride that you don't want to miss. Following that, Nancy will be having her drill team play day on June 20th at Center Camp. Please take note that the date for the Drill Team play day has been changed to June 20th. The Drill Team Play days are so good for the horses learning to maneuver together and work more closely with their riders.

We have had such a wonderful time this last month, and I hope you will join us for more fun in the following months. :)

THH President,
Joy LaMon



Visit our Twain Harte
Horsemen website at:
twainhartehorsemen.org

Or scan QR code

Next Monthly Meeting

Tuesday, June 2 @ 6:00 pm.

Location Change: Center Camp

Officers

President:

Joy LaMons
209.222.1424

Vice President:

Lance LaMons
209.770.1407

Secretary:

Nancy Broce
209.533.2807

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Past President:

Linda Post
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Directors

Cyndie Collins (Y3)
805.748.6954

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Roy Smith (Y1)
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Committee Chairs

Hoofbeats Newsletter:

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650.387.5423
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Membership:

Chris Walpole
209-559-8005

Scholarship:

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Linda Post
209.533.8511

Upcoming Events



Herring Creek Ride

Join us on **June 13** for a Twain Harte Horsemen's ride that is open to the public. The ride follows a mix of forest roads and trails to Herring Creek and reservoir. It is a moderately easy 3.5 hour ride past the scenic Gargoyles rock formations to a little reservoir that feeds Herring Creek. Lots of wild flowers blooming along the way. Meet at Leland Meadows resort for the ride start at 10:30 am. Leland Meadows turnoff is off 108 just past Strawberry. Cost for parking is \$10.

Eagle Meadows Pre-ride and Cleanup

June 26-28

It is time to scout trails and clean up Eagle Meadows camp in preparation for our annual High Ride. Join us at Eagle Meadows campground for this important outing. You can come up for one day or camp both nights. Bring your horse if you plan to scout trails. Bring work gear, gloves, clippers, rakes, etc. Pit toilets will need to be cleaned and campsites tidied up. And we have some fun too! Call John Watts with questions or to let us know you are coming: 209.768.2905.

If the gates are open and you want to ride and/or scout Eagle Meadow trails earlier in June please help out by letting us know what trails need work and where the blockages are.



Drill Team Play Day

The first day of **Drill Team fun** with Nancy Broce is scheduled for June 20 at Center Camp. Join us for a day of relaxing and laughing. Nancy will teach us new drill team maneuvers and our horses will be scratching their heads wondering why we are wandering around the arena in all these crazy loops and and circles.



Center Camp is Opening

We will be raking pine needles Saturday, May 16. Clearing out the remains of a large tree that fell onto the arena. Clearing brush, weed whacking, unwrapping the bath and shower trailer, and likely more than I know about. It will be followed up by a BBQ hosted by Jan Z. We have a fair number of people who said they are coming and we look forward to seeing you... many hands make light work.



Twain Harte Horsemen awarded three scholarships to deserving recipients from Sonora High School:

Lainey Arellano

Lainey has been involved in High School Rodeo and wants to continue with College Rodeo. She plans on becoming a physical therapist for rodeo athletes.

Winnie Fraser

Winnie has been active in 4-H and worked summers at Pine Mountain Lake Equestrian Center. She hopes to get a degree as an ultrasound technician working with animals.

Kairan Ponce

Kairan loves working with his hands as a mechanic and welding. He enjoys making things with his hands. He learned some welding in High School and he hopes to attend a trade school in Montana to further his skills.

Motherlode Rodeo

May 9 and 10

The Rodeo Queen Contestants' horsemanship event was held at the Sheriff's Posse Grounds May 2. Twain Harte Horsemen Janine S., Kris J. and Cindie C., presented breast collars to 2026 Rodeo Queen Kaelee Gates of Copperopolis, and runner-ups: Taryl Townsend of Sonora and Hannah Fletcher of Oakdale. The 2025 Rodeo Queen Bailey Stepp, is at right.

And our Twain Harte Horsemen banner, complete with a QR code was hung in the arena at the rodeo this year. It was situated on the fence by the bucking chutes where those at the rodeo had a chance to take a good look at it.



Motherlode Parade

Thanks, everyone! You and the horses looked great, and everyone did well.

In case you didn't know, **we won the Sweepstakes for horse entries!** Kris J. accepted our award at the rodeo on Sunday. Congratulations and thank you to all who rode. It's not always fun getting up at the crack of dawn and then hurrying up just to wait. It was worth it! Thanks again, *Linda*.



Top photos, Linda P., Helga Z., and Janine S. carry the flags for Twain Harte Horsemen in the 2026 Motherlode parade. Photo at left, THH members riding behind the flags are Terry L. and Cindie C. At rear are Carson C. and his grandmother, Judie K.

Below: Kris accepts the Sweepstakes award from the Tuolumne County Sheriff's Posse on behalf of the Twain Harte Horsemen.



Photos courtesy of Joy LaMons, Kris Jordan and Colleen Combes

Wildflower Ride

Cyndie Collins lead a wildflower ride at Peoria Flat on May 3rd. Three people showed up to ride, the weather was cool and pleasant with plenty of wildflowers still blooming. The riders enjoyed an easy ride that included practicing some trail trial obstacles along the way. The ride was followed by a relaxed lunch back at the parking and picnic area.



Clockwise from left:
Colleen C. And Cindie
C. on the trail. Flowers
were still blooming.
Right is Judie K. and
Colleen C. Below left,
Judie practices a trail
trials obstacle.



Top Hand Ride

By Joy Lamons

The weather cooperated with us and we had four groups of riders go out and come back. A nice woman Nancy Lowry from Modesto won the beautiful buckle and the food was wonderful. We had a nice turnout with 26 guests, and nineteen riders on the trails.

A special thanks to Roy and Janine who brought everything needed to cook a large pot of savory beans and garlic bread. Other club members brought tasty side dishes of corn bread, home grown salads, sweet breads and desserts.

Thanks to Kris J. who ran the sign-in table. She and Janine tallied up all of the hands. Thank you to all of the trail bosses who lead the trails so well and all of the other ground help. We got to meet some new horse friends and have a good meal together. It was a really fun day :)



Top left photo: Kris J. Presents xx with the Top Hand buckle.
Left: Terry L., John W. and Jackie enjoy yummy food served up by Roy S. and other members.

Top photo: Linda P. Leads a group of riders around Peoria. L-R: Steve T. Guests Lynn, xx, and Cindie C. Enjoy a post ride chat. Above, Kris J. Shows off her adorable nutter butter horse head cupcakes.

Twain Harte Horsemen 2026 Events*

Date	Event	Event	Participation
May 16	Open Center Camp	Lance LaMons	Members Only
June 13	Herring Creek Ride	Linda Post	Public
June 20	Drill Team @ Center Camp	Nancy Broce	Members Only
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



BEEF for SALE

1 lb. package of Hamburger is \$8. Call or text for pricing on other cuts. Helga: 209.581.1798. Email: helga.2853@gmail.com

Lola

Beautiful, Opinionated, and Slightly Dangerous

By Vicki Vermeer

She looked like a show horse, but didn't act like one.

Lola is a big buckskin Quarter Horse mare who started life soft, with blankets, clean stalls, and regular pampering.

Our neighbor bought her and moved her into a sheep barn in the foothills.

Not a happy change.

When it started to snow, Lola needed shelter, so she came to my barn for the winter.

A young girl loved her, but life has a way of shifting plans. When Lola's feet went bad and the girl had to sell her, Lola came back to me.

By then, she had opinions.

I tried to sell her. Her looks attracted buyers, but her behavior quickly drove them away.

Lola was one pissed-off pony.

My daughter Kelly, a farrier and former trainer, fixed her feet and climbed on.

Lola went up, backward, sideways, and everywhere but forward. She bucked hard enough to make a point.

Kelly rode it out, stepped off, and said, "I'll take her."

I said, "You're kidding," already picturing my daughter's obituary.

However, Kelly was right. With consistent, firm, fair treatment, Lola started coming around.

She hasn't lost her sass. She still squeals, strikes, and prefers not to share personal space.

Tied next to another horse one day, she reached over and kicked him.

We moved him.

That's the sort of horse she is.

And yet, she stayed.

Partly because she's beautiful.

Partly because she loves people and is always the first one at the gate.

And partly because difficult horses have a way of teaching you something, whether you asked for the lesson or not.



We learned early not to pony another horse off Lola. She grabs the rope with her big, long tail, lunges forward, and sometimes adds a little extra commentary that earned her the nickname Stinky.

We should have known better, but we decided to use Lola to ferry Kelly's dog, Rip, through a creek crossing. Halfway across, she discovered a wet dog wrapped around Kelly's head.

That did not meet with her approval.

Lola threw a full-blown fit.

Rip went in the water.

And then there was the bee incident.

Our group was riding along happily when someone yelled, "BEEES!" and every sensible horse chose to leave.

Lola chose to buck.

Kelly lost her hat but stayed on.

We never did find the hat.

Over time, consistent, kind handling has turned her into a happier horse. Recently, we stumbled onto something surprising.

A job Lola actually likes.

We needed another horse to help gather cattle, so Kelly put her to work.

To everyone's surprise, Lola took to it like she'd been waiting her whole life.

She sorted cattle, held her ground, and helped cut out steers.

Turns out, Lola isn't difficult.

She just needed the right job.