



MONTE NIDO VALLEY



COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION



A Dark Sky Community

E-NEWSLETTER

March/April/May 2014

WHAT'S IN THIS ISSUE

March 11, 2014 Board meeting and Potluck Social to celebrate and thank outgoing Board members

To all Monte Nido kids: we want you to help choose the theme for the July 4 parade

More July 4 events planning and important reminder for parade equestrian participants

Thanks to all those who responded to the membership drive letter from our Treasurer

Minutes of March 11 2014 Board meeting

Minutes of May 13 2014 Board meeting

March 11 Board Meeting and Thank You Celebration for outgoing Board Members

The MNVCA Board meeting March 11 included a Potluck social to express the community's gratitude for the service of outgoing Board members, Joan Kay, Yehuda Netanel, and Reva Smilkstein. All attendees thoroughly enjoyed the celebration of these local heroes who have contributed (and continue to contribute) so much of their time and talent to our community.

JULY 4TH PARADE AND PICNIC preview

**The MNVCA Board of Directors plans to
continue the tradition of Monte Nido kids
picking the parade theme!**

Theme Contest

for the July 4, 2014

Monte Nido Parade and Picnic!!!

Send us your great ideas!!!

(email to Lois Love at

loislove331@earthlink.net)

**The Winner will be the JUNIOR
GRAND MARSHAL and ride in the parade
on a Vintage Fire Truck**

Submissions must be received by

June 15.

All contestants will receive

Free Raffle Tickets.

**Contestants must be under the age of 18.
Get those creative juices flowing kids :)
You Could Win!!!!**

4th of July Event Volunteers

**Lois Love and Tracy Bunetta are again
chairing our 2014 planning group. This year
they will be assisted by Ilda Jacobsen and
other new volunteers to be rounded up. Reva
Smilkstein has kindly agreed to head up the
Raffle once again and Tamara Wasserman
will oversee the Bake Sale. Thanks to all of
these local leaders and please offer your help
with this event by emailing Tracy at
tracybunetta@gmail.com. Also check on
Nextdoor Monte Nido for volunteer requests.**

July 4th Equestrians Important Notice!!

All equestrians participating in the MNVCA 4th of July Parade with a horse, pony, mule 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, mule or donkey in the parade must sign the waiver & release form before their children can participate in the parade. Member 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! You can find the ETI Liability waiver in the back of this Newsletter (view in print mode).

Thank you MNVCA Members

The Monte Nido Valley Community Association wants to thank all who have responded to our letter requesting that you join or renew membership. We appreciate your contribution and encourage you to attend our meetings which take place on the second Tuesday of every other month.

Please see the MNVCA Newsletter or Nextdoor Monte Nido for the location of each meeting. We are currently planning the July 4th parade and picnic and hope that you can attend. It is always a lot of fun and a good opportunity to meet your neighbors. Plans for the October square dance are in the early planning stages.

Board members and community volunteers organize and staff the Adopt-A-Highway cleanup, Fire Safe Council, the monthly Bulletin Board and this newsletter. They represent our interests at Las Virgenes Homeowner's Association, at County Supervisor meetings, and with local developers to protect our rural character and our trails. If you have not done so as yet, you can still join for 2014. The cost is \$50 (\$25 for first time members) and can be addressed to MNVCA at P.O. Box 8054,

Calabasas 91372.
Judy Goldin, Treasurer

MNVCA Board meeting March 11, 2014

The meeting was called to order at 7:10PM at the home of Mary Helen and Stephen Young.

Present from the board: Carrie Baltin, Judy Goldin, Joan Slimocosky, Gary Wooller, Heidi Stompe, Jill Reiss, Ilda Jacobsen, Maria and Radu Ioan, Alicia Gonzalez, Mary Helen Young, Dana Chidekel, Darryl Wizenberg. Sally Livingston, and Ann Monahan.

Present from the community: Reva Smilkstein, Suze Randall, Joan Kay, Jordan Blake (Edenwild Board Member), Sheila Rosenthal, Brent Baltin, Yehuda and Victoria Netanel

Agenda: no changes

Minutes: no changes...previously approved online

Treasurer's report –

Judy Goldin reported about bank balances. She spoke to lawyer, Dan Lang, about tax-exempt status. His charges are very reasonable (\$150/hr.). Slimocosky has contacted several people to get info about the original paperwork for incorporation of the association. She does have the bylaws but not the original orders of incorporation. New membership letters have been printed. Soon, she will mail this year's membership drive. A motion to approve charges for the printing bill was approved. She sees a good trend line re: membership i.e. membership is increasing.

Correspondence:

Mary Weisbrock from SOS sent a thank you for our donation.

A bill from the attorney who represented us at the LCP hearing was received and paid by Joan Slimocosky. A motion to reimburse her for the monies she paid on our behalf passed.

Old Business: Georgia Farinella made us copies of the local trail map. Discussion ensued as to how to interpret the map and what the goals and challenges are vis a vis the trails. We will invite Farinella to attend the May meeting to explain and present her views and objectives. Ilda Jacobsen can scan the map into the Next Door site following the May meeting.

Local Coastal Plan: Was approved Feb 11 by LA County Supervisors. It will go to the Coastal Commission in April, in Santa Barbara, for their stamp of approval. The general consensus is that the LCP removes lots of the ambiguity of the rules and regs of years past and provides more clarity, uniformity, and fairness to the rules for development in the Santa Monica Mountains. However, following the vote of Feb 11 there has been much controversy and discussion among Monte Nido residents, especially the equestrian community, about the pros and cons of the provisions of the document and the manner in which it has moved through the approval process. A week after its approval in February there was another meeting of the supervisors, where some equestrians who previously had unanimously supported the LCP now raised some new issues. The supervisors voted a second time to approve the LCP, (except for Antonovich, who voted nay). Suze Randall attended that Supervisors meeting with Ruth Gerson, who has published a “white paper” of complaints and issues that have arisen since the Feb 11 vote. There have been some opinions/accusations that some large developmental interests have used Gerson and the equestrian community to further their own aims. Among other things, Gerson asserts that there was a short, late time frame during which the LCP document was available for review by the equestrian community before coming to the Supervisors for a vote. There’s a great deal of confusion right now about the true details, interpretations, and provisions of the plan. Ben Saltsman of Yaroslavky’s office is willing to come to Monte Nido to address all these questions directly. Saltsman is available March 20, 21, 22. Suze try to book him on March 21 and will host a community meeting with him for a q & a. Someone will summarize and publicize to the community. The Board unanimously passed the following motion: To approve the LCP as it was approved before the County and, since we want to continue to support the approval process at the Coastal Commission, therefore we wish to engage an attorney from Frank Angel’s office to represent us at the Coastal hearing in April.

Fire Station Bulletin Board: Gary Wooller says we are getting there.

Directory: Cathy Sieling is working on it.

Vintage Properties: A portion has been approved. Saltsman is looking at the status to verify that what Vintage says they presented to us agrees with what we thought we agreed to.

New Business: Heidi Stompe fronted \$40 for Karen Smith to hire laborers to maintain their trail easement. Motion to reimburse Heidi’s expenses was approved.

Water/Drought: Lee Ringer is our representative to the Water Board. He was hoping to attend our meeting but was delayed. There will be some changes in water bills because of the drought. (Editor’s note: Ringer did appear at the end of the evening, after the meeting was adjourned. He informed the group about water delivery and bills in light of this year’s extreme drought and hosted an informal Q & A, but no official notes were taken).

Next meeting should be May 13 at Joan Slimocosky’s house. We will need to do all planning and discussion for July 4 at that time – think in advance of a theme. Consider having a band.

Meeting adjourned at 8:36PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Reiss

MNVCA Board Meeting 5/13/14

Called to order at 7:06PM

Present from the community: Tamara Wasserman, Yehuda Netanel, Reva Smilkstein, Suze Randall, Kim Lamorie, Tracy Bunetta, Lois Love, Stephanie Abronson,

Present from the Board: Mary Helen Young, Judy Goldin, Carrie Baltin, Maria Ioan, Jill Reiss, Joan Slimocosky, Dana Chidekel, Gary Wooller, Alicia Gonzalez, Ilda Jacobsen

Minutes – Approved from the last meeting

Treasurer's Report – Judy Goldin reported.

- 400 membership letters were mailed and 60 have been returned, which is fairly typical. Usually she gets about 90 by the end of the year. Judy wrote thank you notes to people who sent their money. Some people at the meeting said they didn't get a mailing. Judy will post a notice on Next Door, too, to further spread the word.
- Joan Slimocosky paid the lawyer's fees of \$3000 that were approved for our representation at the Santa Barbara Coastal Commission LCP hearing. Motion to reimburse Joan for those expenses was approved.
- Motion to pay the annual Federation dues of \$100 directly to Kim Lamorie tonight was approved.

Federation Report: Kim Lamorie reported –

- Everyone is always welcome at the Federation meetings every month.
- The upcoming May 21st monthly meeting will include a report by State Parks on Ringe Dam.
- The LIP will go before Coastal on June 11, 12 or 13.
- There will be a formal (Black Tie Optional) tribute to Zev Yaroslavsky at King Gillette on June 21. Several of Zev's employees will be honored as well. The park will be closed for the event, which will be held under the stars, with a live band. Tickets are \$100. The public is welcome. Politicians' speeches will be kept to minimum. The intention is to focus on activists who would like to speak for a minute or two about Zev. Any money remaining after expenses for the event will be donated to NPF to oppose Rodenticide.

- The City of Calabasas' is attempting to annex 42 acres abutting an Agoura Hills neighborhood next to a wildlife corridor. Spirinet, a Calabasas business that provides a steady revenue flow to that city, wants to expand into those acres. So Calabasas is attempting to annex the land to keep the business within its city boundaries. Agoura Hills opposes the annexation, in large part because the two cities' development priorities are at odds with each other. Agoura Hills wants to retain the buffer of county property between the cities.
- A large hotel and residential development project including 142 rooms, and 150 homes on Las Virgenes Road is being proposed by Calabasas. The land is a little north of La Paz on the other (east) side of the street. (roughly where Agoura Road meets Las Virgenes?). The Federation will fight to prevent that project from being developed.
- LCP: The LUP passed through the County in Feb and through Coastal in April. Now the LIP will go to County and then Coastal. CO-12 (a horse owner provision) applies only to people who cannot comply with LCP. There has been a special compliance process added to alleviate concerns of horse owners. It provides a 4 year window to bring properties into compliance: 2 years to make application, 1 year to complete application and 1 year to implement. The Federation is trying to get a Sale or Transfer provision included but Heal the Bay will oppose it. The intention is that if you bring your property into compliance and get the permit you can transfer it upon the sale of the property. Every 10 years for 30 years you will have to prove that you are in compliance. The Federation is working with Heal the Bay on the development and vineyard impact. There will be no new vineyards unless they are already legally permitted.

New Business:

July 4 parade and picnic –

- Lois Love and Tracy Bunetta have been chairing it for years and will do so again this year. Ilda Jacobsen rounded up some new people who said they'd be interested to help. Ilda will make outreach efforts to those people. And Tracy will put a notice on Next Door soliciting volunteers
- Bake Sale - Tamara Wasserman will handle the baked goods sale again.
- BBQ - Tracy has always asked Pony Club to do the BBQ. There was a suggestion to have Pony Club just sell directly, for cash, instead of accepting picnic tickets. Pony Club is a National Organization with Chapters and Regions. Members get lessons at reduced cost, team competitions based on merit (mastering horsemanship and management with real skill-based benchmarks).
- Raffle - Reva Smilkstein has done the raffle for several years and will do it again, by herself.
- The Meadow - Joan Slimocosky received an email from Elaine Fleeman who said the Meadow will be available for us again. We will be responsible to prep the meadow. Joan will send a note of thanks and reconfirming.
- Theme - It was agreed that we will once again invite local kids to pick the theme. Notice can go in Next Door and the Newsletter to tell kids to send ideas for the theme to Lois by June 15. The winner will be the Junior Grand Marshall again and ride on Mehner's fire truck. Motion to make nominate Jo Powe to be the Adult Grand Marshall, passed. Carrie will invite her.
- Sound System – Rod Bergen has brought his PA system for many years but it seems

inadequate. Tracy will try to organize a more powerful one.

- Music – The possibility of have a live band for July 4 was discussed. A motion to allocate \$500 for music/band passed. Ilda and Tamara will investigate and try to arrange.
- July 4 committee will have their own meetings as needed between today and the event. The next meeting for people who want to volunteer will be at Tracy's house, 854 Malibu Meadows, on Tuesday June 17 at 7PM.

Old Business:

Bulletin Board

Thank you Gary and John Cudworth for the new board. It still needs a roof and cork but it looks great. John Cudworth is doing both the labor AND the materials....Thank you to John!

Vintage Properties

We sent Ben Saltsman all correspondence from our meetings but nothing said anything about the specific size of the new homes. The bottom line is that Ben thinks we should get one committee member and one non-committee member to meet with Coastal to make sure Vintage is still in keeping with our philosophy and to fill a reporting role to community. They would meet with Rudy Silvas, Regional Planning Director. Ben will coordinate the meeting. Suze Randall volunteers to do this with one other committee member.

Fire Safe Council – 2nd meeting will be May 28 and is waiting list only already.

Square Dance – to be discussed at July meeting.

Next Meeting – at Dana Chidekel's house – July 8

Meeting adjourned at 8:19PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Reiss

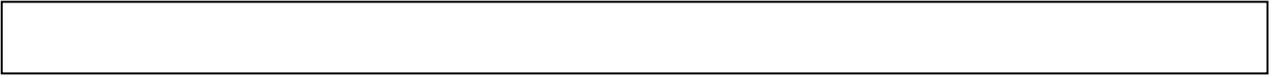
**The next MNVCA Board meeting will be July 8, 2014 at the home of
Dana Chidekel 25622 Huckleberry Dr. at 7:00PM**

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 Slimocosky 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 at
youngsmh@earthlink.net**





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:** _____ **Zip** _____

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

2. **Liability Release.**

In consideration for Equestrian Trials, 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

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, lightning, 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 I or my minor child 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 INDEMNIFY 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: MNVCA 4th of July Parade, Monte Nido, CA