

---

# The Hitch Rail

Spring 2020



## ***THE LOST ART OF STANDING TIED – AL DUNNING***

## **SYVEA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

**SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT: ELK GROVE MILLING INC. AND DAVID HUNSICKER & HIS RACING PIGEONS**

**2020 RANCH HORSE SHOW SADDLE SERIES WINNERS AND SPONSORS**

**TRAINER TIP: 5 WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR BOXING SCORE – SANDY COLLIER**

**MEMBER SPOTLIGHT: SHARON MICHELUCCI**

## ***SYVCH TEAM UPDATE***

**THIS IS MY STORY...DALLAS SMITH**

---

# **SYVEA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE - SPRING 2020**

---

I would like to begin by wishing good health to all of you and your families as we collectively work our way through uncharted territory. Obviously, recent events have forced us all to re-prioritize and reschedule many things in our lives; this includes many long planned events at our Equestrian Center. We will continue to post updates on our website calendar and events pages at [www.syvea.org](http://www.syvea.org) in addition to our Group & Page on Facebook. Stay tuned and stay safe!

Year to date, we have hosted several highly successful events including a sold out dressage schooling show—thank you Carole Bennet! -- and two successful VPA Sorting events along with one SYVEA Cow Horse show. Huge thanks to Sherry Linane for all the hard work and creativity she puts into our Cow Horse Shows! Unfortunately, our second Cow Horse show had to be rescheduled due to weather. Our Inaugural SYVEA Ranch Horse Saddle Series was a resounding success, with entries sold out a month before the show and a waiting list. Reviews have been overwhelmingly positive, and the show went quite smoothly considering it was a new event, with an untried concept [3 arenas, 3 judges, all running simultaneously] and proved to be quite profitable for our center. Final accounting is nearly complete, but it will be a strong net positive for the SYVEA. The Show Chairs—Lisa Lyons, Karyn Stevens, Lisa Novatt and Nancy Hunsicker—put a great deal of time and thought into creating what is clearly a popular show format which has been well received. The second show in the Saddle Series was scheduled for May 16th, however due to current events it has now been rescheduled to June 20th with a further alternate date of August 22nd.

Facility wise, the improvements continue; new plantings with a complete drip system—thank you Don Woodward & team! --have been installed down at the lower barn & show office. The Ranch Horse show committee has committed to selecting plants for the trail courses which will replant nicely as SYVEA landscaping.

We have met with a Sound System expert and have acquired a new, reliable, user friendly blue tooth-based sound system for the lower arenas and parking lot. We are also evaluating the OSD footing [that is the front, main arena at Mesa Verde & Refugio] and will either add an inch of material or possibly re-position the existing material from the south end to the north end. In addition, we are researching alterations to our arena drag equipment.

Lisa Lyons acquired several beautiful café tables & stools [at a restaurant closeout sale in Santa Barbara] for the SYVEA. They were put to good use at the Ranch Horse Show & much enjoyed. They will be stored in the locked show office & brought out for shows [Ranch Horse, Dressage, Hunter Jumper.] In addition, we moved 2 extra sets of bleachers from the upper level down to the OSD arena and shored up & reinforced the bleachers at the Bill Deputy Arena [lower level arena adjacent to Sunstone Winery driveway.] All these additions will provide a more spectator-friendly environment for our equestrian events in the lower level area.

I was also approached [at the most recent Team Sorting] by a long time member who has volunteered to spearhead planting more pepper trees to provide shady seating on the hill above the Cowhorse arena [upper level.]

That's all for now. Best wishes to all of you and your families for good health as we all weather this storm together.

David Hunsicker



*Teresa Fisher and Rockin Boon San*



---

# SANTA YNEZ VALLEY COW HORSE 2020 UPDATE

---

Greetings Cow Horse Fans!

Our first show of the season was an absolute blast! We hit the ground running in 2020 only soon to be hit with the March Miracle Rain Train which forced the cancellation of our March event and shortly there after the stay at home order was the new normal and we were forced to cancel our April event as well. Be assured, this has not dampened our excitement or commitment to both our participants and sponsors, and we are

ready to get back at it!



*Lindamae Suprinski and Mister Duel Peppy*

Our May 31<sup>st</sup> date is on the calendar and we are holding onto this date and until we are told we can't...WE WILL! We are fully prepared to put social distancing protocols in place to keep everyone safe and have a great day! It is time to get the horses back on cattle and tune them up for show day!

Our April event has been rescheduled for November 7<sup>th</sup>. John McCarty will be our judge and we will crown the year end champions and the Sunset Auto Center Riders of the Year at this show!

**2020 Used and New Tack Sale - We had an incredible response and many, many great sellers attending our March event prior to the cancellation. We had planned to move the sale to the May dates, however we are not sure how to host a large scale tack sale effectively and maintain social distancing, therefore this has been tabled until our November event when it will be revived and restarted.**

Last, but certainly not least - the SYVCH team would like to send a huge shout out and thank you everyone who has help us over the past 6-7 months! As many of you know, and a few of you we have even enlisted to help; we have been working closely with the SYVEA to improve our shows and the arena ground. As a multiple genre arena there were items we needed to address and with a little help from our friends, hard work and our passion; coupled with the SYVEA putting money into updating the drag - we have seen great results and for this we are grateful. *It is time to ride!*



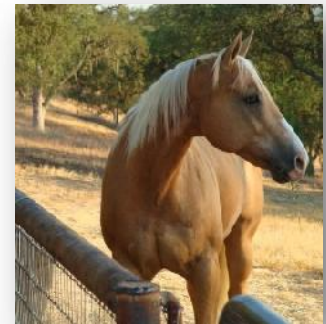
*NRCHA Judge – John McCarty and Nics Back In Cash*

# MEMBER SPOTLIGHT - SHARON MICHELUCCI



It was a spur of the moment decision to attend a wine tasting event in San Francisco hosted by Central Coast Wineries, that forever changed Sharon, and her husband, Mike's lives for the better. Impressed with the wines from the region, and the friendliness of the winemakers, they planned a weekend away to come see the area. Both veteran hi-tech executives in Silicon Valley, they'd grown tired of the daily grind, and wanted a change. Sharon set up appointments to look at properties while in Paso Robles. They bought a small vineyard in Creston and never looked back.

As Sharon met local people and made friends, it rekindled her love of horses. She bought her first horse sight unseen out of Kansas. With a leap of faith, she jumped into the deep end of the pool. Today, knowing what she knows, she still laughs at the naivety of buying that horse. "So many things could have been wrong", says Sharon. But, this time, her lucky angel was watching over her, and her dream palomino turned out to be the perfect horse. And, so her horse journey began.



Sharon convinced Mike that Zeke needed a buddy. So, Sharon bought a western pleasure and trail horse. Destined to make another horse rookie mistake, Sharon bought a 3-year-old mare. Again, her angel was watching over her. Her young filly was quiet-minded and kind, and Sharon went on to successfully show her for several years. And then, Sharon was bit by the cow horse bug. So, of course, she needed another horse. Sharon bought her first cow horse through the Cal Poly colt starting program. Again, she rolled the dice on buying a young 2-year-old. Charlie turned out to be a really nice horse. And, soon thereafter, Sharon learned that she really didn't know how to ride.



Cow horse was a very different sport than western trail, and she realized she no longer had the strength, coordination and athleticism she once had. She quickly realized, trying to learn something so physical and technical at 50 years old, may be unachievable. But, determined to succeed, Sharon got to work on bettering herself. She rode daily and took lessons several times per week. Sharon laughs about



how well she did on that horse who was destined to be a big rope horse and didn't have the confirmation to be competitive in reined cow horse. Sharon says she didn't know any better, and just went out and rode the horse she had and had fun. Now she was hooked.



Soon thereafter, Sharon was diagnosed with a rare form of rheumatism which was destroying her joints and causing her considerable pain. "The pain at night was so horrible. I really thought I was dying." The diagnosis, while disappointing, was not to deter her from achieving her dream. Sharon didn't know how much time she had left to do this sport, and knew she was racing against deteriorating joints and diminishing strength. Mike supported her decision to buy her dream horse at the 2015 SBF in Reno. He had it all: breeding, looks and a gentle mind. With the uncertainty of Sharon's health fueling her drive, they then bought 20 acres in Paso Robles and built her dream equestrian ranch. But something wasn't quite right with her young horse. He just seemed different than any of her other horses. Two years later, after nearly a year of declining health, Sharon said good-bye to her "heart" horse. He died at 5 of Lymphoma.

And today, The Triple R (Rudy's Ramshackle Ranch) is named in his honor.

Sidelined by Rudy's illness, Sharon bought a 4-year-old that she could go show while he hopefully recovered. But it wasn't meant to be. Monty proved to be too much for her to handle. She tried to rehabilitate his mind and body. But he was blown up. She gave him to her trainer, Mallory Holland-Valdez to see if she could save him.

Without a horse to show, and sidelined for the past few years, Sharon convinced a few friends to start Mid State Cow Horse Association. She wanted to provide a fun and friendly venue for new and seasoned riders to school their horses. "I had to do something to keep moving forward", Sharon says. The club has been successful, and Sharon has really enjoyed watching people have a good time. "It helped me get through what I was going through. I actually learned a lot watching talented riders school their horses." Mallory worked every day with Monty, rebuilding his trust in humans. They made a lot of progress but Sharon knew in her heart, he would never be the "right" horse for her. Sharon thought losing Rudy was hard, but no heart ache came close to that of saying good-bye to Monty. Sharon gave him to trainer, Christina Allen in Idaho to help him heal. Today, he runs free in open pastures with the yearlings. He's being used as a ranch horse, and he's thriving.



After so many failed attempts, and again without a cow horse to ride, Sharon almost gave up on her dream. Last June was really hard on her. It was the year anniversary of Rudy's death, and she finally accepted that Monty wasn't going to work. And then Sharon's angel showed up again. Contacted by 2 friends of hers attending a show in Nevada last June they had found "her horse". Sharon says she just couldn't ask Mike to yet again, support her crazy dream. But good horses cost a lot. She was now considering her 3<sup>rd</sup> "good" horse. Sharon wondered how she could come up with the money to try this one more time. And, then it hit her. She had a beautiful engagement ring that sat in a jewelry box long forgotten since horses took over her life. Sharon asked Mike if he would be upset if she sold her beloved ring. Mike being the giving man he is, told her whatever made her happy, he supported.

So, on July 4<sup>th</sup> last year, Christina Allen came out to pick up Monty, and brought with her, Sharon's new horse. Sharon said when that stunning mare stepped off the trailer, she was overcome with tears. She looked into her gentle eye, and knew this was finally her horse. Sharon and Jackie have spent the past several months getting to know each other. There have been a few bumps in the road, and Sharon's condition continues to challenge her. But Sharon remains optimistic and is excited about the future with Jackie. And, she says she's eternally grateful for the friends and loved ones that have supported her along her journey. Without their encouragement she says she would have given up.



**A Big Heartfelt Thank you to all of our sponsors!**

*Without their support none of this would be possible. Please let our sponsors know that you really appreciate their support by patronizing their establishments or saying thank you as they pass by.*



**Cooper Saddlery**

Brad Cooper  
CashCooper@hotmail.com

(512) 848-0711  
Instagram.com/CooperSaddlery

900 McMurray Rd #1 . Buellton . CA . 93427



- EST. 1950 -

**FARM SUPPLY**

★ COMPANY ★



High Quality Bedding Material



Toll Free  
**888-688-6404**  
www.santaynezshavings.com

3532 Sagunto St.  
Santa Ynez, Ca. 93460



*Wild Arrow*  
DESIGNS

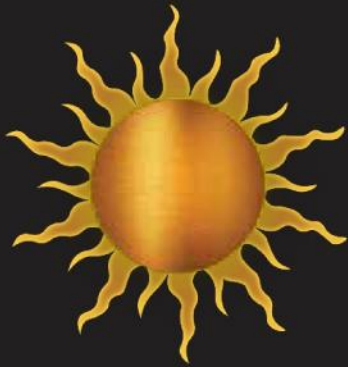
wildarrowdesign.com

 w\_a\_designs

 sywildarrowdesigns

# Leopard & Lace Design

Creating crazy colorful designs for a wild west world.



## Re-brand yourself!

Every moment matters... because life isn't measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away. I have spent my entire life capturing these moments.

As a little girl in my father's dark room, I became fascinated by watching images magically appear on photo papers hung with clothes pins.

Now that I am a big girl (sort of), I have been able to combine that little girl's love of everything that sparkles with my "grown-up" understanding of graphics and...

POOF!

Leopard & Lace Design was born. I offer all types of graphic design services including, the design of illustrations, logos, brands, websites as well as photo retouching and enhancing.

My specialty (obviously) is anything horse-related so if you find yourself wanting to re-brand yourself or your business, I am that cowgirl!



[www.leopardandlacedesign.com/](http://www.leopardandlacedesign.com/)

[sycowgirl@gmail.com/](mailto:sycowgirl@gmail.com)



---

# DALLAS SMITH - THIS IS MY STORY . . .

---

Well.....since I have no work due to the covid-19 pandemic, I have time to sit and write a little about myself as requested by Sherry

I'm not very good at this, so I'll go by her suggested guidelines at what info to write about.

Like most girls... I was drawn to horses at a very young age. My family wasn't a ranching family. We did not have property with farm animals. I was born in Bakersfield but lived in Taft for a few years where it was my babysitter that introduced me to horses when I was 3yrs old. She quickly found out the best way to keep me entertained and behaving, was to put me on one of her horses while she ponied me around town. I'm sure we gave my mother a few heart attacks when my babysitter would holler for my mother to come watch and the minute she stepped outside all she would see was a HUGE horse whizzing by and a long blonde ponytail and horse tail flowing in the breeze! That was it...I was hooked!



My family moved back to Bakersfield when I was in the 2nd grade. My mother would drop me off at either Ace, Borrow or Stockdale stables and I would clean stalls to earn an hour of riding on one of their rental horses. Again, it kept me busy and out of my mother's hair all day while she dealt with my four siblings.

That's where my obsession for horses began and its only getting worse the older I get!



My family move to Fremont in the Bay area and that is where I got my first horse. Fast forward to 1973, my family moved to SLO and I graduated high school there in 1974. I had to sell my horse before the move to SLO, so 'other' things became important to me at that time. I was waitressing at Colony Kitchen in SLO when the Allman Bros stopped in to eat on the way to Santa Barbara for a show. To make a long story short - I ended up on the road with them and moved to Macon, Georgia doing the rock-n-roll scene for the next couple of years.

I came back to California, got married and decided I needed to get back to my first love of horses. For the better part of thirty years, I belonged to a women's trail riding group called the Vaqueras Del Camino. Occasionally I would ride in some of the local gymkhana's and eventually got into team penning and sorting. In around 1993, I bought my first performance horse. A big sorrel gelding by Montana Doc. To this day he is still the best horse I ever threw a leg over! I sent

him for training with Ron Ralls and started showing the NRCHA shows. At the time Jo Anne Carollo was a Non-pro and was a friend and I would ride at her place. She would give me tips and tools to help me be a better rider. It was with her help, I started winning in the show pen (Love you Jo! ) My then husband and I were making some investments and I had to stop showing for what became over 20yrs.

We divorced in 2014, and I again, I decided to get back to doing what I loved and that was getting back into cowhorse events. That's where I am now; twenty years older and doing what I love and let me tell you, showing cowhorses isn't like riding a bicycle, once you learn you never forget...20 years being off had a HUGE effect on my riding skills!! I am learning all over again without the balance and bravery I once had, but I AM determined! Hahaha! And I am having fun with all my friends and now that Jo Anne Carollo has gone pro, I am once again riding with her learning soooooooo much!!

I have a Smart Chic Olena daughter that I will be breeding to 'Call Me Mitch' this year! I can't wait for this next chapter!!



# BOB HOLZER

## — TOWING —

### SANTA BARBARA, CA



**BREEZEWAY FARMS, INC.**

Santa Ynez, CA

CHERIE M. AUSTIN

(805) 350-0177

Foaling, Mare & Foal Care, Lay-ups and Retirees  
Specializing in Individual Equine Care



Mighty Five Ranch  
Rory & Heather Livingston

Ken & Margaret Mang - Gaviota Ranch

(805) 688-3673

[www.santaluciafarm.com](http://www.santaluciafarm.com)



**“Good Luck to all the Competitors!”**



**TRAILER SALES | SERVICE | PARTS**

The SYVEA and SYVCH Team would like to offer our SINCERE AND SPECIAL THANK YOU to all the committees, volunteers, sponsors AND everyone else who helps make this series possible.

Without your participation we could not bring you one of the best show series in Valley!

Bob Avila

THE AVILA COLLECTION

Professional Choice

www.profchoice.com | 1.800.331.9421

**Flag Is Up Farms**

A full service training, boarding and rehab operation  
 Come visit us at 901 E. Hwy 246  
 Solvang, California 93463  
 (805) 688-4382



**COWGIRL SOUP**

the INGREDIENTS that make up WHO WE ARE...

Santa Ynez, Ca

Owned and Operated by:  
 Tim and Barb Crist

**Ranch & Vineyard**

www.c5vineyard.com

# SYVCH 2020 DATES

UPDATED APRIL 2020

**SYVCH/NRCHA Reined Cow Horse  
and the  
California Collegiate Reined Cow Horse**

*April 25th*

**Cancelled COVID-19**

**May 31<sup>st</sup>**

SYVCH/NRCHA/CCRCH

*Rain date for March 14<sup>th</sup>*

**NRCHA Approved – Judge: John Pascoe**

**November 7<sup>th</sup>**

SYVCH/NRCHA/CCRCHA

Rider/Novice of the Year & SYVCH Awards

*Rescheduled April Show*

**NRCHA Approved- Judge: John McCarty**

**[www.syvch.org](http://www.syvch.org)**





## SANTA YNEZ VALLEY EQUESTRIAN ASSOCIATION

# Gaddle Series

## RANCH HORSE SHOW

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR WINNERS FROM SHOW #1:**

### **OPEN**

Champion: Jennifer Ray on General Relativity  
Reserve: Travis Mankins on Wright N Stylish

### **AMATEUR**

Champion: Barb Crist on This Cats A Keeper  
Reserve: Barb Crist on Smart Smokin Lad

### **BEGINNER**

Champion: Tim Crist on Pic By Elvis  
Reserve: Paige Anderson on Classy Chexinic

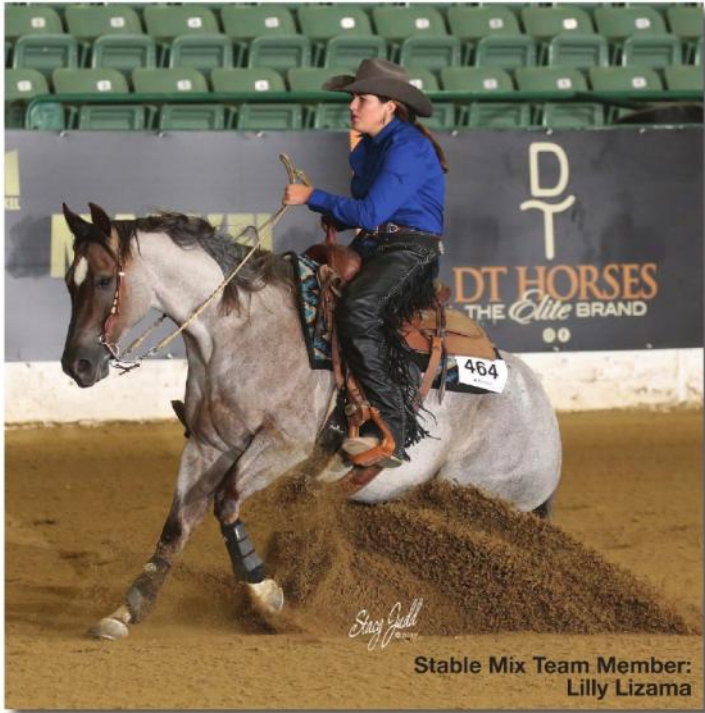
**Mark Your Calendars! Show No. 2 • June 20, 2020**  
**Show No. 3 with Shoot-Out Finals • September 26, 2020**

*Questions, call a Show Chairperson:*

Karyn Stevens / 805.455.4008 • Lisa Lyons / 805.708.4772  
Nancy Hunsicker / 805.895.1924 • Lisa Novatt / 805.886.9066

*Further details & updates* [www.syvea.org](http://www.syvea.org)

# SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT - ELK GROVE MILLING INC.



Stable Mix Team Member:  
Lilly Lizama

Every day, Elk Grove Milling strives for one goal... the Health, Wellness and Happiness of your animals. Owner, Bob Lent and his staff are on the cutting edge of the feed industry, developing innovations in the pelleting world.

Producing complete animal feeds since 1982, Stable Mix™ and other Elk Grove Milling feed products have become recommended standards of the industry; recommended by farriers and veterinarians alike.

Our Pellet Mill, which is nestled in the heart of horse country just a few minutes out of the city of Elk Grove, has been producing high quality horse and animal feed since 1982. Local horse owners have placed their trust in our product for years.

Bob Lent, owner of Elk Grove Milling, Inc., continues to maintain his original commitment to provide a product that goes above and beyond any other horse feed product on the market.

Elk Grove Milling is a strong advocate and supporter of youth exhibitors and professionals alike. The Stable Mix Team connects members, in a family atmosphere with the Stable Mix brand and supports their aspirations for reaching new and exciting goals. The Mix Team isn't just for equines, it is a comprehensive group that represents the complete line of feeds Elk Grove Milling, Inc. manufactures and is open to anyone who loves our products.

**ELK GROVE MILLING, INC.**  
ESTABLISHED 1982

## STABLE MIX™

*For Healthier, Happier Horses*

For more information or to ask us any questions,  
please contact: [customerservice@elkgrovemilling.com](mailto:customerservice@elkgrovemilling.com)

888.346.7649

[www.ElkGroveMilling.com](http://www.ElkGroveMilling.com)



<p><b>STABLE MIX</b> <i>For Healthier, Happier Horses</i></p> <p>YOU TRAIN FOR PERFORMANCE NOW! FEED FOR PERFORMANCE!</p> <p>30 LBS. NET WT. 0218509</p>	<p><b>SENIOR STABLE MIX</b> <i>For Healthier, Happier Horses</i></p> <p>YOU TRAIN FOR PERFORMANCE NOW! FEED FOR PERFORMANCE!</p> <p>30 LBS. NET WT. 0218502</p>	<p><b>SPORT HORSE MIX</b> <i>For Healthier, Happier Horses</i></p> <p><b>FOR PERFORMANCE HORSES</b></p> <p>A HIGHER CALORIE AND PROTEIN, HAY-BASED COMPLETE FEED FOR HORSES IN TRAINING.</p> <p>30 LBS. NET WT. 0218502</p>	<p><b>STABLE MIX LITE</b> <i>For Healthier, Happier Horses</i></p> <p><b>LOW CARB FORMULA</b></p> <p>YOU TRAIN FOR PERFORMANCE NOW! FEED FOR PERFORMANCE!</p> <p>30 LBS. NET WT. 0218504</p>	<p><b>GOAT MIX</b> <i>For Healthier, Happier Goats</i></p> <p>NUTRITIONALLY COMPLETE PELLETTED FEED FOR GOATS</p> <p>30 LBS. NET WT. 0218509</p>	<p><b>STABLE MIX FUTURITY</b> <i>For Healthier, Happier Horses</i></p> <p><b>FOR YOUNG HORSES IN TRAINING</b></p> <p>A HIGH ENERGY, HAY-BASED COMPLETE FEED FOR HORSES IN TRAINING. GROWING HORSES AND DEALING CHALLENGES!</p> <p>30 LBS. NET WT. 0218502</p>
--	---	---	--	--	---

**We Also Make:**  
Ultra Mate  
Get Go  
Sheep Mix  
Beef Mix  
Pig Mix  
Coop Mix  
G.I. Stable-ez

**COMPLETE FEEDS FOR HORSES, CATTLE, GOATS, SHEEP, SWINE AND POULTRY**

---

# TRAINER TIP - 5 BOXING WAYS TO IMPROVE YOUR SCORE

---

**BY: SANDY COLLIER**



There are only five credit boxes for the Limited Cow class.

They are all connected to each other. By that, I mean, that if you are crediting one box, you're probably gaining credit in at least one other box. And likewise, if you are losing credit in one, you're probably in the negative in at least one other. Let me explain by starting with what makes a really good run.

When a rider walks confidently into the arena, nods for the cow, steps right up to challenge it, and crisply moves right and left with the cow, many good things are happening!

When I'm judging that class, and see a run start like that, the thoughts going through my head in those first 15 seconds are, "This is probably going to be a good run". My "thermometer" is going up. I'm thinking that the rider is starting to show courage, utilizing their time (time worked), getting to the right spot (position and control). So already, I'm wanting to be in the positive (above average v+ range) in at least 3 areas (71.5+)

My next thoughts are, "Can they maintain these credits? Will they put more pressure on the cow, and be able to control it?" If they do, the score for position and control, courage and maybe even time worked can all go up together. If the cow is challenging, then degree of difficulty goes up too. That's how to mark above a 72.

Now, if the degree of difficulty is there (the cow is challenging), position and control are very good, the rider keeps the pressure on (courage and time worked go up) and looks good doing it (eye appeal ie smooth, athletic, riders hands are quiet), then we're getting into the 73 and above range.

When the buzzer sounds, my next question is, "How good was that? Exactly how difficult was the cow? What really stood out that I can give a full plus to?" Usually, if there's one thing that was very good, there are other things that were too.

This is what a skillful exhibitor learns and can use to start to increase their score.

Conversely, if the rider hangs back, doesn't move crisply left and right, they will not only go down in courage, but probably also time worked, and position and control. If a horse isn't moving with the intention of holding the cow (because the rider isn't insisting on it), eye appeal will suffer too. All of the categories are headed down, and suddenly a 68- run is what's happening.

As you gain experience showing, try to "connect the boxes".

If you're controlling the cow by getting to its head and keeping it in the middle 2/3rd's of the arena, and if your horse moves fluidly, because you're using your feet more than your hands, and you're advancing and keeping enough pressure on the cow to show your horse off, and you can maintain that level of performance throughout your time, you're probably going to be at least a 72.

The degree of difficulty of the cow is something you can't control, so to have a really good run, that element has to be there too. But, my point is, and the good news is, that a lot of this is within your control! So, get with your trainer so you can work towards increasing your score in each area because they can all go up together!!

Subscribe to our bimonthly email articles go to [BeUnstoppable.us](http://BeUnstoppable.us) and sign up.



# Happy N Ranch



**Specializing in Equine Retirement, Show  
Rest, Rehabilitation and Pasture.**

Lisa Novatt - Registered Veterinary Technician

Owners - Gary and Lisa Novatt

[lisa@happynranch.com](mailto:lisa@happynranch.com) ♦ 805-886-9066

Buellton, California

MICKEY HERMAN  
BOBCAT SERVICE

NO JOB TOO SMALL

MICKEY HERMAN  
[MICKEY@MICKEYHERMAN.COM](mailto:MICKEY@MICKEYHERMAN.COM)

2505 BRIARGLEN ROAD  
ACTON, CA 93510

(310)-625-9970

una photo

Jenny Coxon

[unaphoto805.com](mailto:unaphoto805.com)

[unaphoto805@gmail.com](mailto:unaphoto805@gmail.com)

805-331-8003



LTE: \$197,000+

2004 Black Stallion  
Nic It In The Bud x Shiners Diamondjackie

# NICS BLACK DIAMOND

2010 NRBC Open Finalist, 8/9 Place

2009 NRCHA SFB Open Hackamore Champion

2009 Idaho Open Derby Champion

NSHA Open Futurity Res Champion

NRHA Open Futurity, 4th Place

NRCHA Open SBF Futurity, 6th Place

2009 NRCHA Open Derby, 6th Place

2008 NRCHA Open Derby, 5th Place

2009 NRCHA Open Stakes Finalist

NRCHA & NRHA

He has it all... OUTSTANDING BLOODLINES

#1 ALL - TIME Maternal Grandsire of Reining and Cow Horses

Beautiful, Fluid Mover

Natural Athletic Ability and Exceptional Mind

Great Conformation and Exciting Color

Bred and owned by Mark and Kelly Gowing, Lompoc, CA  
Trained and shown by Todd Bergen and Phillip Ralls



*W. H. H. H. H. H.*

Photo: Jodi Baldwin



Photo: Primo

Standing in 2013 at Santa Lucia Farm

805 688-3673

2013 Breeding Fee: \$1,500 (+ Chute Fee)

Cooled Semen Available

Exceptional Results

# NICS BLACK DIAMOND

[www.gowingcanyonranch.com](http://www.gowingcanyonranch.com)

---

# SPONSOR SPOTLIGHT - DAVID HUNSICKER & HIS RACING PIGEONS

---



Most people who know David associate him with horses, which is accurate. Originally a Kansas farm boy, David grew up handling livestock and farm animals. Later in life he was able to enjoy horses at a more elevated level, with great success. At one point he owned 165 racing quarter horses and participated in many of the most significant auctions and races, including the All American Futurity at Ruidoso Downs. From racehorses he moved on to Reined Cow Horses, again with great success, winning the Snaffle Bit Futurity in 1993 with Sandy Collier aboard his horse Miss Rey Dry and finishing in the Top Ten in subsequent years with Dots Starlight and Katie Starlight.

What many people do not know is that David is also a world-renowned "Pigeon Flyer," which is a term that refers to people who keep and race homing pigeons. It all started in 1946 in Topeka, Kansas....David's father, Glen, worked for the Santa Fe railroad company as a machinist. There were pigeons roosting in the eaves above the shop, and he used to catch them and bring them home for dinner. This being the height of the Great Depression, no viable source of food for the family dinner table was ever overlooked, particularly in a home with 6 children. One day Glen brought home a pretty white pigeon and young David fell in love, insisting on rescuing him from the stew pot so he could keep him as a pet....not long after that another white pigeon joined the first one, and of course they reproduced. Shortly afterward, young David happened to meet a "pigeon flyer" who introduced him to the sport of pigeon racing.

Pigeons are extraordinary athletes and also have an incredible ability to find their way "home" from literally hundreds of miles away. Science has still never fully answered the question of how pigeons are able to navigate with such uncanny accuracy, but many think it is a combination of exceptional eyesight, and some ability to sense the changes in the earth's gravitational fields. Whatever the explanation, this unique ability to navigate has led pigeons to play a crucial role in seminal historical events for literally thousands of years. Ancient armies and political leaders utilized pigeons to convey crucial information over hundreds of miles, the foundation of the Rothschild banking fortune was based upon trades stemming from "inside information" delivered by a carrier pigeon detailing the outcome of the battle of Waterloo, and countless troopers lives were saved during World Wars I and II by carrier pigeons delivering crucial information, sometimes in the very nick of time. In fact, pigeons are decorated war heroes; courtesy of Wikipedia, here is the story of GI Joe:

*G.I. Joe (March 24, 1943 in Algiers - June 3, 1961 in Detroit) was a pigeon noted for his service in the United States Army Pigeon Service. The bird is part of the homing pigeons used during World War I and World War II for communication and reconnaissance purposes. G.I. Joe had the name tag, Pigeon USA43SC6390.<sup>[1]</sup> He was hatched in March 1943, in Algiers, North Africa and underwent a training for two-way homing pigeons perfected at Fort Monmouth, in New Jersey.<sup>[2]</sup>*

*During the Italian Campaign of World War II, G.I. Joe saved the lives of the inhabitants of the village of Calvi Vecchia, Italy, and of the British troops of 56th (London) Infantry Division occupying it. Air support had been previously requested against German positions at Calvi Vecchia on 18 October 1943. However, the 169th (London) Infantry Brigade attacked and won back the village from the Germans ahead of schedule but they were unable to transmit a message via radio to call off the planned American air raid.<sup>[3]</sup> G.I. Joe was dispatched as a last resort to carry the message and arrived in the air base just in time to avoid the Allied air force from bombing their own men. G.I. Joe flew this 20-mile distance in an impressive 20 minutes, just as the planes were preparing to take off for the target. Over 100 men were saved.<sup>[4][5]</sup>*

*On 4 November 1946, G.I. Joe was presented the Dickin Medal for gallantry by Major-General Charles Keightley at the Tower of London the citation credits him with the most outstanding flight made by a United States Army homing pigeon in World War II.<sup>[6]</sup>*





David has bred and raced pigeons his whole life, with his only time-out being during his military service with Army Intelligence (which is an interesting story for another day.) Most of the best racing bloodlines in the world come from Belgium, which has had a lively and dedicated pigeon racing scene for hundreds of years. While traveling for business when he was running his company, IMR, David always managed to squeeze in a visit with pigeon breeders in Europe, and those imported birds represent the foundational breeding still present in his Loft today.

How do pigeons race, you might ask? In modern times, there are two types of races: “Club/Combine Races” and “One Loft Races.” All the birds wear an RFID microchip band on their leg, uniquely identifying them. In “One Loft” races, young birds from many different owners are sent to “one loft” to train for several months—they learn the location and are trained just like race horses over gradually increasing distances. On race day, they are all turned loose, several hundred miles away, and the first bird to make it back to the home loft—tripping the electric beam with its micro-chipped band as it enters the loft—is declared the winner. There is often quite a lot of prize money; there are several \$100,000 prize races here in the United States, as well as a \$1,000,000 in Indiana in addition to a \$1,000,000 race in South Africa. Pigeon racing is truly an international sport, and the top winning pigeons sell for large dollars, some of them for over a million dollars!



Hunsicker Ranch & Loft 5YV 16088 BCC

“Club/Combine Races” run quite differently; in this case, various lofts will combine all their birds into crates, which are then shipped several hundred miles away and simultaneously released. The birds all fly back to their own lofts and the winner is determined by the fastest average speed. Remember the microchipped leg bands? Each one was entered in to a computerized clock prior to shipment.

David still breeds top quality racing pigeons and Hunsicker Lofts is nearly always well represented in the top finishing birds at the One Loft Races. He has helped many up and coming pigeon flyers get a start in the sport, and many of them have also gone on to great success with birds from David’s breeding program.

David always enjoys introducing new people to the sport of pigeon racing, so someday after the Coronavirus lockdown ends, give him a call and come meet his pigeons! You can also visit Hunsicker Ranch & Lofts on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/HunsickerLofts/>

# 2020

# Sponsors



**Year End Shoot Out Saddle**  
SANTA BARBARA FIESTA RODEO  
GREG & SANDY SIMON

**Year End Beginner Shoot Out Trophy Bridle**  
BOB MOTT & DIANA STETSON

## **Ranch Sponsors**

C-5 RANCH / BARB & TIM CRIST  
EVERGREEN ARABIANS / HAROLD & LIZ GREEN  
HIDDEN RIVER RANCH / JOE & KATIE RUSSELL  
HAPPY N RANCH / LISA & GARY NOVATT  
QUIOTA CREEK RANCH / PAUL SLAVIK  
SHOOTING STAR RANCH / HOWARD, DANA & LIANA ERENBERG  
VISTA GRANDE RANCH / MICHAEL & NANCY LIPPMAN

## **Corporate Sponsors**

CLAIRE HANSSEN / REALTOR FOR THE SANTA YNEZ VALLEY  
CACTUS, A DIVISION OF PRO EQUINE GROUP / DUSTIN NOBLITT  
SANTA YNEZ FEED & MILL • ALICE MURPHY, ARTIST  
C-5 VINEYARD • TAFT STREET WINERY • TOM BLOCK ENTERPRISES  
BELLA CAVALLI FARMS • DELLAVALLE EMBROIDERY

## **Buckle Sponsors**

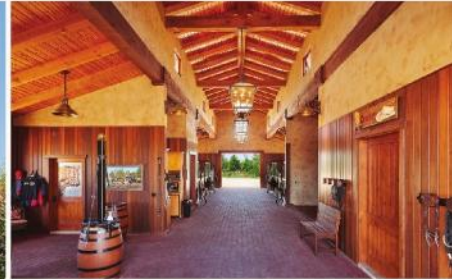
RICHARD & SHARON KLINE • OLIVER & KELLY DIXON  
KARYN STEVENS • LISA LYONS  
HUNSICKER RANCH & LOFT • TOM & DENISE PETERSON  
ANDI CULBERTSON • MELISSA MOORE



# ELLIOTT & POHLS

---

## CONSTRUCTION



*Craftsmanship Frame to Finish · Since 1974*

1.805.688.7737 ELLIOTT-POHLS.COM

LICENSE No. 406657



*Julie Poznoff and Smooth and Jazzy*



*Paula Francis and Rooster Zack*



If you really want to make a friend, go to someone's house and eat with him...the people who give you their food give you their heart.

—  
CESAR CHAVEZ  
1.800.875.0700 / WWW.CESARCHAVEZ.COM



---

# THE LOST ART OF STANDING TIED - AL DUNNING

---

**How and why spending time on a patience pole can help improve your relationship with your horse and make your time in the saddle more successful.**

Teaching horses to stand tied is a critical—but often overlooked—part of the horse training process, no matter what you plan to do with your equine partners. Every horse I've got will tie up anywhere, any time, and won't try to pull back. Using patience poles, we've taught ours they need to be there, they don't know how long they'll be there, so they just relax. I'm going to tell you how our patience poles are constructed, why I like to use them, and how patience poles can affect a horse's behavior under saddle.

## **What is a patience pole?**

My preferred method of teaching a horse to stand comfortably tied is with a patience pole—usually made from a metal pipe with a rotating collar at the top, and a chain that attaches to the halter with a bull snap. These poles are usually 12-feet in length, with three feet set into the ground with concrete or a post-pounder for serious stability.



*Horses that spend time tied to a patience pole are less likely to be buddy and barn-sour.*

## **How to use a patience pole**

I like to introduce a patience pole early in the training process, tying horses there an hour before and an hour after each ride. If you have a spoiled horse, or one that's afraid to be away from their friends, tie a companion somewhere near the horse until he gets used to the post. I've rarely had a horse pull back on a patience pole because they can generally see around it but use caution as your horse adjusts to the situation.

## **What standing tied teaches a horse**

Patience poles are part of my training process because they separate a horse from the rest of the horses on the property, teaching them to stand patiently and not paw. It takes them out of their stalls to acclimate them to their surroundings. They see the tractor go by, they see birds flying, and all the activity on the place. Horses treated like house plants, who just stand in their stalls all day and eat, are more challenging to ride because they aren't exposed to the things that they can see tied to a patience pole. Horses who aren't well-acclimated also get themselves into more trouble and are more likely to get hurt because their reactions are amplified and exaggerated.

## **How patience poles beat barn-sour blues**

Tying your horse to a patience pole before and after you ride can help eliminate barn-sour tendencies in horses. A horse is going to want to get back to the barn sooner if he knows he will be done once he gets there, but a horse that knows he will go stand tied to the patience pole after a ride is less likely to get in a hurry to get back to the barn. They're less likely to lean, and they are less likely to anticipate going back to the barn where they do no work. After working a horse, tying them to a post makes them think about it more, not just thinking as soon as they're done they'll go to the barn and get a cookie.

In addition, time on the patience pole cuts down on a horse's desire to nicker and whinny and squeal when separated from their buddies. I had a guy bring a horse over the other day, and we tied him to the patience pole for the first time. The first day he made noise for two hours. The second day, he did it for 5 minutes, then quit all together. Horses get so herd-bound, it's good for them to be separated to get over it. Riding a horse that's herd-bound or barn-sour is tougher, and it affects how they perform. So using a patience pole can nip the problem in the bud before it's an issue.



# RIVER GROVE *Equine*

FULL SERVICE REPRODUCTION FACILITY

MARE SERVICES  
EMBRYO TRANSFER  
STALLION SERVICES  
FROZEN SEMEN

Melissa Patten DVM, MS  
805-467-7329  
rivergrovevetservice@gmail.com

PROUDLY PRESENTS

**STEP TO THE LIGHT**

LTE \$94518

Owned by Vanessa Lawrence  
Paso Robles Pastures  
805-290-6544  
www.pasoroblespastures.com

*Equine Art*





## SUNSET AUTO CENTER CHEVROLET BUICK IN LOMPOC

1300 N. H Street Lompoc CA 93436 ♦ [www.sunsetautocenter.com](http://www.sunsetautocenter.com)



**COMMERCIAL  
VEHICLES**

# Local History

[www.syvea.org](http://www.syvea.org)

*This page is dedicated with love and appreciation to Pat Murphy. Pat was the longest serving members of the SYVEA Board of Directors. She was a tireless and enthusiastic supporter of all things equestrian in the Santa Ynez Valley and dearly loved blending her creative talents, sense of history and culture with her love of horses.*

*New stories on our local equestrian history all the time -visit [www.syvea.org](http://www.syvea.org) today!*

## History of the Santa Ynez Valley Equestrian Association

*By Pat Murphy & Nancy Hunsicker*



## The Four Seasons of the Reined Cow Horse

*By Benny Guitron & Sandy Collier*



## Pat Murphy, A Valley Treasure



## The Early Days of the Thoroughbred in the Santa Ynez Valley

*By Pat Roberts*



## The Valley That Belongs to the Arabian Horse

*By Evie Tubbs Sweeny*





# CHARLOTTE'S

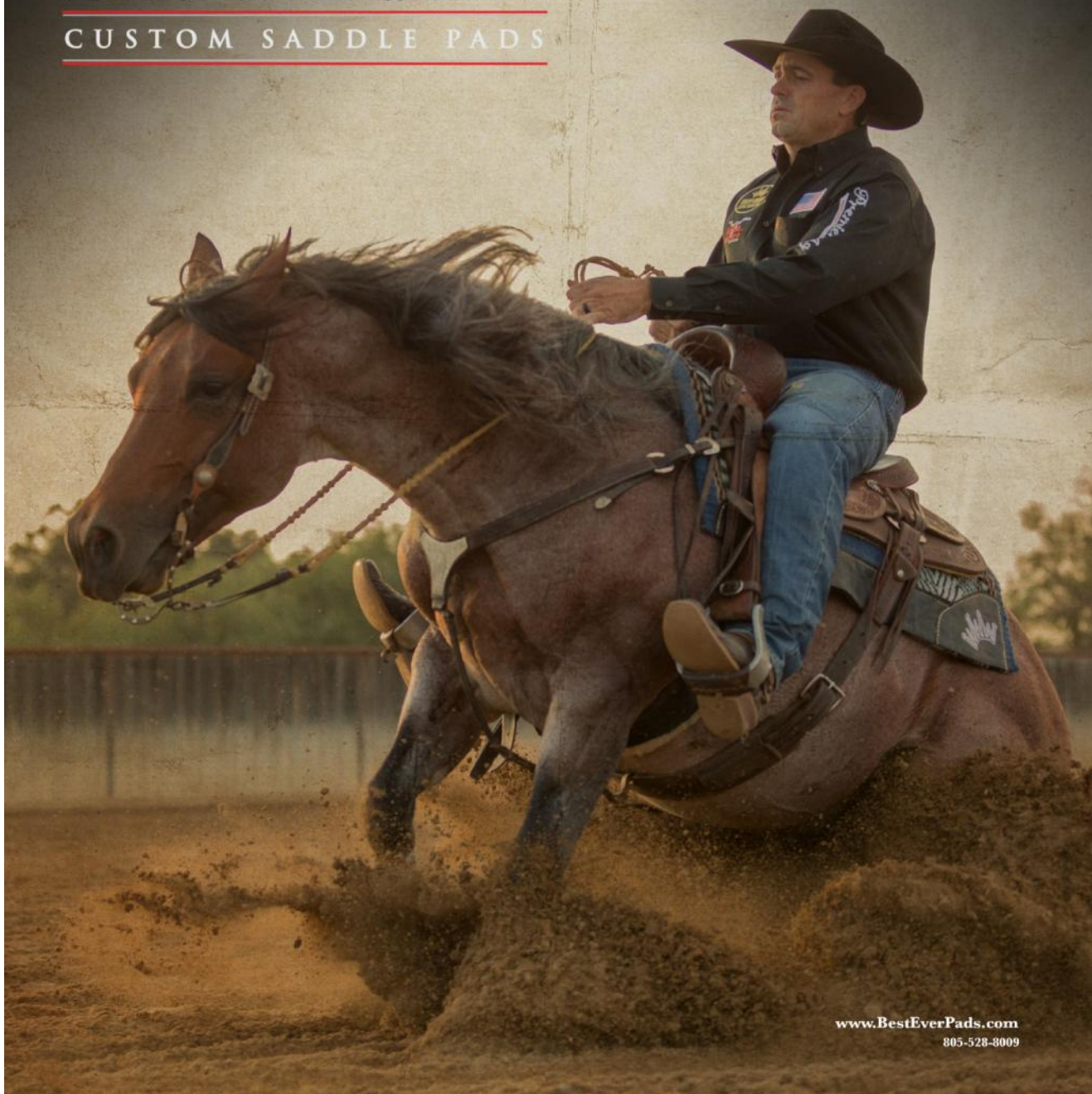
SANTA YNEZ





# BEST EVER

CUSTOM SADDLE PADS



[www.BestEverPads.com](http://www.BestEverPads.com)  
805-528-8009



The mission of the Santa Ynez Valley Equestrian Association is to provide a multi-use facility for equine activities with accompanying educational experiences in order to foster safe and humane horsemanship. Our goal is to develop, maintain and operate our equestrian facility in a manner that preserves and enriches our community's equestrian lifestyle including youth and therapeutic riding. The center is envisioned as a resource that will attract quality equestrian events and innovative instruction to improve the special relationship between horse and human.