



**Bonita Valley Horsemen
General Membership Meeting
February 4, 2009**

Meeting called to order.

Motion passed to approve January 8th, 2009 minutes with the following changes: BVHA changed to reflect correct name BVH in two places.

Old Business:

❖ President Report:

- Response to trail issues that were raised at the January meeting:
 - Trail washout in mitigation area by Western Gateway has been repaired.
 - Muddy area by the Lucky 7 was repaired this weekend by Trail Patrol work party. Thanks to Gene Ames for donating road base material.
 - Marc Pumpkinthief, Supervising Ranger, received a grant for \$93,000 to clean up Steffie Rossi trail. The job is in process with Urban League help.
 - Mark contacted Maryanne Vancio-County Trails Coordinator to find out about the fence that is blocking the Deegen Road trail and the trail thorough the SDG&E property at the end of San Miguel Road. Maryann is looking into both trails.
 - Tieber trail—County crew will be adding more fill in muddy area.
 - Steve Shonherr is looking for 1970's historical pictures from all horse groups for a book he is writing.
 - Seven people have requested the BVH minutes be sent via U.S. mail in lieu of internet distribution.
 - There is a phone line for giving additional feedback on increased use taxes on vet services to Governor Schwarzenegger's office. Please call 916-445-2841, press 1 for English; press 5 for the Veterinary tax proposal. It will ask you to press 1 if you are calling about the veterinary tax proposal; then press 2 to oppose the tax.

❖ Trail Maintenance:

- Work party on February 14 to get ready for the Trail Trials—last minute check. Meet at the Lucky 7 at 8:30 a.m. Plan on about two hours.

❖ Trail Trials:

- The course is set and Jenny has made a map and signs.
- DJ will supply stakes for the signs.
- Judges training will be at 7 p.m. at the Museum on February 18.
- 23 people have pre-registered.
- One person has pre-registered for micro-chipping
- A good volume of donations have been acquired for the raffles. Some of the items include an Aussie saddle, and Aussie hat, saddle pads, halters, fly masks, headstall, Outback meal certificates, feedbags, Summit Camping coupons, Highway 125 toll passes.
- Anyone interested in donating a new or used item for the raffle will receive 5 free raffle tickets.
- Marc Pumpkinthief will have the upper meadow moved for overflow parking.
- Round pen at Summit will have weeds cleared by the park staff or at our next work party.

- BVH business cards will be printed up so they can be given out at the trials.

❖ Membership Report:

- The BVH monthly meetings will continue to be held at the Bonita Museum on the 1st Wednesday of the month. Payment will be made through November, 2009.

New Business:

- DJ, San Diego Humane Society:
 - We need to get the word out that in a disaster like the fires and the recent floods, it is imperative that people have emergency supplies that would last up to 72 hours for themselves and their animals (i.e., food, clothing, etc.). Typically, help such as the Red Cross and FEMA are not available until then.
 - Just a reminder that it is more dangerous to release your animals during a disaster. Doing so creates dangerous situations. For instance, freed stallions trying to kill each other for territory; animals getting entangled in fences under water, etc. Those “freed” animals have to be controlled before they can go in and rescue “contained” animals which takes time and resources. The Humane Society people cannot enter the water unless properly trained and outfitted. Most are not trained in swift water rescue here in San Diego.
 - The Humane Society is not taking in large animals any longer. The cost of taking care of a large animal until the time it can be released is approximately \$10,000. They do not have this kind of money.
- Mark would like to do some type of donations again this year after the money from the Trail Trials comes in. A suggestion was to donate monies for a new refrigerator to the Park. This discussion has been tabled until March.

❖ Treasurer’s Report:

- Sandy absent. Mark reported that there is one outstanding bill to pay for \$57 to the Post Office. We have received \$890 to date for Trail Trial participants.

Next Bonita Valley Horsemen meeting - March 4th, 2009