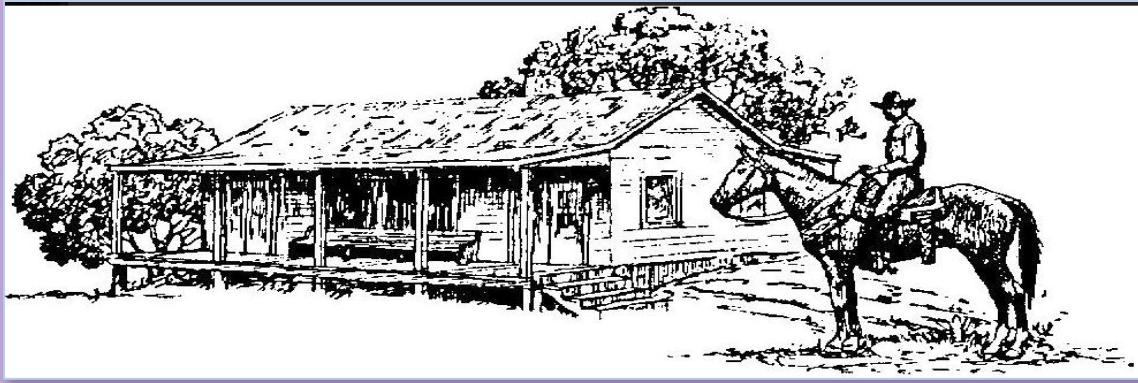


# Novato Horsemen, Inc. Newsletter – May 2021



## 2021 Board of Directors:

President	AJ Gigliotti	415-898-4480	<a href="mailto:agtis88@gmail.com">agtis88@gmail.com</a>
Vice President	Shawn Mulholland	415-279-2502	<a href="mailto:shawnmulholland@gmail.com">shawnmulholland@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Henry Choi	415-730-5539	<a href="mailto:hhc1968@yahoo.com">hhc1968@yahoo.com</a>
Recording Secretary	Joan Murphy	415-519-8423	<a href="mailto:immurphy49@comcast.net">immurphy49@comcast.net</a>
Corresponding Secretary	Sarah Bulgatz	415-827-5137	<a href="mailto:sbulgatz@comcast.net">sbulgatz@comcast.net</a>
Past President	Alyssa Aubrey	707-878-2440	<a href="mailto:alyssa@horsedream.us">alyssa@horsedream.us</a>

## 2021 Board Members at Large:

Kimberly Fishman	415-310-1862	<a href="mailto:carriagerental@yahoo.com">carriagerental@yahoo.com</a>
Kim O'Brien	415-895-1111	<a href="mailto:kimbrienbangkok@yahoo.com">kimbrienbangkok@yahoo.com</a>
Marty McCowen	415-309-6710	<a href="mailto:Mmccowen@comcast.net">Mmccowen@comcast.net</a>
Beth Roens	415-613-9955	<a href="mailto:b_roens@hotmail.com">b_roens@hotmail.com</a>
Mike Willin	415-519-1193	<a href="mailto:raceyralph@gmail.com">raceyralph@gmail.com</a>

## 2021 Junior Advisors:

Rosella Arnold	415-516-8158	<a href="mailto:rosellaarnold@yahoo.com">rosellaarnold@yahoo.com</a>
Rebecca Cowlin	415-497-0681	<a href="mailto:rebecca@afterhoursmktg.com">rebecca@afterhoursmktg.com</a>
Toni Shroyer	415-640-2754	<a href="mailto:tonishroyer@hotmail.com">tonishroyer@hotmail.com</a>

## Snack Shack Coordinator:

Henry Choi	415-730-5539	<a href="mailto:hhc1968@yahoo.com">hhc1968@yahoo.com</a>
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## Calendar & Events

### May 2021 Meeting Dates:

General Meeting – Cancelled

Junior Meeting – Tuesday, 5/11 Senior Board Meeting – Tuesday, 5/18

### Morning Star Farm & O'Hair Park Trail Safety Event:

Saturday, May 1, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., 855 Sutro Ave.

Keep trails safe for all users! Horse people needed to come staff our tent. We need riders and horse ambassadors to join us, too. If you can, please bring refreshments for our table. Nothing homemade allowed due to Covid-19, but you're welcome to bring canned drinks and packaged snacks. Dog(s) must be on leash.

### Work Parties Coming Up at NHI! Sat., May 15, and Sat, May 22, 9:00-12:00.

Bring your elbow grease! Remember, many hands make light work. Mowing, weed-wacking, weed-pulling, cleaning, and miscellaneous other tasks need doing. Mark your calendar and come donate some sweat equity!

### Want to host a clinic or schedule an event/program at NHI?

If you'd like to reserve any 2021 or 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).



## President's Message, May 2021

Dear Members:

With the decline in Covid 19 infections and the increasing number of people getting their vaccinations, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Marin is getting close to being in a yellow tier in the coming weeks, and the State may remove restrictions by the middle of June, if we do not see any major spikes in infection numbers.

We hope to resume in-person general meetings in July, if current positive trends continue. Efforts are under way to bring cattle in during the latter part of May. Our cattle programs provide an excellent opportunity for members and their horses to work with cattle, whether penning, sorting or participating in any of the other cattle programs. No prior experience is required. We

will publish schedules, programs and costs next month. If any member is interested in serving on the cattle committee or would like to chair any of the programs, our Cattle Chair, Scott Colvin, would welcome your assistance. Let me or Scott know if you're interested in serving.

Over the years, the club has relied on members volunteering to help keep the grounds and the clubhouse in good shape, and this need continues today. Work party days are a great way to meet fellow members and assist the club. Shawn Mulholland and Karen Kilian have assembled a long list of tasks that need to be tackled. We have scheduled two work parties in May to begin addressing these tasks: May 15 and May 22, both Saturdays, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. You don't need to have any specific skill; just bring a pair of work gloves and your willingness to lend a hand! I encourage all members to plan on attending at least one of these work party events. Your participation is critical to maintaining this organization. Of course, you're not limited just to scheduled work parties. If you have free time, you are always welcome to contact Karen Kilian and come down to NHI when you can, and help with some open tasks. Let us all pitch in to keep our club grounds clean and in good order.

On a more somber note, we just learned that renowned Bay Area dressage trainer and judge Sue Curry of Fairwind Farm unexpectedly passed away. This is a huge loss for the equestrian community, and our hearts go out to her family, friends and students. We never know what tomorrow holds in store, nor even if tomorrow will arrive. It's in that spirit that I'd like to encourage everyone to hold your loved ones close and try to make the most of every moment and every day.

I hope everyone's been saddling up and getting their equines in shape for future club rides and cattle events. Happy trails, and stay safe.

AJ

\* \* \*





## Getting to Know the 2021 Board of Directors

### Q & A with Board Member at Large Marty McCowen

#### What are your responsibilities on the Board?

As a member at large, I feel it is my responsibility to weigh in on all issues relating to NHI, chair committees as needed and support the entire Board of Directors in every way possible.



*Marty and her main squeeze, Little Six.*

#### Where do you currently work, or what do you do professionally?

I am now retired (since 2006) from a long career at UCSF Medical Center where I was a department head.

#### How do horses fit in your life?

I got my first horse when I was 11 years old and have had them on and off since then. My current horse is an AQHA gelding named Little Six boarded across the street from NHI. My granddaughter is a Junior Horsemen board member. She is also a 4 H member and a vaulter with Morning Star Vaulters, so you can most often find us at “the barn.”

#### How long have you been a member of NHI and how long have you lived in Novato?

My husband and I moved to Novato from Larkspur 11 years ago, and I have been a member of NHI for 5 years. I grew up in Kansas City, Missouri.

#### In your opinion, what's the greatest opportunity that NHI has in the coming months/years?

I am looking forward to a great 2021 for NHI! I think we have a great opportunity to capitalize on the pent-up demand for horse shows, clinics, and gymkhanas that were all so badly missed last year. I'm hoping that we have a busy late summer and fall calendar!

#### Aside from things equine, what are your hobbies/interests?

Aside from all things equine, my other interests include European travel, hiking (especially in the Dolomites), outdoor photography, mountain biking, snorkeling and stand-up paddle boarding—in warm waters only.



*Marty and husband Earl at the Rifugio Tuckett in the Italian Alps*

## On the Trail

### Words of Wisdom from Buck Brannaman

“You get that horse to really operate as if he’s your legs, and you can take that anywhere you want. You can dress up in any kind of clothes you like. You can be a jumper, dressage rider, trail rider, cowboy, anything.”

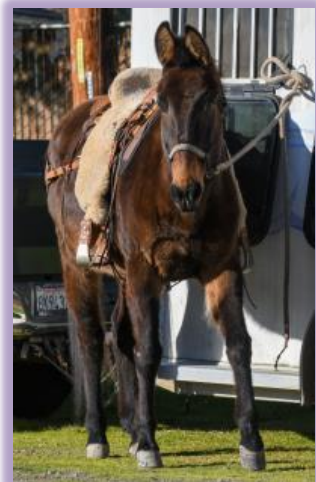
“These folks who say, ‘Nah, I don’t need all that fancy riding stuff. I just want to trail ride.’ That’s like saying, ‘I’m going to die out in the trees instead of in the arena.’”

### Leash Law at O’Hair Park

If anyone is threatened by dogs off leash at O’Hair Park, they should call the Marin Humane Society’s main number at 415.883.4621 to report any issues. Dogs threatening horses and riders are considered an emergency, and officers will respond immediately.

### Mike Bridges Project Clinic

The last weekend of March brought Mike Bridges to town for Session 6 of the Novato Bridle Horse Project. The session included lots of learning and practice on gymnastic movements, including travers (haunches in) at the trot on a 40-foot circle, cantering a 20-foot circle; backing circles in arc; and striving to move all body parts with softness, suppleness and feel. Thanks to Debbie Wiegmann for her spectacular photography and to Scott Colvin for hosting the clinic.





## Membership Update

### New Members

Welcome new member Louise Mock (sponsored by Nancy Ley). Louise was approved as a new member by the Board at its monthly meeting on April 20.

### Membership Applicant: Kate Taylor, sponsored by Wendy Taylor



“Hello! I’m Kate, Wendy Taylor’s daughter, who has Saedis and Úlfir. I have been riding for as long as I can remember and have a deep appreciation for the bonding capabilities of horses. I love animals of all shapes and sizes and for the longest time growing up I was sure I would be a veterinarian (my math skills decided otherwise!). One of the many reasons I chose to go to Skidmore College was its fantastic equestrian program where I took private lessons for three years and participated in its JV Polo team in 2011. I also have experience leasing a horse, who was a half-blind Appaloosa named Twister, back in New Jersey. We once did a jousting clinic together! My preferred seat is English, but I am trained in Western as well. I just moved to Vallejo, and am eager to join the Novato community this summer. I am looking forward to meeting all of you and learning about the group over at Novato Horsemen.”

*Kate, with her mom’s Icelandic, Saedis.*

\* \* \*

Until we can resume our monthly in-person general meetings, new membership applications will continue to be handled via this newsletter. Applicants for NHI membership should submit with their application a brief introduction (i.e., a brief bio) and a photo, which we will publish in the next newsletter. This process will be in lieu of in-person introductions and voting in at a general meeting. If any 2021 senior NHI members have reservations about any new applicants, they should contact a Board member. The Board will accept each new member as voted in at the following Board meeting, if no objections have been received.



## Arena and Club Grounds

Please remember to keep all our Club gates closed, all the time. Even the most accomplished handlers have been known to lose control of an equine partner – and what a potential disaster it would be for one of our four-legged friends to go charging off the Club grounds into the busy street. (It has happened.) Signs are posted on the main entry gate as well as on arena and round corral gates. Please respect this important rule for everyone's safety.

### Reminder: NHI Club Use Rules

- The club is open to members only, and for the purpose of riding and/or exercising your horses.
- **Masks are required to be worn** if you are closer than six feet from anyone who is not a member of your household. In other words, persons who are outdoors and maintaining a distance of at least six feet from others are not required to wear a mask. However, such persons must have a face covering with them at all times and must put it on if they are within six feet of others who are not from their household.
- No other form of socializing on club grounds is allowed at this time.
- Main Arena: No more than 6 riders at a time, maintaining social distance.
- Turnouts now allowed if no riders are waiting to ride.
- Warm-Up Arena: No more than 2 riders at a time, maintaining social distance.
- Round Pen: No more than 1 rider at a time. Turnouts allowed.
- Riders are allowed to ride for one hour in the arenas.
- Please keep track of your time and be respectful if others are waiting to ride.
- Riders may use the club for up to 2 hours (split between arenas) but must exit the club grounds after 2 hours. This will reduce the possibility of "gatherings."
- Trails are open! You may haul to the club grounds to park and then ride out from NHI via along the road. Do not use the old access trails behind the clubhouse.



## Volunteers at Work

A big thank-you to Toni and Nicole Shroyer for their ongoing volunteerism. They were not able to make it to the weed-pulling work party last month so they decided to have one of their own.

And another big thank-you to Lauren Magner, for her ongoing work pulling weeds and cleaning up the club grounds! Your efforts are deeply appreciated!

Reminder: Mowing, weed-pulling and raking up eucalyptus tree debris are all ongoing maintenance items, and we welcome volunteerism any day of the week! Don't feel compelled to wait for a work party to do a little hands-on work at our club. The mower and gas are always available in the ATV shed next to the announcer's booth. You can dispose of weeds and eucalyptus debris in the dumpster near the tractor shed.





NHI Member News & Photos



*Jeanie Hayes' llama, Coco (at left) likes to keep tabs on what's happening on the other side of the gate. Could he be jealous?*

*Meanwhile, Jeanie steals a hug from one of her feathered friends.*



*But no one gets left out at Jeanie's farm. There's plenty of loving to go around!*





**NHI Member News & Photos (Cont.)**

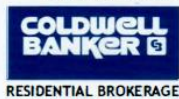


*Karen Beckmann was finally able to visit her daughter, Grace, in Colorado. They went on a beautiful trail ride together! Zippy, Ryot and Grace love their Colorado life!*

**Classified Ads**



**Toni Shroyer**  
REALTOR®, SRES, TOP AGENT  
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