

Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association

P.O. Box 2326 Loomis CA 95650

Volume 30 Issue 4

APRIL 2014

Newsletter

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PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by Denise Howell

Howdy Y'all

Lot's going on in our "neck of the woods." The Fuzzy Wuzzy Show was last weekend and though I was not there, I believe it was a huge success. The weather was outstanding. With the much needed rain that we have finally gotten (some is better than none!) everything is green and beautiful once again. We are all truly lucky to live where we do, in these lush foothills.

There has been some discussion regarding a proposed "Bike Pump Park" in Auburn and there are several groups supporting it and several groups opposed. There has been some confusion as to where LBHA stands on this. We have made our position public on our website. To find and read our position please go to our Home Page and on the left click County/Trails (<http://www.garlic.com/~lbha/CountyInfo.htm>)

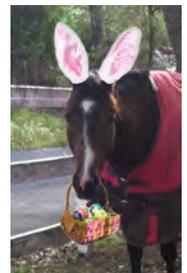
As you all know Langdon Fielding invited us to LBEMC for our meeting and not only hosted the meeting, gave a great presentation on equine arthritis but also served us pizza. Thank you Langdon and LBEMC staff! We all have so much to learn and your generosity helps to make that possible for us.

I'd again like to bring up the subject of our arena and the sports at the park. We must all get along. Saturdays there will be events (baseball currently) at the park and parents are not always horse people. Kids come first. If your horse is not acclimated to chaos, children, strollers, umbrellas and loud cheering, simply don't go to the arena on Saturday. If you are not patient in your driving and parking your horse trailer, don't go to the arena on Saturday. It can be frustrating to wait and move around cars parked outside our gates but there is no alternative. Please be patient, kind and wear a smile. It will show non-equestrians that we are a friendly bunch and are willing to share.

Tally Whoa

*Denise Howell
& Beethoven*

Email to LBHA has been changed!
LBHA@garlic.com



SUPPORTING LBHA HELPS SAVE AND MAINTAIN OUR TRAILS, THE ARENA AT THE PARK , TRAYLOR RANCH AND THE RURAL LIFESTYLE

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 State Parks Dispatch 916 358-1300
 (Call above number for incidents in State Parks)



TRAYLOR RANCH NATURE RESERVE

We just completed our first workday at Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve on Saturday March 22. What a beautiful day to kick off the season.

Since we received rains so late this winter the grasses hadn't gotten out of hand so we were able to cover all the trails and picnic areas.

Thanks again to our "core" team Jerry Potter, Maureen Henderson and Wes Babcock on Weed-wacker, Linda Potter and Dave Faoro on tractor mowing, Mary Westfall and Jennifer Wright hauling a wheelbarrow around filling gopher holes and trimming with help from Vicki Miles. A big welcome to a new volunteer Sue Stack. Thanks for coming out!

The trails are in good shape. Ready and waiting for your enjoyment. Our next work day as usual is the fourth Saturday of the month, which is Saturday April 26 from 8-12am. Please mark your calendar now. I expect the grass to grow like crazy during April. We will need the help of additional weed-wacker crews if possible. In addition the black berries will be starting their annual growth and needing trimming.

If anyone has any questions on TRNR, please don't hesitate to drop me a note.

Dave Faoro

TRNR Committee Chairman
dave_lbha@faoro.us

Horses and children, I often think, have a lot of the good sense there is in the world. ~Josephine Demott Robinson



Posting Horse-Trail Photographs onto GoogleEarth

by Robert H. Sydnor, *AERC Trail Master and Geologist*

April 2014

Introduction

It is helpful if equestrians upload GPS-tagged photographs of horse-trails and horse-assembly areas onto GoogleEarth. These unique photographs can then be viewed by anyone for reliable visual data about the geologic terrain of the horse trail. This is particularly welcoming for experienced riders from afar who may want to ride in a new area, for daily conditioning rides, and for official rides. A picture is worth a thousand words, especially when describing terrain, logistics, access difficulties, horse-trailer navigation to the parking lot, key signposts to look for, and the trail-head venue. Photos that also have horse-ears in them clearly notify the world that this is a horse-trail.

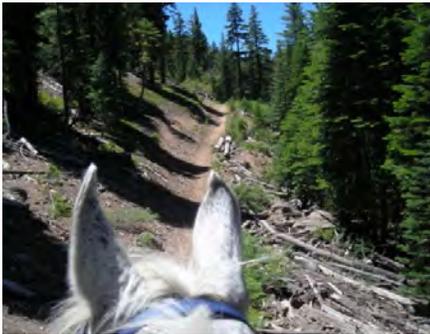
The purpose of this report is to describe the steps for riders to post horse-trail photographs. This will help to promulgate our sport of horseback riding to a wide public audience via GoogleEarth.

Examples of Suitable Logistical and Terrain Photos for GoogleEarth

Notice that the horse is *not* the center of attention; these logistical and terrain photos have a very different purpose. Social photographs of rides are optimum for Facebook, personal websites, and the cover of horse magazines. However, GoogleEarth will not post them.



Hidden Falls footbridge, No-Hands Bridge on the Tevis Trail, and Canyon View Bridge over Coon Creek = very different bridges for horses.



Tevis Trail near Milepost 3; the John Muir Trail in Yosemite at Cathedral Pass, and the South Fork of the American River at BLM Cronan Ranch
{ Several thousand people have viewed these on GoogleEarth }

Steps for Uploading Horse-Trail Photos onto GoogleEarth

1. Obtain a (free) **Google account using your real name**. No fake names and no pretentious names are allowed. OK to have other gmail.com accounts but for this unique purpose, a real person is needed. No, you cannot use other Internet service providers to do this. This is part of the Google empire. (Continue to use your preferred e-mail address; no need to change.)
2. Go to www.Panoramio.com This website is owned and operated by Google. **Panoramio serves as the uploader portal** onto GoogleEarth. Establish a free personal Panoramio account using your gmail.com address. Essentially this is where the suitability of your trail photos are examined, vetted, and checked for standards. Photos with lots of people in them are not approved by the censor (who is neither a horseman nor a trail specialist). As of 2014, there are about 75 million photographs posted onto GoogleEarth, and about 50,000 per day are uploaded worldwide.

(Cont'd from Pg 3)

3. Obtain a lightweight **digital camera that also has a built-in GPS-tagging function**. Many suitable ones are in the \$400 range. No need to carry an \$8,000 expensive camera while on horseback. If a heavy and expensive camera is dropped and accidentally stepped on by your horse, just imagine the financial grief and remonstrance. Carry two or three **spare batteries** and become adroit at changing batteries while in the saddle (while your horse is diverted and eating some grass). Plan to take 300 to 400 sequential trail-bed photographs per day, so you will need a 16- or 32-GB memory chip in the camera. Recharge the batteries in your equestrian GPS camera each evening.
4. Mount your horse, then wait a full minute for your GPS-tagged camera to **lock onto the signals of about 7 to 9 satellites**. Wait patiently for at least 3 bars of signals from the overhead satellites. While riding alone at a walk or slow trot, take sequential trail-bed photographs of the trail-bed, looking ahead through the ears of your horse. Do not turn off your camera, otherwise you will lose the signal from the cluster of satellites. Ride with one hand holding the wrist-strap of the camera, and the other hand holding the reins. Do not perform this scientific work with other equestrians because they will be impatient about the pausing to focus the camera lens on the trail-bed ahead. Your horse will also be impatient, but you can train him pause and listen for the click of the shutter. On a complicated forest trail with many turns, this means that you will take a **forward-looking photograph every 50 to 100 feet**, with the ears of your horse alert and leaning forward. Try to ride in the same direction as most other equestrians, and also try to ride with the sun at your back or high in the sky, so that your own silhouette is not on the trail-bed. Also take logistical photos of the **horse assembly area** or ride camp.
5. When you get back home to your computer, upload a large batch of photographs onto www.Panoramio.com. These will be **auto-loaded by latitude and longitude** since they are GPS-tagged. This auto-load saves hours of tedious plotting by hand. You have time to edit the precise location onto the aerial photograph that serves as the basemap. My photos appear to be plotted within about 30 feet, and so I often adjust the marker so that it falls precisely on the trail-bed. This creates a **locus of way-points** that forms your ride. You can adroitly delete any blurred or unsuitable photos (= when your horse shakes his head).
6. **Add tags** to each photograph. *Examples are:* AERC Cache Creek Ridge Ride, AERC American River Classic, and AERC Tevis Cup. You can also add a second layer of geographic tags, such as Sterling Point; Deer Creek Hills, Sacramento Valley Conservancy; Western States Trail; Granite Bay Assembly Area; Hidden Falls Regional Park; Placer County, California, and so forth. Use the county name as a tag as much as possible, so that visitors can easily find your trail, using a "Google Search."
7. Add a **detailed description** to each photo. This can be time-consuming and tedious. A clever way to use repetitive text is to simply create a file in MS Word, then repeatedly cut-and-paste it onto each photo that is posted onto Panoramio. This saves repetitive typing of the same text. Remember, you are probably taking 50 photos per mile of horse trail.
8. Within the description of each photo, create **hyperlinks** back into the website of the public agency who owns the trail (such as the Auburn State Recreation Area, BLM, USFS, a county park, etc.) This creates a layer of trust with the landowner (often a government agency) that equestrians recognize them as the legal owners of the land. Showcase their government website, and this will be a double-blessing for you and your equestrian friends.
9. After your large batch of photos are uploaded onto www.Panoramio.com, be patient during the **vetting process**. It often takes **about 3 days** to gain approvals. You maintain ownership and copyright of your own horse-trail photos. The circular blue talisman of acceptance into GoogleEarth will soon be tagged on most of your photos. If one is rejected, then it is still on Panoramio, however not on the higher public platform of GoogleEarth. You can appeal once if your photo is rejected for being unsuitable. Many of my horse-trail signposts are approved, and few are mysteriously not approved. Apparently, it helps if the horse-trail signpost is not in the center of the photograph, but off to one side (but still legible).
10. **Revisit your photographs** several times per year, and **make minor editorial corrections and updates** as appropriate. There is a counter on each photo, so you will soon be able to discern which kinds of horse-trail photos are most interesting to hundreds of diverse viewers. You can always delete a photograph at any time.
11. A benefit of **closely-spaced sequential photographs** of the trail-bed is that **trail maintenance can then be planned** and presciently scheduled by the land-owner working with both paid professional trail-crews, and also with volunteer trail-crews (often led by AERC Trail Masters).
12. Another benefit is that experienced riders from out-of-state can perform a **"Peter-Pan flyby" in virtual reality** using GoogleEarth software so that they can visualize the trail conditions *prior* to the actual ride. This helps to increase the number of successful riders and the trail experience becomes safer with increased knowledge of actual trail conditions.



MEMBERSHIP

Please renew your membership. The list of those that need to renew for can be found on our website. Click on the "Large" membership button on the Main LBHA page to see the paid up members and the Dec13 need to renew list. Please renew, we need YOU!

**Please Renew
Today!**

If you are not getting e-mails from LBHA, we may not have the correct e-mail or you are blocking LBHA. The Newsletter goes on line the first week of each month, so if you do not get a notice, just check the webpage and then get the correct e-mail to LBHA.

Being an LBHA Member is a great way to give back to our community. We thank you in advance. Thank you.

March Performance Horses

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AD FEES For LBHA Members

(Non-Members add \$10 to below fees)

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 ½ page: 1year \$60 Includes Business card on Website.
 ½ page: 6mos \$30

Business Card Ad per issue: \$10 / issue
 Business Card Ad/year: \$40/year includes card on Website

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Full Page Ad: \$25
 ½ Page Ad: \$15
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Exp 8/1/14

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Questions: Call Matt at (530) 885-3046, ext. 116

NOTE: This is the topic of our May 15th LBHA meeting-PCRCD will be there to give a talk



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A Better Weight

By Chad Mendell

We've all seen horses around the barn, on neighboring farms, or quite possibly in our own barn that are a little, shall we say--heavy. But what exactly is heavy? For that matter, what determines if a horse is thin? Sure, it's easy to point out those horses at either of the extremes, but for those in between there can be gray areas.

In the early 1980s, as a part of his graduate research project at Texas A&M University (TAMU), Don Henneke, PhD, developed a scale to evaluate the body condition of broodmares. The scale looked at the amount of fat deposited in different areas of the body in an effort to classify them for research purposes. His study was published in the *Equine Veterinary Journal* in 1983.

Since then, the TAMU Body Condition Score (BCS) system has been used as the gold standard for classifying horses' body conditions by equine health professionals and horse owners. The method uses sight and touch to evaluate the amount of fat over the loin, ribs, tailhead, withers, neck, and shoulders. The horse is then scored overall on a scale of 1 to 9. A BCS of 1 means the horse is very emaciated, a BCS of 9 represents an obese horse, and a BCS of 5 is ideal for the moderately active horse. However, there are variations to this (more on this later).

What to Look For

Scoring a horse using this technique is relatively simple, but it requires some basic knowledge of anatomy and bone structure. Here's what you should look for in each of these locations:

Loins An emaciated horse will have a negative crease and ridge down the back where the spinous processes (the bony column of the vertebrae) project up. This is one of the first areas to begin to fill in as the horse gains weight because fat accumulates around organs for protection.

As the horse becomes fatter (a BCS above 5), a positive crease is visible because fat deposits are forming around the processes.

Ribs The ribs are the second most noticeable area to identify an over- or underweight horse. An emaciated horse's ribs will be visibly protruding and easily felt when running your hands over his barrel.

As he gains weight, fat deposits coat the ribs.

At a BCS of 5, the ribs should no longer be easily visible, but still be easily palpated with light pressure. As the horse reaches a BCS of 8 or 9, the ribs will have enough fat covering them that they will be difficult to feel with light pressure.

Tailhead The bone structure of the tailhead is easily seen in horses with a BCS of 3 or less. These horses have a triangular shape to them when viewed from behind.

As you move to the opposite end of the scale, fat will begin to fill in around the tail head creating a round, full shape.

Withers Determining a horse's body condition based on his withers can be difficult depending on the horse's conformation.

A horse with a high withers might be perceived as thinner than he actually is. Conversely, a horse with low or flat withers can appear fatter than he actually is.

If the horse is very thin, either side of the withers will look concave. As fat content increases, say a BCS of 6 or 7, these deposits become more palpable. At a BCS of 9, the withers will be visibly bulging with fat.

Neck In an extremely thin horse, the throat latch will be drawn up, as well. On the other side of the scale (such as a BCS of 8), a thick, "cresty" neck will be visible, and the jugular groove and throat latch will be less defined.

Shoulder The horse's shoulder is more useful to determine if the horse is overweight rather than if he's underweight. Fat tends to deposit behind the shoulder and elbow area, over the horse's heart girth. When looking at an obese horse, it can be hard to distinguish between the shoulder and the chest.

One Size Does Not Fit All (cont'd from Page 7)

It would be easy to say that a BCS of 5 would be the ideal condition for every horse, but that's not always the case. Pete Gibbs, PhD, a professor and extension horse specialist at TAMU, Gary Potter, DVM, PhD, professor emeritus at TAMU, along with several other individuals in the university's program, have conducted research and compiled extensive information on BCS and how it relates to the horse's intended usage.

A horse's ideal body condition depends on level of activity or breeding status, and in some cases packing on a few extra pounds could be a good thing. For instance, if a breeding stallion doesn't have a few extra pounds at the beginning of the breeding season (a BCS of 6 or 7), due to the stresses of breeding, he could be rather scrawny come July or August.

Likewise, research has shown that non-lactating mares have a greater pregnancy rate when they are maintained at a BCS between 6 and 8.

Henneke, et al., wrote, "Recent studies have shown that mares entering the breeding season or foaling in low body condition had prolonged post-partum intervals, reduced conception rates, and required more cycles per conception than mares entering the breeding season in fatter condition."

Establishing and maintaining pregnancy becomes increasingly difficult when the mare's BCS drops below a BCS of 6. Gaining weight while nursing can be very difficult for the mare, and most mares will experience a small to moderate weight loss. To ensure a BCS of 5 or more at the time of rebreeding, ideally they should foal at a BCS 6 or better.

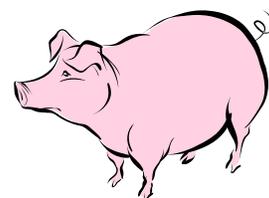
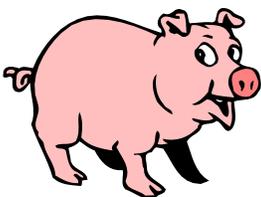
Endurance horses should also be kept in adequate body flesh. Two studies examined the relationship between BCS and the horse's ability to finish the 100-mile Tevis Cup endurance race. Researchers concluded that mean BCS for horses that successfully completed the race was around 4.6. Horses that were eliminated for metabolic reasons such as colic, heat stress, and tying-up had a mean BCS of 2.9.

When a horse exerts energy levels above and beyond his normal limits, the body begins to burn fat reserves. However, at a BCS of 3 or less, there is very little in the way of fat reserves. Instead, the body breaks down muscle protein to use as energy.

However, a BCS above 6 can also be detrimental to these horses because it adds extra weight to carry, and extra insulation, creating more heat for the horse to combat. Most arena/performance horses should maintain a BCS in the 5 to 5½ range.

Another consideration in BCS variance is geriatric horses. Significant loss in body condition is one of the worst things that can happen to an elderly horse, but it is also fairly common. "Older horses are notorious for having difficulty gaining weight," according to Gibbs. "The owner's challenge and goal is never to let an older horse get thin in the first place."

That's not to say that elderly horses should be kept fat, especially if they are still being ridden or have a history of weight-related problem such as laminitis. These horses should be kept a little on the fleshy side, without going overboard.



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MEMBERSHIP FORM
LOOMIS BASIN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

The Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association, founded in 1984, is a non-profit informational and awareness organization dedicated to the Arena at the Loomis Basin Community Park, Loomis Basin Trails, Traylor Ranch, and the preservation of the Rural Lifestyle

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_____ Newsletter _____ Traylor Ranch _____ Endurance _____
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I would like to contribute _____ to the Equestrian Fund or _____ to the Traylor Ranch Fund. Contributions to either Fund are Tax Deductible and will be used for construction and maintenance of the Arena at the Loomis Basin Community Park, and for Maintenance of Basin Trails OR for Maintenance and upkeep of the Traylor Ranch Nature Reserve.

TRAILER PARKING KEYS: Keys are available to members at \$.00 and \$10 to non-LBHA members. Check here if you need a Key _____

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LOOMIS BASIN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

RELEASE AND HOLD HARMLESS AGREEMENT

The Undersigned assumes the unavoidable risks inherent in all horse-related activities, including but not limited to bodily injury and physical harm to horse, rider and spectator. The Undersigned acknowledges that horse-related activities are dangerous and that horses themselves have unpredictable temperaments which can sometimes cause injury. The Undersigned acknowledges that even the most experienced horse event sponsor, participant or horse owner cannot predict how each individual horse will react in a variety of situations and cannot guarantee my safety. THEREFORE, BY SIGNING BELOW, I KNOWINGLY ASSUME THE UNAVOIDABLE RISKS INHERENT IN ALL HORSE-RELATED ACTIVITIES, WHETHER KNOWN OR UNKNOWN, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO BODILY INJURY AND PHYSICAL HARM TO HORSE, RIDER AND SPECTATOR, AND AGREE TO THE FOLLOWING ON BEHALF OF MYSELF AND MY SPOUSE, IF ANY:

1. I HEREBY RELEASE AND DISCHARGE LOOMIS BASIN HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION ("LBHA"), THE LBHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS, ALL LBHA OFFICERS AND INDIVIDUAL CLUB MEMBERS AND THEIR AGENTS, EMPLOYEES, OR REPRESENTATIVES, AS WELL AS PLACER COUNTY, (HEREINAFTER COLLECTIVELY KNOWN AS "RELEASEES") FROM ALL ACTIONS, CLAIMS OR DEMANDS I MAY NOW OR HEREAFTER HAVE FROM INJURY, DEATH OR DAMAGE RESULTING FROM MY PARTICIPATION IN ANY HORSE-RELATED ACTIVITIES SPONSORED BY LBHA, AT LOOMIS BASIN HORSEMEN'S ARENA OR AT ANY OTHER LOCATION.

2. I also EXPRESSLY WAIVE any rights I may have under California Civil Code §1542, which states: "A general release does not extend to claims which the creditor does not know or suspect to exist in his favor at the time of executing the release, which if known by him must have materially affected his settlement with the debtor."

5. I agree that I will DEFEND, INDEMNIFY AND HOLD HARMLESS Releasees against all claims, demands, and causes of action, including court costs and actual attorney's fees, arising from any proceeding or lawsuit brought against them due to any act done by me, or brought by me or for my benefit.

I HAVE READ THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT CAREFULLY AND COMPLETELY, AND FULLY UNDERSTAND ITS CONTENTS. I AM AWARE THAT THIS IS A RELEASE OF LIABILITY AND A CONTRACT BETWEEN MYSELF AND RELEASEES, AND I SIGN IT OF MY OWN FREE WILL. I FURTHER AGREE THAT NO ORAL REPRESENTATIONS, STATEMENTS OR INDUCEMENTS APART FROM THE FOREGOING WRITTEN AGREEMENT HAVE BEEN MADE, AND THAT I RELY ON NONE. THIS AGREEMENT SHALL REMAIN IN EFFECT UNTIL REVOKED IN WRITING BY ME.

Signature(s) _____

Name (s) _____ Age, if minor _____

If minor, Parent or Guardian must sign _____

Name of Parent or Guardian: _____



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Exp 4/14

Next Meeting.

APRIL LBHA MEETING APRIL 16 Kathy Roberts Cow 101 prior to her Cow Clinic "How to Moove " Loomis Round Table Pizza 6:30 Eat/ 7:00 Meet

MAY LBHA MEETING MAY 15 Elisa Noble presentation on Horse Property Management Loomis Round Table Pizza 6:30 Eat/ 7:00 Meet

Stall with paddock available at private barn in Lincoln/Newcastle area. 85'x135' Covered arena. Grass hay fed twice daily. Contact Nancy (916)645-9659



Exp 4/1/15

Lazy U Ranch

Massage Therapy

Tammy Haas

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Lifetime Masters Club



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ABOUT LBHA

The Loomis Basin Horsemen's Association founded in 1984 is a non-profit 501 (C) 3 information and awareness organization dedicated to the South Placer County Trails, Traylor Ranch, the Arena at the Loomis Basin Community Park and the Preservation of the Rural Lifestyle.

**Loomis Basin Horsemen's
Association**

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We're on the Web!

See us at:

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Traylor Ranch

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