



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

June/July 2009

Independence Day "Share the Bounty"

It's that time again! Summer is just around the corner and preparations are underway for our unique neighborhood celebration! This year's theme is Share the Bounty and the Grand Marshals are Deborah and John Low. **The parade will assemble at 10AM at Thornhill and Huckleberry, and will step off promptly at 10:30AM.** Our annual picnic will once again be in Fleeman's Meadow, immediately following the parade. If you are planning to include a horse in the parade, please pay special attention to the insurance documents included in this newsletter. You must submit them in a timely manner in order to be eligible to participate. We would hate for anyone to be excluded at the last minute for paperwork problems! To volunteer or for further information, contact Suzanne Bailey 818- 222-7663.

Raffle Requests!

John and Jane Cudworth are once again offering their services to organize a raffle at the picnic. If you have any goods or services to offer, please be kind enough to contact them (818-222-7225) so that they can get the item card printed up and determine the amount of space needed. Homemade items are always great, along with collectibles, gift certificates and services. The money raised helps to not only sponsor the event but supports the community financially. Items may be dropped off at their home (1031 Meadows End) prior to the 4th or simply brought to the meadow that day, as long as they've been told what they are so they can make an item card.

!!Attention July 4 Parade Equestrians!!

All equestrians participating in the MNVCA 4th of July Parade with a horse, pony or donkey are covered by insurance provided to MNVCA by Equestrian Trails, Inc., Corral 36. No equestrian may participate in the parade with an animal without first signing the **WAIVER & RELEASE FOR EQUESTRIAN TRAILS, INC., ACTIVITIES**, found in this newsletter. Please complete and return this waiver & release to Stephanie Abronson prior to July 4th. Reach Stephanie via email: Stephanie@abronson.com or leave a telephone message at 818.222.7669. Parents of children participating with a horse, pony, or donkey in the parade must sign the waiver-release form before their children can participate in the parade. Members of the USEF (United States Equestrian Federation) are exempt from purchasing a one-day single event membership for Equestrian Trails, Inc., but must provide a copy of their current membership card. If you are not a current member of Equestrian Trails, Inc., or the USEF, you must purchase ahead of time a one-day single event membership at a cost of \$5.00 per adult or child or \$7.00 for a family up to 4 persons. We will greatly appreciate your forethought to getting this paperwork done before July 4th. It's really tough to tell a child that they may not participate in our wonderful parade because mommy or daddy didn't get the paperwork done!

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

Kathy Kirkpatrick, Fire Management Officer for the Santa Monica Mountains NRA, will attend the MNVCA Board Meeting on June 9 to help us learn about how to develop a Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP), grants available for CWPP projects, and efforts underway in our area.

The agenda will include: Fire in the Santa Monica Mountains How Homes Get Destroyed and Reasons to Work "From the House Out" LA County Requirements, Home Assessments, and Fire Hazard Reduction, Ecological Considerations, Purpose and Process of Developing a CWPP, Fire Safe Councils and Grants, Steps to Get Started. Please join us for an informative evening.

In Appreciation

The Board wishes to express its gratitude to Marianne Cilluffo for publishing the 2009 edition of the neighborhood directory. This is a serious undertaking and time intensive task, and Marianne's efforts are greatly appreciated. Additional thanks to Nancy Pope for the donation from the arts and crafts fair held at her home earlier this year. The Board is grateful to Nancy and the other vendors for their support for the MNVCA community.

Malibu Creek State Park on Endangered List!

The state is currently planning to close over 220 parks as part of the budget cuts. Malibu Creek is on the closure list! To see a full list of parks on the closure list, visit http://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=712. If you wish to voice support for keeping the park open, you are encouraged to call State Senator Fran Pavley (310) 314-5214 and Assemblywoman Julia Brownley, (818) 596-4141. The California State Parks Foundation is mounting a campaign to oppose the park closures and has information as well as a petition you can sign at the following site: <http://www.calparks.org/takeaction/>.

Their site also contains a list of the parks proposed for closure broken down by county, state assembly member, and state senator, so you call the politicians responsible for the districts in which any of your other favorite parks are located.

MNVCA Board of Directors

The January meeting of the Monte Nido Valley Community Association was called to order by President Joan Slimocosky at 7:04 PM in her home. Present were: Board members; Brent & Carrie Baltin, Marianne Cilluffo, Georgia Farinella, Dick and Lois Love, John Low, Joan Slimocosky Heidi Stompe, Jill Reiss and members of the community; Stephanie Abronson, Judy Goldin, Deborah DiMascio. *Agenda* was approved as amended. *Minutes*: November 2008 minutes approved with a modification. *Treasurers Report*: Marianne reported the following balances: Checking \$ 4558.79, Money Market CD, \$13,485.00. She reported there were 96 paid members as of this date. *Correspondence*: Request to print letter from Lesters regarding donations of food to firefighters at Station 67. Board voted to table request. *Federation Report*: John Low reported that the Federation meetings have been focused on the upcoming Calabasas City elections. He also reported on the issue of a new Onsite Wastewater Treatment System ordinance proposed by the City of Calabasas for areas not connected to sewers. He also reported that the County was hoping to present the Santa Monica Mountains LCP is going to be presented to

Coastal in the next month or two. *Abedi Hearing*. Joan Slimocosky reported that the Abedi project on one of the Quaker Ross lots had been approved after a hearing at the Coastal Commission. Joan Kay had hired the Law Office of Frank Angel to contest the project and petitioned the board for a contribution to help offset her costs that totaled \$ 3,277.77. Brent Baltin moved to contribute \$1,200, second Carrie Baltin. Approved after discussion. *Motorcycles on Piuma* – Heidi Stompe reported that a coyote met up with cyclists illegally trespassing on a lot on Piuma. The coyote and was frightened. Police were informed; they have followed up and threatened to arrest cyclists. Georgia Farinella reported other cyclists to state parks and they responded. We will publish a phone number for residents to call if other events of this type are noticed. *Cold Creek/Lost Canyon Loop Trail*...Judy Golden and Georgia Farinella reported on trying to save this trail that connects Cold Creek with Monte Nido. Judy read a letter encouraging MNVCA to take action against developer Alan Satterlee rousing this trail. CCC approved his permit completely on Dec 11 for a 3-story 35-foot house on a ridgeline - 4700 sq ft, 822 sq ft garage. Everything the developer requested was approved. Farinella wants to fight him in civil court to show that easements have been violated, to restrict Satterlee from accessing property from Mulholland instead of Cold Canyon where the legal easement to the property exists. Farinella says it will be a strong message to developers that people in this community will insist that all developers respect trails and easements. Farinella will write article to publish in Feb newsletter. Slimocosky made a motion to donate \$4000 to Georgia's Legal Defense Fund to bring the case to civil court. Motion passed, not unanimously. *Directory* – Marianne Cilluffo circulated a rough copy for the board to review. Marianne Cilluffo announced that she is resigning as treasurer to work full time to get a Fire Safe Council grant to do fuel reduction. Funds will be distributed in Feb. She needs to know how many trees in neighborhood need to come down, what properties can be cleared. Cilluffo will prepare an article for the newsletter. *Election of officers* postponed until March meeting...installation to be in April. Jill Reiss requested all board members give her contact info. *Square Dance/BBQ*. Georgia Farinella trying to lock in 3rd Sat. Oct 2009 at King Gillette. Meeting adjourned at 8:56PM. Minutes of MNVCA Board Meeting April 14, 2009. Joan Slimocosky called the meeting to order at 7:11PM at the home of Stephanie Abronson. Board members present were Dick and Lois Love (half meeting), John Lowe, Georgia Farinella, Suzanne Bailey, Jill Reiss, Marianne Cilluffo, Joan Slimocosky, Heidi Stompe. Community members present: Debbie DiMascio, Greg Aftergood, Jo Powe, Stephanie Abronson, Judy Golden, Carlan Bradshaw *Treasurer's Report*: Cilluffo reported our CD matures April 16. Decision was made to renew in same account. Slimocosky received a donation from neighborhood crafts fair. *Membership*: Annual membership appeal needs to be mailed. Slimocosky to order more envelopes to mail it. *Correspondence*: Thank you note received from LVUSD. Save Open Space and Arson Watch are both requesting donations. Cilluffo will check when we last donated to both. Discussion ensued on donating to SOS general fund. They are currently dealing with Triangle Ranch and their actions are not always in MNVCA's best interests. Discussion was tabled until Marianne researches history. *Federation report*: John Low reported. Annual banquet was recently held. Steve Hess named citizen of the year. Low will provide article to be shared for our newsletter on educating people how to preserve native vegetation and protect houses from fire, which was written by Rick Halsey, firefighter/biology teacher. New defensible space law recently passed that changes requirements and makes clearance integrate better with natural environment. Federation also had presentation about county LCP delays. LCP not going to CCC until end of year. County and Coastal have different approach about how to deal with protecting ESHAs. County wants to be very specific about its approach before getting coastal to approve. Also staff downsizing slowing things down. *LVWMD* presentation on Water Conservation/Mandatory Rationing May 5. Encourage neighbors to attend. Water district has been working hard to determine how to allocate for irrigation and set goals. Trying to be fair to people who already conserve. *Annual BBQ/Square Dance*: Date set for Sat. Oct 17 at King Gillette Ranch. *July 4* – Tracy Bunetta and Lois Love both volunteered to chair. Theme will be Share the Bounty (reference to donating fruits and veggies to local food bank). *Next Board meeting*: May 12 rather than June to discuss/plan July 4. *Directory*: Cilluffo presented 2 mockups with different bindings, different prices. Board voted for cone binding. Several extras to be printed for new community members and for sale to non-members. *Fire retardant presentation*: Greg Aftergood reported on his research into Firebreak spray systems/exclusive distributor of Phos-Chek. Remains as applied and confers protection until washed off. Can be applied without water. Possible to apply once at beginning of fire season and

it lasts until it rains. Acts as fertilizer when washed off. Board engaged in discussion about how/what best to do to protect neighborhood as a whole and as sum of parts/houses. Bailey and Aftergood to coordinate getting info from Firebreak and asking them to be present with demo at July 4. Bailey to prepare info blurb for May newsletter. Board supports concept community wide for generalized protection. Slimocosky will dig out street captains list to ask them to contact neighbors to disseminate info. *Equestrian/Fire Issues* to be discussed at May meeting. *Cold Creek/Lost Canyon Trail*. Farinella read thank you letter from her legal defense fund. She is still searching for competent legal counsel and has interviewed several law firms. To date no building or development is taking place on the site. Donations still welcome and needed. Farinella to consider setting up a donation table at July 4th. *LVUSD update*: Slimocosky talked to Dr. Zimring re: status of our donation. Monies are going to tech jobs and website development. It is hard for district to hire someone because there is no funding for permanent job. 48 people recently laid off...\$2.6 million had been cut as of March 16. More budgets cuts to come. *Trails*: Lester trail...Slimocosky spoke to Suzanne Goode who said citation has been made. Options are for him to restore trail or mitigate with safer rerouting of trail – still in process, unresolved. *ETI trails*: Motion passed to include regular solicitation for donations to ETI trails maintenance fund in newsletter. 100% of donations go to crews that cost \$300/day. Abronson will write and email to Reiss. *Malibu Valley Farms*: Decision has gone back before Coastal - final court decision delayed until May. MVF has been given 4 options. Slimocosky sent a letter saying we will request another EIR. *Goats in Monte Nido*: Slimocosky receiving inquiries. Directing callers to County Forestry website for info. *Piuma Road safety*: Section between Crater Camp and Woodbluff has no safety shoulder. Traffic becoming more hazardous to pedestrians and equestrians, bikes etc. Stompe investigated possibility of better shoulder development. Building and Safety has authority because request regards safety. Suggest Stompe call Yaroslavsky's staff, Susan Nissman, to see if she can help. *CCRs*: Carlan Bradshaw from community inquired whether there is any leverage/CCRs to enforce home maintenance issues. Answer is no – have to deal with problems in person. *Share the Bounty*: Jo Powe presented idea of gardening/growing fruits, veggies, eggs etc. for donation to food banks. She summarized info from March/April newsletter article. Powe already delivered twice to Valley Wide food bank, located in Woodland Hills, supported by churches from all over valley. Probably will need help with distribution in summer when fruit ripens. Powe will provide blurb for ongoing inclusion in newsletter. For July 4th can be theme: Sharing the Bounty. *Election of Officers*: Current officers are: President - Joan Slimocosky, VP – John Low, Treasurer - Marianne Cilluffo, Secretary - Jill Reiss President usually serves 2 year term so current pres. can groom VP to serve the next 2 years. However, Lowe and Slimocosky have already swapped posts and Low is currently Pres of Federation. Cilluffo will continue as Treasurer through end of 2009. Reiss agrees to continue as secretary. Slimocosky will continue as president until end of 2009. Board positions approved by acclimation. *Newsletter*: Will be published every two months unless there is pressing info to disseminate. Meeting adjourned at 9:11. Respectfully submitted, Jill Reiss

A friendly reminder:

*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: Joan Slimocosky 591-1082

Vice Pres: John Low 224-8062

Treasurer: Marianne Cilluffo 876-3019

Secretary: Jill Reiss 222-1995

Contributions to the newsletter can be sent to the editor at
mnvcanewsletter@gmail.com



WAIVER & RELEASE
FOR EQUESTRIAN TRAILS, INC., ACTIVITIES
This Is A Waiver of Your Legal Rights, And An Agreement Not To Sue
Serious Injury Or Death May Result From Riding Or Being Near Horses



1. **Participant's Name** (print): _____

Address: _____ **City:** _____ **State:** _____

Telephone: () _____ **ETI Member** _____ **If Yes, Corral #:** _____

2. **Liability Release.**

In consideration for Equestrian Trails, Inc. ("ETI") allowing me or my child to voluntarily participate in its activities, I agree as follows:

- a. This agreement, waiver and release applies to ETI and to ETI's affiliated Corrals, committees, employees, predecessors, successors, attorneys, insurers, members and volunteers who are working in the course and scope of their duties on behalf of ETI, including its affiliated Corrals, at the time of occurrence of any act or omission which is later alleged to be a cause or contribution to a claim for injury, damages or death ("Released Parties");
- b. I forever release, hold harmless and indemnify Released Parties from liability for any and all claims, demands, causes of action, damages, injuries or death to me, my minor children, my horse and my property, and legal liability of every nature, including the negligent acts or omissions of any Released Parties, whether known or unknown, anticipated or unanticipated, direct or indirect, arising out of participation in the past, present or future ETI activities (including equestrian activities, such as the riding, use of, or being near, horses, whether at an arena, stable or on a trail ride in association with ETI) and I assume all risks of injury or death as set forth in this release;
- c. I shall not bring any lawsuit, action or proceeding against any Released Parties, even if they engage in negligent conduct; and
- d. I make this agreement, waiver and release for and on behalf of myself, my spouse, my child and/or ward, heirs, administrators, successors, representatives and assigns.

3. **Activity Risk.**

I understand that some ETI activities take place in isolated or wilderness areas over rough terrain, and/or trails of unknown condition, and others take place on land or in facilities owned and managed by others from whom such land or facilities are borrowed or rented. I understand that the organizers, workers and members involved in ETI activities are not professionals in the horse industry, or in the planning or conducting of trips or camping events, or in other areas of expertise involved in ETI activities. I also understand that horseback riding is a rugged adventure, recreational sport activity. I am aware that there are numerous obvious and non-obvious inherent risks of serious injury or death, or property damage, to me or my horse, which are always present in ETI activities, on or near horses. I understand that pregnant women are specifically advised not to ride horses. I understand that ETI is a non-profit club of private individuals who have come together to support and enjoy recreation-oriented activities.

4. **Nature of Horses.**

I understand that no horse is completely safe, and the Released Parties make no representations or guarantees regarding the safety, training or suitability of any horse. Horses are 5 to 15 times larger, 20 to 40 times more powerful, and 3 to 4 times faster than a human. If I fall from a horse to the ground, it will generally be at a distance of 4 to 6 feet, and the impact will injure me. A horse may divert from its training and act according to its natural survival instincts and may abruptly change directions or speed, trip, slip, fall, stop short, shift its weight, buck, rear, kick, bite, spook, or run from what it perceives to be danger if it is frightened or provoked, or for no reason whatsoever.

5. Conditions of Nature & Locations.

I agree that the Released Parties are not responsible for acts, occurrences or elements of nature or a particular location that can injure a person or scare a horse, cause it to trip, fall or react in some other manner. These elements include thunder, lightening, rain, wind, wild and domestic animals, insects, other people and horses, and reptiles which may walk, run, fly near, bite and/or sting a horse or person, irregular footing on groomed or wild land which is subject to constant change according to weather, temperature, natural and man-made objects. The Released Parties have not inspected, and make no representations or warranties concerning the safety or condition of, any trail, camping site, arena and/or other location of ETI events.

6. Helmet Warning.

I am aware that protective head gear which meets or exceeds the quality standards of the SEI certified and ASTM standard F1163 equestrian helmet, should be purchased and worn by me and/or my child while riding and being near horses, and the wearing of such helmet may reduce the severity of some head injuries and may prevent my serious injury or death as a result of a fall or other occurrence. If my minor child or I do not wear a helmet, it is because we so choose.

I HAVE READ, UNDERSTOOD AND VOLUNTARILY AGREE TO THIS TWO-PAGE WAIVER & RELEASE. I FURTHER AGREE THAT NO ORAL STATEMENTS, REPRESENTATIONS OR INDUCEMENTS APART FROM THIS WRITTEN AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE TO ME TO OBTAIN MY CONSENT.

Dated: _____

Participant's Signature: _____



(Printed Name)

IF PARTICIPANT IS UNDER 18, SIGNATURE OF AGREEMENT BY PARENT OR LEGAL GUARDIAN IS ALSO REQUIRED, AND SUCH PERSON FURTHER AGREES, PURSUANT TO PARAGRAPH 2, ABOVE, TO RELEASE AND INDEMNITY THE RELEASED PARTIES FOR ANY INJURY OR DEATH TO, OR ANY CLAIM BY OR ON BEHALF OF, SUCH MINOR:

Minor's Birth Date: _____

Dated: _____

Signature: _____



Relationship to Minor: _____

(Printed Name of Signor)

ETI Witness (print name) Stephanie Abronson Corral # 36

Description of Event Where Signed: **2009 Monte Nido 4th of July Parade**
(PAGE 2 OF 2)

**MONTE NIDO VALLEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION
BULLETIN BOARD**

<p align="center">DESIGN & BUILD Residential remodel and new construction All under one roof: Design, Construction, Interiors. Licensed General Contractor 917-1803 www.designblue.com</p>	<p align="center">ROGER SAVATTERI Monte Nido Resident Custom furniture and cabinetry. Unique patinas on wood and metal. www.savatteridesigns.com 310-625-2887</p>
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<p align="center">ARCHITECT Sensitive to budget & lifestyle. Responsive to the land and environment. Monte Nido resident for over 25 years. Warren Lawson 591-0646</p>	<p align="center">REAL ESTATE Specializing in Monte Nido Properties. Top Coldwell Banker Agent representing Buyers and Sellers in our community for more than 20 years. How much is your house worth? Call for a complimentary market analysis. Tracy Bunetta 222-2272 MonteNidoRealEstate.com</p>
<p align="center">HANDYMAN – MONTE NIDO RESIDENT All home improvement from A to Z. Many local references. Honest and reliable. Bill Hagerty 310-317-2221</p>	<p align="center">HOUSEKEEPER Excellent local references. Many years experience. English & Spanish speaking. Has own transportation. Amalia Cadena (310) 558-1695 / (310) 613-0463 cell</p>
<p align="center">MEDICAL & SURGICAL EYE CARE Susan S. Ransome, M.D. Attending Physician & Surgeon, Jules Stein Eye Institute 22225 Pacific Coast Hwy, Ste. 8, Malibu M*D* EYE CARE MALIBU 310.456.7477 mdeyecaremalibu.com</p>	<p align="center">GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES Born 02/20/08 Seeking Conscious, Loving homes. Natural, Progressive Care Raised, Raw Meat, Raw Dairy No Innoculations, No Medicine Please contact Melanie at 818 657-9502 or crystallinesanctuary@gmail.com</p>
<p align="center">ELECTRICIAN Licensed Contractor 20yr Monte Nido Resident Mike Wortham / North Bay Electric 222-3817</p>	<p align="center">SAVE \$\$\$ Great Ideas for Indoor-Outdoor etc. Interior-Exterior Decorator-Consultant Over 50 Yr Experience Please call Ilse (818) 222-6818</p>
<p align="center">SADDLE PEAK LODGE DINNER WE-SU 5-10pm, SUNDAY BRUNCH 11am-3pm New Special 91302 Menu for Monte Nido residents – 3 course meal for \$55 per person Market fresh 4 or 8 course tasting menus served every evening with or without wine pairing. Complimentary parking for our Monte Nido neighbors. Chef Adam Horton and I look forward to having you join us in the near future. Iain Walling General Manager. 222 3888 or Saddlepeaklodge.com</p>	

To place an ad contact Nicole Brown at macvoodoo@netpowered.com or 818-914-6138
Private Party Ads, \$5 per month. Business Ads, \$10 per month
Pay to: MNVCA. Mail to: Nicole Brown, PO Box 423, Malibu, CA 90265

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

MNVCA Board Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 7PM
At the home of Carrie and Brent Baltin
825 Crater Oak Drive
818 224-4696

Guest Speaker to Present:

Community Wildfire Protection Plan

(additional info in article in this newsletter)

*All neighbors are always welcome
and encouraged to attend!*

Las Virgenes Homeowner's Federation Meeting

Thursday, June 18, 7:30PM
Diamond X Ranch
(Off Mulholland)

A Course in Miracles Study Group.

Tuesdays, 9:30-11:00AM
Marilyn Browning
222-6362

Zen Meditation

Thursday evenings at 7:30pm
Rosemary Taylor Alden
222-2936

Monte Nido Valley Community Association
PO Box 8054
Calabasas, CA 91372

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