



## 2021 NHI Board of Directors

**President** Aldo (AJ) Gigliotti ♣ **Vice President** Shawn Mulholland ♣ **Treasurer** Henry Choi  
**Corresponding Secretary** Sarah Bulgatz ♣ **Recording Secretary** Joan Murphy ♣ **Board Members at Large:**  
Marty McCowen ♣ Kimberly Fishman ♣ Jill Peterson ♣ Kim O'Brien ♣ Beth Roens  
**Caretaker and Keeper-of-the Rental Calendar** Karen Kilian  
*Contact us: [novatohorsemen@gmail.com](mailto:novatohorsemen@gmail.com)*

## 2021 NHI Junior Advisors

Rosella Arnold ♣ Rebecca Cowlin ♣ Toni Shroyer ♣ Henry Choi (Snack Shack Coordinator)

## December Calendar & Events

### Annual Installation & Appreciation Dinner, Sat. Dec. 4

Come celebrate with us! Take the opportunity to reconnect with old friends and make some new ones! Dinner starts at 6:00 p.m. in the clubhouse.

Dinner will be \$20 per guest (to be collected at the door), and reservations are required! RSVP (if you haven't already): [novatohorsemen@gmail.com](mailto:novatohorsemen@gmail.com). Hope to see you there.

### Club Trail Rides

Rides with Trail Boss Rob Dunlap are on hold until the spring (April timeframe) due to uncertain weather – and our fervent wish for lots of rain.

### December 2021 NHI Meeting Dates

**General Meeting** – Will be part of the Installation & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner, Saturday, Dec. 4, 6:00 p.m.

**Joint Board Meeting** (Current and 2022 Board of Directors) – Tuesday, Dec. 7.

**Junior Board Meeting** – Tuesday, Dec. 14

**Senior Board Meeting** – Tuesday, Dec. 21.



**Happy Holidays!**

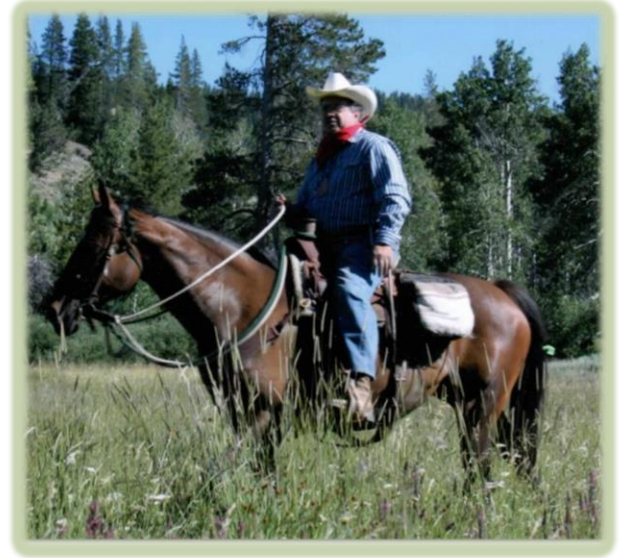


## President's Message, December 2021

### Dear Members:

We are closing in on the last days of 2021, a year in which we saw a partial return to normal club activities. We are expecting NHI activities to fully return to normal in 2022. Wow!! It has been a long while. Please save the date for our Annual Crab Feed, which is currently planned for February 12, 2022.

I would like to extend my gratitude to Shawn, Henry, Sarah and Joan for all their hard work and commitment while serving as officers this year. I also wish to thank Kim, Jill, Beth, Alyssa, Kimberly and Marty for their dedication to the club as Board Members at Large. For the last several years Kim, Jill, Beth and Alyssa have worked diligently on behalf of the club, and although they will not be serving as part of the leadership team in 2022, their input has been and will continue to be greatly appreciated. I want to thank them for their service and contribution for the betterment of NHI.



It is wonderful to see members like Mark Carpenter, Casey Rodd and Vinny McCarthy stepping up and agreeing to take part in the 2022 leadership team. At the December meeting, the membership will be asked to vote on electing Stephen Schwindt for one of the two yet-unfilled Board positions. Stephen is a long-time member and has been involved with the club for many years. If anyone else is interested in serving on the 2022 Board, please reach out to me.

We are also looking for volunteers interested in contributing to the club's marketing and communications. If this is something you might be interested in, please reach out to Sarah or me.

Our Annual Installation & Volunteer Appreciation Dinner will be at the clubhouse on Saturday, December 4, beginning at 6:00 p.m. We will have a swearing-in ceremony for the 2022 Officers and Directors. The dinner menu will consist of salad, a variety of enchiladas, rice, beans and dessert. It may include chips and salsa, too!! Rather than do a potluck dinner, we are arranging to have the food prepared by a local restaurant, and the club will supply the salad and dessert. Since the club has had few revenue-generating activities this year, we are charging \$20 per person for dinner.

With respect to Covid guidelines during the Installation Dinner, we will comply with Marin County Guidelines, which state that those fully vaccinated need not wear a mask. Those who are not vaccinated are still required to wear masks. We will have masks available at the door for anyone in need, and we will also have hand sanitizers available.

Amy Hutchison is working on a Food Drive for the Marin Humane Society and Marin Food Bank. More details, including dates and times for this drive-by food drive are on page 9 of this newsletter. As the weather gets colder and we get more rain, food needs increase for people and pets alike. I encourage all members to make a donation, however small, during our annual food drive to lend a helping hand to those in need in our community.

I wish all club members and their families a safe and joyful holiday season.  
Happy trails!! Stay safe.

AJ



**Want to host a clinic or schedule an event/program at NHI?**  
If you'd like to reserve any 2022 dates, contact Karen Kilian. She will let you know the procedures for approval: 415-897-0794 or [1EeyoreNut@gmail.com](mailto:1EeyoreNut@gmail.com).



## Activities at and Around NHI

### A Few Halloween Shenanigans

Clockwise, starting at top right: Melinda Darlington-Bach & Fancy Pants; Morgan Graziano & Little Six as a bike and Tour de France rider; Robin Woodruff as an Octopus with her trusty little Scuba Diver; Nancy Kerson with Piney, the Clydesdale wanna-be; and Kendall Bayer & Daisy as bumblebees.



## Activities at and Around NHI (Cont.)

### More Halloween shenanigans...

Clockwise, starting at top right: Michelle Mendoza & her horse's worst nightmare (vet, balloons, tarp, tinsel and cow); Stephanie Feisty Davis, the wicked witch of the west astride her broom; and yet another witch (Sarah Bulgatz) and her similarly hairy apprentice.



## Activities at and Around NHI (Cont.)

### Reese Knowlton Gives Juniors a Driving Demo

NHI Juniors moved their Tuesday, Nov 9, meeting to Thursday, Nov. 11, so they could have a special driving demo with Reese Knowlton and her minis, Cowboy and Ace. While both minis are trained for team-driving, Reese brought her single horse cart for convenience. Reese demonstrated how to start a horse by getting him used to the tack on his body and the feeling of a bit in his mouth. She talked about the benefit of ground-driving to get started, and getting the horse accustomed to dragging an object behind him like a rubber mat or tire. She identified each piece of tack used for driving and its purpose. Reese also emphasized the importance of teaching miniature horses a useful skill, enabling them to be more than a “pasture pet” and thus giving them more value. If they have training in show or driving, people are more likely to better care for them and not allow them to get sold from home to home. She answered a few questions, like how much weight can they pull? (Answer: three to four times their weight, if conditioned.) Once she got Cowboy hitched to the cart, she gave Juniors the opportunity to ride with her around the parking lot. Since she didn't have the team cart, she tied Ace to the cart so he could walk with his buddy, Cowboy.

Thank you for this great instruction, Reese!



## Congratulations to the NHI Juniors New 2022 Board of Directors

**President:** Morgan Graziano

**Past President:** Gabe Choi

**Vice President:** Molly Duffin

**Treasurer:** Pyper Arnold

**Secretary:** Hanna Corneliussen

**Sergeant of Arms:** Nicole Shroyer, Summer Nelson, Ali Bertram

**Advisors:** Carolyn Conner, Rosella Arnold, Toni Shroyer



## Membership Update

### Welcome to Our New Members!

At its general meeting on Nov. 2, the following new members were voted in: A big welcome to Melinda Darlington-Bach, Kalli Duranczyk & Mike Edwards, Meg & Dan McSweeney, and Cynthia Pepper! We are happy to have you.

### New Member Applicants

#### Michael Dawson—sponsored by Wendy Taylor

"I live in San Francisco where I work at Pocket Gems, a mobile game company. As my parents live in Novato, I visit regularly. I am keen to join Novato Horsemen so as to meet other people in the area who also enjoy riding horses. Wendy Taylor has been very kind to introduce me to Novato Horsemen, and to let me ride with her Icelandic horse as a first way to get involved!

As background, I started riding in 2000, my freshman year of college. I was walking through our school gym, and the polo team was offering free polo lessons. I thought it would be a fun, one-time experience. But I loved my first lesson, and then fell in love with the sport as I played more that year. I joined the polo team, playing all around the country as well as in England, and was captain my senior year.

I continued to play in Connecticut and Argentina for a few years while living in New York City after college, then came to grad school in Palo Alto, where I played and coached Stanford's undergrad team. From 2011-2013, I played polo at Wine Country Polo Club in Santa Rosa. In 2014, I started playing at Cerro Pampa polo club in Petaluma, where I also started to build out my string. Our season is typically May-October, but varies a bit year to year. I currently have two Argentine polo ponies, one Appaloosa, and one Thoroughbred/Criollo mix from California. In all this, I love partnering with my horses as we play!"



## Don't Forget to Renew your Membership for 2022!

You may already have received a renewal form via snail mail, but if not – or if you've misplaced it – just use the form on the following pages. Don't forget to renew! There are so many benefits to being an NHI member:

- 🐾 Use of an expansive facility where you can practice your skills (and your horse's skills) in a large, regularly groomed arena and smaller warm-up arena or round pen.
- 🐾 Easy access to the beautiful trails of Rush Creek open space.
- 🐾 Guided club rides in beautiful Marin County locations with an experienced trail boss.
- 🐾 Cow program – the only program in the Bay Area that offers weekly ranch cutting and team penning during the late spring through the early fall.
- 🐾 Clinics, play dates and shows – fun for riders of all ages and disciplines.
- 🐾 Social events with other like-minded equestrians. Some of these include community benefit drives, the Haunted House, annual Crab Feed, dinners, etc.
- 🐾 Discounted pricing on club rentals and advertising.

**NOVATO HORSEMEN, INC.**  
 P.O. BOX 456, NOVATO, CA 94948  
**SENIOR MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – 2022**

To Be Completed By NHI	
.....	
Ck# _____ \$ _____	Date Voted In _____
Date Card Mailed _____	

Name of Member \_\_\_\_\_ Spouse \_\_\_\_\_  
 New Member(s)  Renewal(s)  Lifetime Member(s)   
 Mailing Address:

Street	City State Zip
<u>Member</u>	<u>Spouse</u>
Phone: _____	Phone: _____
Email: _____	Email: _____

**Annual Dues**

Individual Membership  \$100.00    Associate Membership  \$25    Couples Membership  \$150.00  
 Individual Initiation/Late Fee  \$30.00    Couples Initiation/Late Fee  \$60.00

*New members (and existing members renewing after the March General Meeting) are subject to the initiation/late fee.*

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ (required for new members)

**Areas of Interest (check all that apply!)**

- Equestrian:*  Horse Shows    Trail Tests    Cattle Events    Dressage    Gymkana    Jumping    Clinics  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Social Events:*  Trail Rides    Meetings    Crab Feed    Haunted House    Dinner Dance    July 4th Parade  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_
- Miscellaneous:*  Work Parties    Bartending    Cooking    BBQ    Computer Tech    Contractor Skills  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_

**MEMBERSHIP AGREEMENT**

As a member, I hereby agree to abide by the Rules and Bylaws of Novato Horsemen, Inc. I understand that if I am a new member, I must attend a General Membership Meeting within 60 days of submitting this application to complete the requirements for membership. If I do not attend a meeting, the dues and initiation fee are retained by Novato Horsemen, Inc., and membership is canceled.

✓ Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_ ✓ Member Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**WAIVER & RELEASE OF LIABILITY FORM**

I (We) have read the contract on the back (or attached hereto) of this Senior Membership Application and I (we) am (are) aware that the contract is legally binding and that I (we) am (are) giving up legal rights and/or remedies to assert a claim for negligence.

Signature – Contracting party	Date
Printed Name	Printed Name

cut here



Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Must attend a general membership meeting within 60 days to complete the requirements for membership**

Received by \_\_\_\_\_

Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Cash \_\_\_\_\_  
 Amount Received \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

## WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

I (we) am (are) voluntarily entering into the following agreement with NOVATO HORSEMEN, INC. and/or NOVATO JUNIOR HORSEMEN ("NJH") together with their sponsors, property owners, officials, and affiliates and their respective directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, representatives, and affiliated persons or entities (all of these persons and entities will collectively be referred to in this agreement as "NHI").

In addition to myself (ourselves), I (we) also make this agreement on behalf of the following persons who are my (our) children or legal wards (under 18 years of age). These persons may attend or participate in open events sponsored or organized by NHI or closed events of members of NHI, and I (we) agree to bind them to this agreement:         

Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_ Child's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

All parts of this agreement shall apply to me (us) and the children/legal wards listed above. [We will collectively call ourselves "I", "me", "my", "we", "us" or "our" throughout this agreement.] This agreement shall be binding at all times, now and in the future, when NHI permits me (us) (directly or indirectly) to attend or participate in events sponsored or organized by NHI at any location.

In consideration of NHI allowing me (us) and/or my (our) minor children or legal wards to attend or participate in events sponsored or organized, in whole or in part, by NHI, I (we) agree as follows:

**1. EXPRESS ASSUMPTION OF RISKS.** When preparing for, entering, attending, participating in, or leaving events sponsored or organized in whole or in part by NHI. Horses, mules and ponies are unpredictable by nature. For example, when frightened, angry, or under stress, the natural instincts of a horse, mule or pony are to jump forward or sideways, or run away from danger by trotting or galloping. Horses, mules and ponies are also known to kick, buck, rear up, spin around, strike, or bite. I (we) know that horses, mules or ponies can do these things without warning. I (we) also understand that all horses, mules and ponies are powerful and could have the potential to be dangerous to people who ride, handle, or are around them.

Further, I (we) understand that riding, handling, or being near a horse, mule or pony can expose me (us) to numerous hazards, which could include, for example: the propensity of a horse, mule or pony to behave in ways that may result in injury, harm, or death to persons around them; the unpredictability of a horse, mule or pony's reaction to sounds, sudden movements, and unfamiliar objects, persons, or other animals; certain hazards such as surface or subsurface conditions on the land; and/or collisions with other horses, mules, cattle, ponies, or objects. I (we) understand that these risks and dangers can occur with or without negligence on part of NHI, and I (we) expressly agree to assume all of these risks. I (we) also understand that these are just some risks, and I (we) agree to assume others; I (we) am (are) not relying on NHI to list all possible risks for me (us).

**2. WAIVER AND LIABILITY RELEASE.** As lawful consideration for being permitted to attend or participate in events sponsored or organized, in whole or in part, by NHI at any location, now and in the future, I (we) agree to assume full responsibility for any and all bodily injuries or damages which I (we) may sustain when engaging in these and other activities caused by the ordinary negligence of NHI. The term "damages" means, for example, medical expenses; losses incurred because of bodily injuries or property damages, and/or personal property damages. I (we), for my (our) heirs, administrators, personal representatives, agents, and assigns, waive, release, discharge, and covenant not to sue Novato Horsemen, Inc. and/or Novato Junior Horsemen, together with their sponsors, property owners, officials, and affiliates and their respective directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, representatives, affiliated persons or entities, and others acting on their behalf of and from any and all claims, damages, actions, omissions, suits, or causes of action (present and future), whether or not the claims are known or unknown, arising out of the ordinary negligence of any of these parties.

**3. INDEMNITY AGREEMENT.** I (we) also agree to indemnify and hold harmless Novato Horsemen, Inc. and/or Novato Junior Horsemen, together with their sponsors, property owners, officials, and affiliates and their respective directors, officers, employees, agents, volunteers, representatives, affiliated persons or entities, and other acting on their behalf against all damages which are sustained or suffered by any third person(s) [people who are not parties to this Agreement, including, but not limited to, participants, spectators, visitors, guests, or others], including any and all injuries or damages whatsoever that I (we) [or my(our) horse(s), mule(s) or pony(ies)] may cause, directly or indirectly, while attending or participating in events sponsored or organized in whole or in part by NHI. The indemnity shall include reimbursement of NHI's attorney fees and court costs.

**4. PROTECTIVE HEADGEAR.** For my protection, NHI advises me (us) to consider purchasing and wearing properly fitted and secured ASTM-standard/SEI-certified protective equestrian headgear when riding or when near horses or ponies I (we) am (are) not relying on NHI to monitor my (our) compliance with this suggestion, and I (we) understand that NHI will not check my (our) helmet (if I (we) wear one) or provide one for me (us) (if I (we) do not).

**5. MISCELLANEOUS.** This agreement is governed by California law and is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted under the law. Should any clause conflict with California law, only that clause will be null and void and the remainder shall stay in effect. This agreement can only be modified or terminated by a written agreement that is signed by the President of NHI and me. If I (we) breach this agreement, I (we) agree to pay attorney's fees and court costs incurred by NHI related to such breach.

**6. HEALTH AND DISABILITIES.** Many disabilities have conditions that pose special physical risks to participants during exercise. Horseback riding is exercise. I (we) understand that NHI recommends that I (we) seek the advice of a physician before participating in activities that involve riding or being near horses, mules or ponies.

### 7. ALSO, I (WE) REPRESENT THAT:

- AT THE TIME I (WE) AM (ARE) SIGNING THIS, I (WE) AM (ARE) OF SOUND MIND AND NOT SUFFERING FROM SHOCK OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL, DRUGS, OR INTOXICANTS;
- I (WE) HAVE CAREFULLY READ THIS WAIVER AND RELEASE OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT (BOTH PAGES), AND I (WE) FULLY UNDERSTAND IT; AND
- I (WE) AM (ARE) AWARE THAT THIS CONTRACT IS LEGALLY BINDING AND THAT I (WE) AM (ARE) GIVING UP LEGAL RIGHTS AND/OR REMEDIES TO ASSERT A CLAIM FOR NEGLIGENCE.

_____ Signature -Contracting Party	_____ Date	_____ Signature -Contracting Party	_____ Date
_____ Printed Name		_____ Printed Name	



## December Food Drive to Benefit Those in Need

If anyone would like to volunteer for one of the shifts at NHI to accept drive-through donations, please reach out to Amy Hutchinson, contact info below. Juniors wanted to help sort donations, too!



# ANNUAL HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

To benefit the **Marin Food Bank** and **Marin Humane Pet Care Assistance Program**



**FOOD DRIVE**



**Collecting Donations 3 weekends in a row  
Dec 4th & 5th, Dec 11th & 12th,  
and Dec 18th & 19th  
Between 10am-1pm**

Novato Horsemen's Club House located at 600 Bugeia Lane, Novato  
**Contact Free Touchless Drop Off Drive-Thru**  
Stay in your car and just pop your trunk and we will remove donation bags!  
The food bank requests canned or dry food donations only  
(no glass jars or perishable foods please)

The Humane Society requests unopened  
Cat, Kitten, Dog, and Puppy food (canned and dried goods)  
Cat litter and toys and treats too! Please no bags over 10lbs.

**For more information please call:  
Amy Hutchinson 415-517-3907**

## Classified Ads

Remember, classified ad submissions are due by the 21<sup>st</sup> of each month in order to be published in the next newsletter. NHI members get five free ads each year! If you have an ad you'd like to have published in the January newsletter, just send it to [NovatoHorsemen@Gmail.com](mailto:NovatoHorsemen@Gmail.com) by Dec. 21. Advertising guidelines are on our [website](#).

### Horse Trailer Wanted

Looking for a horse Trailer in good condition for three or more horses. Sleeping accommodations not needed. Need for emergency evacuations. Text/Call Toni Shroyer 415-640-2754

### Looking for a One-of-a-Kind Gift?

Check out [Berkov Designs Lost Leaves Jewelry](http://www.berkovdesigns.com/lost-leaves.html). Unique, hand-crafted gold earrings, pendants and rings, made with a variety of precious and semi-precious stones. Gems include black and fire opal, spinel, sapphire, demantoid garnet, zircon and more. For more info, visit <http://www.berkovdesigns.com/lost-leaves.html>, or call (415) 892-1830; [cberkov@comcast.net](mailto:cberkov@comcast.net).



**Toni Shroyer**  
REALTOR®, SRES, TOP AGENT  
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**COLDWELL BANKER**  
RESIDENTIAL BROKERAGE

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