



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

July/August 2013

What's in this edition:

Many THANKS to all who helped make our 2013 July 4th Parade and Picnic another fantastically fun patriot celebration

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JULY 4TH PARADE AND PICNIC wrap-up

Many thanks to Lois Love who headed up the local Parade volunteers and to Tracy Bunetta who organized the picnic committee. Here is the news from Lois and Tracy on this year's July 4 celebrations

Once again the 4th of July Parade with Theme "Then and Now" was a great success. Although it was smaller than in the past, it did not lack the usual enthusiasm, diversity and creativity on the part of participants, and delighted cheering by the Parade viewers. It kicked off under the experienced direction of Yehuda Netanel at 10:30 am led by the flags and banner bearers. The parade included

local heroes, Station 67 Firemen, Mark Mehner's classic fire truck carrying the Junior Grand Marshal (Duri Clark), the Edenwild Float "Tingling Brothers Classic Circus and Cirque du Nido", Patriot Dogs and Bicycles, Equestrians, Donkeys, vintage Lincoln Continental, ETI truck, ladies and gentlemen in patriotic bikinis, patriotic golf cart, and horse drawn carriage.

THE FOLLOWING ARE WINNERS IN THE 2013 MONTE NIDO FOURTH OF JULY PARADE:

Best Patriotic Costumes:

Sylvain Leroy and son

Derrick

Best Patriotic Flower

Display:

Corral 36 Riders & Caboose

Best Classic Car: Tom

McGuire and his Lincoln

Healing Pets for Vets Award:

Victoria Netanel and

Miniature Ponies

Yankee Doodle Poodle

Award: Poodle with Leashes

Best Representation of

Theme: **a Tie**

Monte Nido Riders –
Lauri, Mike and Carol

Then – Grandmother &
Now – Granddaughter Horse and
Cart - Stephanie Abronson

Best Acrobatic

Performance: The Acrobats
with Cirque De Nido:

Most Humorous: Buttercup
the Caveman

Oldest Neighborhood

Working Engine: Mehner
Fire Truck

Best Patriotic Wheels: Henry
and Peter Swanson on Bikes

Shiniest Truck: Patty Gaunt

Best Dancing Horse: Sherry
van't Riet

Best Prepared in an

Emergency: Fire Engine 67

GRAND PRIZE: Tingling
Brothers Classic Circus –
Cirque De Nido (Edenwild)

Special thanks to the judges: Cathy Ikkanda, Greg Aftergood, Bonnie Aharoni, Paul and Lynn Tade.

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE NEXT YEAR

July 4 Picnic

Many THANKS to Phil Fleeman for your continued generosity in allowing us to use your beautiful meadow for the July 4 Picnic.

The picnic was again tons of fun with food, games, and patriotic celebrating put together by Tracy Bunetta and a cast of wonderful volunteers:

Special thanks to Reva Smilkstein for organizing the raffle with assistance from Sheila Rosenthal, Lisa Wells and Deborah Capogrosso-Roth

Rick and Tamara Wasserman for the Bake Sale

Rod Bergen for reprising his role as Emcee

Thanks to: Henry Shea for the games

Gail Lowe for ticket sales

The fabulous Seiling family and Pony Club for the BBQ

Yellow Marbles for the great rendition of the National Anthem

Sherry DaSilva for the recycling and trash

Meet Your Neighbor

Ann Monahan sends this note out to MNVCA Newsletter readers:

Hi Everyone. I would like to start a column entitled "Meet Your Neighbor." I am searching for the longest inhabitant of our Great Community and the newest. If you moved in during the 1960's please let me know and if you are new to the area, do the same. I would love to interview you by e-mail, phone, or in person for the next Monte Nido News. My e-mail is youthatre@AOL.com and my phone is 818-222-7239. Get in touch. I would love to talk with you.

Ann Monahan

Local Rattle Snake Wrangler

Reva Smilkstein asked us to share this information with Monte Nido locals who need to deal with rattlesnakes without harming these very important environmental players in our slice of paradise.

Snake Wrangler Bo Slyapich, a Calabasas resident, is a well-known authority on rattlesnakes with 48 years of experience. He offers a service wherein he will come to your home to address a rattlesnake problem as an alternative to killing the rattlers. His website is rattlesnakewrangler.com and he can be reached at his office at 818-880-4269 or on his cell at 818-383-0476.

MEMORIALS FOR LINDA PALMER

Linda Palmer, who played an instrumental role in establishing the trails system in the Santa Monica Mountains, passed away in early July. Her politically astute leadership served the community well in winning support for trails and land conservation from many sources. Memorial tributes to Linda were provided below by Ruth Gerson and Don Wallace. Linda was the recipient of an array of awards for her volunteer and service work and for some amazing equestrian competitive riding.

Ruth Gerson writes:

"Linda Palmer, Los Angeles County native, retired actress, wife, mother and grandmother became an ardent open space and trail activist upon moving to the Santa Monica Mountains in 1975 with her family and her horse. She joined the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council Board of Directors and helped design and promote Los Angeles County's trail plan for the Santa Monica Mountains."

"One of her horses was Midas, a Palomino Tennessee Walker; and she taught him many tricks including rearing on command. Another horse was Baraka, an Arabian with whom she did endurance riding and trail riding. She had the fastest time ever for the Malibu Endurance Ride. She

completed the Tevis in 1985, a most arduous 100-mile 1- day ride from Squaw Valley over the Sierras to Auburn."

Expressions on Linda's Passing by Donald Wallace

I was just notified that our dear friend and one of the founding mothers of the Santa Monica Mountains Trails Council, Linda Palmer, died... relieving years of suffering from our human nemesis, cancer. Linda was a recipient of many honors during her lifetime for her years of work on Santa Monica Mountains Trails. She was Las Virgenes Homeowners Federation "Citizen of the Year" in the 1990s as well as "Woman of the Year" in our Assembly and State Senate Districts and was recognized for her leadership and hard work by all of our County Supervisors. These public honors pale in comparison to the respect and love Linda inspired in her friends and neighbors who responded to her insistent call for community trail work when and where needed to restore and maintain our community trail system. Our love and respect extend to her husband, Bob Palmer, who was and is always there for both Linda and our community. Our deepest sympathy to Bob and his family during this tragic time.

Thank you MNVCA Members

Thank you to all the people who responded during the recent membership drive for Monte Nido Valley Community Association. We will continue to represent and inform you on issues that affect our neighborhood. We invite anyone who is interested in attending our bi-monthly meetings to check this newsletter for dates and times. If you are not currently a member, we would appreciate it if you would consider joining. Membership is \$50 and addressed to MNVCA at P.O. Box 8054, Calabasas 91372.

Judy Goldin, Treasurer

Thank you from the Board and our community equestrians to all the friendly Monte Nido neighbors who allow horses to cross their properties. Also thanks to our local folks for courteously following all easement rules and taking care on or around our neighborhood properties.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL REPORT

Don't delay getting your brush clearance up to snuff for the upcoming fire season. For any special concerns or further guidance contact the local fire station personnel. Phone number for the fire station on Puma is 818-222-1099

Minutes of April MNVCA Board Meeting

MNVCA BOARD MEETING of April 9, 2013 was held at the home of Mary Helen Young.

Present from the Board: Jill Reiss, Heidi Stompe, Reva Smilkstein, Carrie Baltin, Joan Kay, Gary Wooller, Mary Helen Young,

Present from the community: Stephanie Abronson, Ann Monahan, Lynn Benjamin

Before the formal meeting was called to order we welcomed guest speaker, Sophia Wong, Manager of the Visitor Center Store at King Gillette Ranch, part of the Santa Monica Mountains Recreation Area. The visitor center is open 9-5 every day except about 5 holidays. The Western National Parks Association is the agency overseeing the park store. It functions as a non-profit agency to support park

research, outreach, and education initiatives. Memberships in the Western National Parks Association are available to the public.

Ms. Wong made a presentation: She invites the community to come to the visitor center. Ms. Wong distributed several handouts that are available at the Visitor Center. She shared a King Gillette pamphlet with information about the ranch. It totals 588 acres, including the mansion designed by Wallace Neff, and visitor center and former stables. The "Outdoors" booklet for Spring 2013 issued by National Park Service delineates many services offered. If you want to receive the booklet by postal mail for one year you can fill out and mail in an enrollment page contained in the booklet. Outdoors contains much information including a calendar of events. The center offers many talks, which are frequently by reservation only because of limited space, including one on Chumash Ethno Botany which will be held in the near future. A well known Map Maker will be speaking soon, and Seth Riley, an expert on big cats of the Santa Monica Mountains will speak in Sept. Santa Monica Mountains Maps were distributed to MNVCA meeting attendees and we learned that there are about 154,000 acres in the Santa Monica Mountains National Rec Area.

The 1st anniversary of the visitor center will be Sunday, June 9, 2013. There will be special activities that day at the park and lots of items will be marked down for sale. Ms. Wong does most of the buying so if you want anything specific, you can ask her to get it. She brought several items from the store to the meeting, including a Chumash artisan abalone necklace. This beautiful piece is hand cut; this artist's pieces run from \$50 to \$400. Quite a few other pieces of jewelry and art are in the store in glass cases. Also available for purchase are books, logo'd items, foods (including authentic, hand-crafted acorn cookies which are a fund raiser for the Chumash tribe to support their Tomols, a wooden hollowed out canoe which are used in ceremonies to honor their ancestors). Topanga Honey is offered in several flavors. School groups are welcome. Parking is free for 2 hours or \$7 for longer hours. National Park Service Park passes are available there too at \$80/year, or \$10/lifetime for seniors. Disabled people receive a free lifetime pass. The center also has all the maps for parks

around the US to help in planning trips etc. There are 3 picnic areas at the ranch (No dogs allowed) which are open from 7AM to sunset. Inspiration Point trail is a 1 mile loop. Guided hikes are offered every month. The Biggest Loser is filmed on site and contestants live there during filming. Las Virgenes School district 5th graders attend a week of outdoor education classes on site.

Ms. Wong encouraged all Monte Nido residents to visit the park and the visitor center to enjoy this wonderful resource right at our doorstep.

The formal meeting of the MNVCA Board of Directors was called to order at 7:51PM.

Newsletter: Thanks were given to Mary Helen Young for publishing the latest newsletter. In the future, Ann Monahan is going to contribute as well.

King Gillette: Stephanie Abronson suggested inviting Sophia Wong to have a table at July 4 picnic to showcase her facility.

There was discussion about how to get more people to participate at Board meetings. The general feeling is that many of the new people moving in are more interested in privacy than community.

Old Business: Osgood/Vintage Development – 5 lots are in the process of being dedicated as public lands. A public hearing on the matter is set for May 1. Lynn Benjamin says brush clearing has already been accomplished.

Neighborhood Watch Meeting: There was a great turn out. The boys involved in the recent tragic explosion have suffered very serious burns and loss of skin and have been in induced coma.

July 4th: Tracy Bunetta will once again chair the picnic. Lois Love will handle the parade. Volunteers are wanted/needed for everything. It was agreed to hold a theme contest again for kids. Stephanie Abronson will prepare equestrian insurance forms again. Reva Smilkstein will handle the donations and auction.

A new Board Member is needed to replace Josh Cudworth who has resigned from board. He has joined the Beverly Hills Police Department and is

currently in the academy. Joan Kay nominated Dana Chidekel to replace Josh. A motion to accept Ms. Chidekel onto the board passed.

Elizabeth Lynch has emailed Carrie Baltin about a trail easement dispute across her property. Stephanie Abronson shared info from an Edenwild homeowners' meeting from the previous night, which had a very strong turnout in support of the easement. The LaCortes have retained Greg Aftergood for counsel to protect the easement. The Board passed a motion that "As a rural environment like ours, we support all historic Monte Nido easements that maintain freedom of access within and between the local, state, and county trails and streets. Stephanie Abronson will ask Aftergood if he knows or can determine the existence of all legal easements.

Illegal dumping of unwanted goods: There are still 6 Christmas trees that someone dumped on one of

the building lots on Piuma Road. A suggestion was made to be posted on Next Door to put your "recyclables" on the curb only once a month or so for other people to take for free.

Discussion about alternatives to killing rattlesnakes: Bo Slyapich, a snake wrangler, will relocate rather than kill snakes. His contact info is: Home 818-880-4269, Cell 818-383-0476. Reva Smilkstein will confirm that those phone numbers are correct before we publish this on Next Door and/or newsletter and/or minutes.

The Next Meeting of the MNVCA Board of Directors will be...June 11 at Heidi's house. Meeting adjourned at 8:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Reiss

Minutes of June MNVCA Board Meeting

The MNVCA Board of Directors Meeting held on June 11, 2013 at Heidi Stompe's house was called to order at 7:12pm.

Present from the Board: Reva Smilkstein, Joan Kay, Joan Slimocosky, Carrie Baltin, Jill Reiss, Judy Goldin, Heidi Stompe, Mary Helen Young,

Present from the community: Ann Monahan, Sheila Rosenthal, Deb Danaher, Bella Frymer

Minutes – Are available on Dropbox. Jill Reiss will send link out again to Mary Helen Young for her to access for the newsletter.

Treasurer's report – 20 new members recently joined. The newsletter and/or an eblast should remind people to bring their checkbook to July 4 for membership drive. Our CD will be maturing in October. Last year was the first year in many that we made money on July 4 event. Insurance for July 4 2013 has already been paid. Motion to approve to reimburse Judy Goldin for expense for rental of

coffee machine at Community Meeting held at Salvation Army facility was approved. Motion to send formal thank you to Salvation Army from President Carrie Baltin for use of facilities for meeting in April approved. Motion to pay expenses for Federation dues and PO Box approved.

Federation: Joan Slimocosky will check why Jill Reiss has not been receiving Federation newsletter recently to disseminate to community, and will forward her copy to Reiss in the meantime. - Newhall Ranch in Santa Clarita, which is a proposed neo-suburb of 60,000 homes, 20,000 apts., 2,000,000 sq. feet commercial space, is under review and has opposition. A mini-victory for the opposition was achieved recently when Judge Ann Jones ruled that the EIR is inadequate. Several environmental groups were happy about that. The attorney for Newhall Land and Trust filed an appeal for a bias claim which allowed Newhall to get another extension. There was no Federation meeting in May; the Federation banquet was held instead. The banquet was very well attended (150 people?)

including representatives from region. Director of state parks, Major General Andy Jackson was the guest speaker. The honoree was someone from Malibu. Mulholland Scenic Corridor in City of Calabasas: On May 24 City Council denied an appeal by Cold Creek Community Council to delay a 3 home development. 3 sites will be very visible on Mulholland (7000, 12,500 and 8,000 square feet homes exclusive of pools, retaining walls etc). The development was approved without EIR. The developer is on the Calabasas Architectural Review Board which decides what is permitted and what is not. The next meeting of the Federation will be Monday June 24. This represents a change of date. Meetings are usually held the third Thursday of the month. Meetings are held at Diamond X Ranch.

Old Business: July 4 – Tracy Bunetta and Lois Love are chairing the picnic and parade. Lois says no submissions for theme have been received. A new email reminder should be sent. Motion that theme will be Horsing Around in Fleeman's Meadow unless a child submits something better by June 15 approved.

Sno-cone machine suggested for fund raiser: Bella Frymer is interested in investigating getting one. She is advised to contact Tracy Bunetta and board agrees in advance it's OK to have one at the event. History says that in the past, sno-cones and watermelons were free. Debbie Danaher and Sheila Rosenthal want to volunteer to help on July 4. Donations for the raffle should go to Reva Smilkstein and she will put something on Next Door about that. Jill Reiss can send an eblast reminder to the neighborhood as well.

Stephanie Abronson has not yet received any equestrian forms.

Motion to allow Judy Goldin to compensate July 4 expenses that occur before the next Board meeting, not to exceed \$800, was approved.

Osgood Vintage Development – 3 weeks ago, the regional planning commission had a hearing on acceptance of terms of agreement. Several residents testified in favor of the 5 lots that have been committed to open space. At the next Board meeting, Joan Kay will let us know if it has been approved.

New Business: Non-profit status – Reva Smilkstein had a query as to our status. Judy Goldin says she has been paying the bills to the state to renew our status to keep it current.

Heidi Stompe went to a Water Department class on organic gardening. They had about 40 people there with refreshments for about 60. The water department has been paying for people to travel widely to see other water department gardening projects. Info about these trips is published in The Acorn. Funds come from State Outreach Program budgeting. Joan Slimocosky suggests we invite Deb Low or Carlos or someone else from Water Dept. to educate us about Outreach programs.

Next Door Monte Nido – Bella Frymer will invite the Fire Dept. to join the site.

Next Meeting – September 10 2013 at the home of Carrie and Brent Baltin. Joan Slimocosky will see if a Water Dept representative will attend and make a presentation about Outreach programs.

Meeting adjourned at 9PM

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Reiss

*All neighbors are welcome
and encouraged to attend Board
meetings.*

*We welcome your interest and
involvement!*

How to reach us:

Send your email address to Jill Reiss,
the MNVCA secretary, at
mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com, to
receive announcements of meetings,
community activities, and the time
and location of our Board meetings.

President: Carrie Baltin 818-224-4696
Vice Pres: Joan Slimokowsky 818-591-
1082

Treasurer: Judy Goldin 818-983-1910
Secretary: Jill Reiss 818-222-1995

**Contributions to the newsletter can be
sent to the editor Mary Helen Young
youngsmh@earthlink.net**

*The Next Meeting of the
Monte Nido Valley
Community Association
Board of Directors
Is scheduled for
September 10, 2013
At the home of Carrie and Brent
Baltin
825 Crater Oak Dr. 818-224-4696
Mark your calendars...
Plan to come ☺*