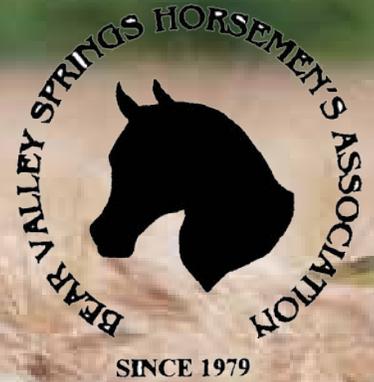


Bear Valley Springs
Horsemen's Association
Newsletter



JUNE 2017

President:

Joan Howard 661-821-1577

1st Vice President:

Debbie Humphreys 909-908-9454

Judy Walsh 661-821-1615

2nd Vice President:

Vacant

Secretary:

Peggy Smith 661-331-4995

Treasurer:

Kim Cohagan 951-398-8653

Editor: Pam Miller 661-203-5725

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Next Meeting

Tuesday, June 20th
Speaker: "The Snake Guys."
6:30 Mexican Potluck.
The club will provide Margaritas.

News & Articles Deadline, June 23rd.

Send news &
articles to Pam Miller at
pambvsprings@gmail.com
or call at 203-5725.

Joan Howard, President

President's Message

Occasionally we invite someone to speak at the monthly meeting on a topic outside our specific equestrian interests. We had such a speaker at the May Horsemen meeting, photographer Toshimi Kristof, who is a Bear Valley resident and whose photographs have been in the Bear Tracks, and several other local publications. The cover of the current Bear Tracks is one of her photographs, she has also been recognized and awarded prizes in national competitions. Toshimi is a delightful and engaging speaker, she was eager to share her knowledge and demonstrated the elements of a good or better photograph. Thank you Toshimi.

TRAILS, have you noticed the cloud of dust in the air above the riding trails? That would be the fearless Trail Crew Volunteers working hard to get our trails back into user friendly condition. Groups of volunteers numbering two to six have been going out several days a week for the past three weeks cutting back brush, clearing water bars, filling holes and weed whacking. They have completed work on many of the trails and will continue until all have been done.

A huge THANKS to the intrepid volunteers who answered the call:

Kathy Underwood	Gabby Roth
Kim Cohagan	Joan Howard
Kathy Carey	John Casdorf
Sherri Grace	Stan Teliczan

The Trail Crew organizer is Bob Howard.

Additional volunteers are still needed to finish the riding trails and the work in Oak Canyon. Equestrian center employees, Luis, Austin and Butch are weed whacking and mowing the valley floor.

To volunteer call Joan Howard: 821-1577 or 301-2754

Monthly Trail Ride

June Ride – Judy Walsh will lead the June ride down the newly opened Oak Canyon. Date to be announced. Also, the Pancake Breakfast ride is postponed until July. Watch email for details.

July Ride – Will be a pancake breakfast ride to Water Canyon. Volunteers are needed to assist with breakfast.

Ride Leaders Wanted –

We need ride leaders for the remaining months of 2017. Call Joan Howard, 661-821-1577, to let her know you would like to lead a ride.



Spotlight on Additions to Your Directory

Membership Renewals not included in the directory:

Kate Talamantez
29641 Butterfield
Home 661-821-0504 - Cell 310-663-2559
Email quetal1@att.ent

Sharon Owen
26350 Bear Valley Raod
Home 661-821-1342 - Cell 661-972-2743

Change of Address:

Pam Miller
28741 Ridgeview Ct

Peggy Bergman-Smith, Secretary

General Meeting Minutes of May 16

Meeting called to order at 7:00 followed by flag salute.

Toshimi Kristof gave a very informative and interesting presentation on wildlife photography. She brought many of her prize-winning photos of wildlife and also had many in her presentation as well as a lot of useful information for everyone interested in photography. Thank you, Toshimi. If you didn't attend, you missed a very worthwhile talk.

Meeting resumed after our speaker, Toshimi was through.

Approvals:

Agenda: Motion to approve: Kim Cohagan; second, Bob Howard – all approved.

Minutes from April Meeting: Motion to approve: Bob Howard; second Sue Wonnacot - all approved.

Financial Report: Published in newsletter; no financial statement presented.

Reports:

EAC: No BVSHA members were present at the last EAC meeting.

Secretary: Peggy Bergman-Smith - Nothing to report.

Treasurer: Kim Cohagan – Nothing to report.

1st VP: Judy Walsh/Debbie Humphreys (absent). Judy reported that almost everything has been completed for the August Mule Show. Awards are ordered and ribbons are here. Handmade quilts will be awarded as top prizes. Sponsorships are available for \$30 for individual sponsors.

2nd VP: Vacant – Joan reported that we will have a

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Minutes continued...

ride June 24th from the Equestrian Center to Water Canyon Campground for a pancake breakfast. All riders and non-riders please RSVP at least 2 days prior to the ride! When folks don't RSVP, we may not have enough breakfast for everyone. [This ride has since been postponed to July.]

Trail Crew: Reported by Bob Howard: Work has started on trails and volunteers have been working with Bob Howard. Work has started on Oak Canyon.

Old Business:

Projected plans for trail repair. Trail repair priorities are: Oak Canyon, Church Trail and Sycamore.

Volunteer involvement in trail repair and sign-up. Bob Howard is the contact to volunteer for trail work.

New Business: None

Meeting adjourned at 8:40
Next meeting is Tuesday, June 20th.

June Meeting Speaker

The presentation for the June 20th meeting will be the "Snake Guys." This is a must see presentation for anyone living in Bear Valley Springs. It is a great refresher for all who have seen it and it is always done with a major amount of humor!

We will have a "Mexican" potluck starting @ 6:30 PM. The club will provide margaritas.



Kim Cohagan, Treasurer

Treasurer's Report

Year to Date April 30, 2017

2017 Beginning Balance	\$15,662.62
2017 Income/Expense	
General Income/Expenses	
Membership (Includes 2017 Received in 2016)	\$2,400.00
Ads (Includes 2017 Received in 2016)	\$825.00
Petty Cash deposited in checking	\$75.00
BVSHA.com URL Fee & Hosting	(\$122.35)
2017 Directory Printing	(\$375.00)
Holiday Dinner Deposit	(\$100.00)
Meeting supplies	(\$85.86)
Misc. Office Supplies	(\$99.92)
Newsletters	(\$471.64)
Open House Fund	(\$50.00)
PO Box Expense	(\$130.00)
Shed and Teeter Totter repair	(\$407.36)
Total General Income/Expenses	\$1,457.87
Mule Show Income/Expenses	
AMA Application Fee	(\$35.00)
Awards	(\$1,821.01)
Jumps	(\$2,698.00)
Total Mule Show Income/Expenses	(\$4,554.01)
Transfers to/from Savings Account	(\$6,429.40)
Checking Account Balance April 30, 2017	\$6,137.08
Bank Balance in Checking	\$7,488.65
Outstanding Checks	(\$1,351.57)
Balance in Checking Account	\$6,137.08
Total Savings Account	\$17,517.60
Total Checking Account	\$6,137.08
Total Funds	\$23,654.68



**COME JOIN US
FOR OUR 2ND ANNUAL
EQUESTRIAN CENTER OPEN HOUSE**

Sunday, June 4

12– 4 pm

Horse Club Meet & Greet

Speak with members of each of the Valley's Horse Clubs:

Horseman's, Pony Club, Buckaroos, Greenhorns, Dressage & Carriage Club

FREE HOT DOGS & CHIPS

TACK SALE

1:00 p.m. - PARADE OF HORSES

**View and learn about many different breeds and colors of horses living in
the Bear Valley Springs area**



2:00 p.m. - DEMONSTRATIONS

Jumping Carriage Driving Gymkhana



A Must Read About Donkeys

Colorado Horse Forum
April 13, 2017

Ten surprising things you didn't know about donkeys!

We partnered with Foghorn Farm Donkey Training to bring you this informational article on donkeys! Donkeys are one of the most misunderstood domestic animals on the planet. Sure, they look like little horses with long ears, but they are actually a completely different species. Because horse people often decide to keep donkeys as pasture pals for their horses, donkeys have become more popular recently. Anyone who has been around or owned donkeys knows already what wonderful animals they are, but many “donkey myths” still float around, causing problems with ownership and expectations when buying or owning a donkey. One of our main focuses at Foghorn Farm Donkey Training is not only training local donkeys, but also educating the public and donkey owners on how to better understand these amazing animals!



1) Donkeys do not think like a horse. It's evolutionary. Horses evolved from the forest to living on plains, where if something startled them, they could outrun it. Therefore horses have a strong flee response, that we take advantage of often in training them. Donkeys evolved in mountainous, desert areas, where fleeing might end up resulting in being off a cliff and out of the gene pool. Therefore, while donkeys do sometimes flee for short periods before they turn and look, donkeys have more of a “balk” response. If you try to add pressure (whip, voice, etc) when a donkey is balking, you will only add to their concern and cause a longer balk. The best way to deal with donkeys? Act like you have all day, and it'll take you five minutes. When teaching a donkey to trailer load, I often start out by bringing a bottled drink and a sandwich. If I know I can stay there a long time, the training usually goes a lot faster! Donkeys also prefer donkey company to horse company, as horses do not “speak” donkey. Many rescues will only adopt out two at a time for this reason.

2) Donkeys can not be fed like a horse. Donkeys evolved in a desert climates where brush and grass were sparse and donkeys must travel long distances to get small bites. Donkeys are browsers, meaning they can actually get nutrition out of wood. Yes, your wood barn is at risk. Yes, that “Stop Chew” stuff is tasty to donkeys. Yum, spicy! Best advice? Get a metal barn. And hotwire for that nice wooden fence. And no trees you like in the paddock, they will be chewed to death. The nice thing about donkeys is they need very little nutritionally, assuming they are not skinny, old, neglected, or pregnant. Donkeys need absolutely NO alfalfa. No high carb, protein or sugar feeds. That means donkeys generally do not need grain of any sort unless there is a reason medically for it. Sweet feed is like feeding a diabetic candy. Don't do it. Plain, straight grass hay is all donkeys need. Donkeys get fat very easily and their bodies create big fat pads along their crest, back, and croup. Their crest will often break and fall over if it gets too heavy, and that can never be corrected. Donkeys founder easier than ponies on any lush pasture. The best management for donkeys? Dry lot, slow feeders, and lots of exercise being trained to do something like carting, packing, or hiking!



3) Donkeys are anatomically different than horses. Donkeys have several differences in their anatomy that are relevant. First, their hooves are not shaped like a horse's hoof, and should never be trimmed like one. They are more upright, and more cupped on the bottom. This makes it so they grip better, sort of like goats. Most horse

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farriers trim donkeys like horses and seriously harm ligaments and tendons. There are some good resources out there for donkey hoof care, and many donkey owners trim their donkeys themselves. Donkeys need trimmed as often as horses unless they live on rough enough terrain to self trim. Donkeys also only have chestnuts on their front legs, not on the hind. They are flat and smooth. Donkeys have long, wonderful ears and love it when you rub deep inside them. There are companies that make donkey fly masks, as those ears often get bitten up. Donkeys also have different coats than horses. While horses have two coats, an undercoat and a shiny over coat that slicks off water, donkeys lack that overcoat, and water will soak through to their skin, freezing on cold days, and getting trapped there on warm days, leading to rain rot and other infections. A good shelter or a waterproof coat is a must for donkeys in our wet (comparatively) climate. Donkeys also shed out their winter fluff much later than horses.

4) Donkeys can be trained to do all of the same things horses can do. The training just has to be different. Because of the fact that donkeys evolved differently than horses, training a donkey requires that your timing be better and that you forget most of what you learned as a horse person, so that you can see things from a donkey's perspective and on "donkey time." It is sort of like "island time." Your initial training sessions should be short and never repetitive. The best way to describe this is that if you ask your donkey to do something, and they do it correctly, and you ask again....the donkey starts to think he didn't do it right the first time. So he tries other options. Once they do it correctly, reward with lots of love and praise and then quit, or change activities. Donkeys despise going around in circles, doing the same things again and again. Training donkeys requires initiative to make things interesting for the donkey. Donkeys can be trained to pack, hike, drive, and ride, just like horses. Obviously, only mammoth donkeys should be used by adults of appropriate weight to ride. There are even donkeys doing dressage!

5) Donkeys need the same medical care as horses, and have some unique medical issues as well. Donkeys need deworming, shots, hoof and dental care at the same intervals as horses. Donkeys do have some unique medical needs. Jacks must be castrated slightly differently than stallions. They might bleed out if not ligated. Donkeys tend to get more skin issues than horses, and are WAY more sensitive to flies. I use long athletic socks and cut a hole in the toe and pull it up the leg. Some people use fly wraps. Depending on where you are, fly sprays may or may not be effective, although I tend to think they at least help. Donkeys will get such bad fly bites that they will bleed. Good manure management is essential. Fungal and skin infections are more common in donkeys, as they do not have the protective upper layer of fur that a horse does. Moisture causes skin issues, especially in spring. They will create dust bowls in their paddocks to roll in, which helps coat their skin with dirt that prevents bug bites. If you wash your donkey, you will need to really provide fly protection in more extreme measures. Donkeys tend to founder easily if fed incorrectly, and their hoof care is slightly different. Farriers must manage their feet like a donkey, not like a horse, as donkeys have differently shaped feet. Donkeys also tend to abscess more often than horses in wet weather, as they are not meant to live in a wet climate. Good farrier care can go a long way towards preventing abscessing. Donkeys get fat easily on anything rich or lush. Pasture is not always a good idea for them, and alfalfa and sweet feed are big NO NOs.



6) Donkeys are more doglike than horselike. Donkeys become very bonded to their people, or person. In fact, they are usually downright loyal, and will leave food or other equine companionship to really spend quality time with people they trust and love. Many horse people I have had as donkey training clients have observed that after getting a donkey, they feel like they like donkey personality more than horse personality. They are just...loving! Donkeys, if they really truly love you, will rest their head on you. It is their way of saying "you are my herd." There is nothing better than coming home or to the barn and being greeted by a long bray, and being "hugged" by your beloved donkey. Donkeys enjoy being in your personal space, and if trained to back off when needed, can be very safe being very close to their owners, in a way that many horses are not.

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7) Donkeys, in the US, come in three sizes. While there are a few breeds of donkeys, mostly in the UK, in the U.S. we categorize by size. Minis are 36 inches and under. Standards are anything between that and mammoth sized, which are 54/56 inches and over depending on sex and registry. Minis are great driving animals, and some pack/hike or are ridden by small children. Standards also make great pack and cart donkeys. Mammoths are pretty rare and depending on their size, muscling, and conformation, can be ridden by adults of appropriate weight (20% or less of the donkeys' body weight including tack). We ride our mammoth donkeys and truly love them for trail riding, where they excel.



8) Donkeys are not necessarily good herd guardians. The problem with donkeys as herd guardians is threefold. First, donkeys do best with other donkeys anyway. Second, donkeys tend to attack smaller animals, including your newborn calves/goats/and pet dogs. I have been collecting story upon story of people who have to rehome their donkey because they were (surprise!) acting like a donkey. Third, donkeys are PREY animals. Not predators. They do not usually have the strength or ability to protect themselves against larger predators. Even a determined large dog can kill a donkey easily, especially a mini. Two of my mammoths were attacked by a determined pitt bull that wriggled out a car window. They were nearly eviscerated. Have an excellent guardian donkey? GREAT! Do not suggest them to everyone else. Donkeys have a very small chance of actually being a good guard, and people buy them all the time thinking every donkey will be a fantastic guardian, only to be bitterly disappointed when they are not. This creates unwanted donkeys that are labelled as "calf killers" or some such, which is just awful. The donkey was put in a the wrong situation. Let's let this myth die please!

9) Donkeys can only hold up to 20% of their weight. They are not Hercules. I have heard people claim donkeys can carry 50% of their body weight. Imagine if this was your horse. That would NOT be ok! Just because donkeys are incredibly stoic and oftentimes don't show pain, it does not mean we should take advantage of that. "Sports" like Donkey Basketball, often used in charity events, take advantage of the fact that small standard donkeys often will work under extremely heavy and unbalanced people, not showing the pain they are in. Donkeys love to work and have a job, but need to be weighted according to their size and conformation. Donkeys also grow slower than horses, and mammoths mature at around 7 years old (minis around 3-4 and standards around 5-7) So asking a donkey to bear weight before age 5 is not only cruel, but unhealthy for their joints, which are still closing.

10) Donkeys live longer than horses. Donkeys, if taken care of well, can live upwards of 40-50 years! Average is obviously slightly lower than that, but donkeys do tend to live much longer than horses. If you are older and decide to get a young donkey, make arrangements for them to be taken care of after you are gone! A 18 year old donkey is mid life, not elderly, so don't pass up those later teen-early twenties donkeys, they will be with you a long time!

In making this list, I realized that there are SO many more important facts about donkeys; their care and training, that need to be more common knowledge. Many vets and farriers never learn about donkeys at all, and treat them as small horses, telling owners very incorrect information on feeding and care. There aren't too many scientific articles out there that are donkey specific. Many new donkey owners end up with an animal that they suddenly realize is very hard to find reliable information about. If you mention donkeys in public, it is guaranteed that you will get a few stories, responses and "facts" about donkeys that make absolutely no sense and oftentimes fall under the label of "donkey myths." It is time to dispel those myths and see donkeys as the wonderful and unique equines they are! Any questions can be directed to Rachel Karneffel at Foghorn Farm Donkey Training: foghornfarmdonkeytraining@gmail.com.