



HoofBeat

President’s Message by Eric Anderson

I hope this issue of the HoofBeat finds you all healthy and doing well. It has been a long, hot summer, with fire impacting many areas.

Your CMOA Board of Directors is putting the final touches on the upcoming POST schools taking place in Norco. We are proud to be offering Basic Mounted Patrol, Advanced/Update Mounted Patrol, and Mounted Patrol Instructor.

In this issue, you will see some event wrap ups. If you have not gotten to an event this year, please make an effort to get to the annual conference. There are several new units up and coming that need your expertise and advise! Looking forward to seeing you soon!

HELP!
IS YOUR AGENCY INTERESTED IN HOSTING THE 2019 TRAIL TRIALS? CONTACT CMOA FOR DETAILS. WE ARE LOOKING FOR A VENUE IN CENTRAL OR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA.



Contents

Page 2	Memorial Debrief
Page 3	Santa Monica Horse
Page 4	Round Up Debrief
Page 5	Australia Event
Page 6	Trail Trials Debrief
Page 7	NAMUCA Debrief

Upcoming Events

**POST Schools in Norco
September 10-14**

***there is still room in the
Advanced Class***

**Annual Conference
November 17-18
Huntington Beach**



Debrief: California Peace Officers' Memorial

By Tim Dempsey

On May 8th, 2018 six members of the California State law enforcement family who made the ultimate sacrifice in 2017, were added to the Honor Roll, taking their place alongside those heroes who preceded them. Peace Officers from across the state gathered in Sacramento to attend the May 8th ceremony. They arrived at the state capitol in procession, agency by agency, in marked units, on motorcycles, bicycles, and horseback.

The Sacramento Police Department Mounted Unit played host to the mounted officers and their horses. Approximately eighty-five mounted officers and deputies rode in the procession from the Sac PD stables to the State Capitol, where the families of the fallen heroes gathered.

The somber event is as much for the living as it is for the fallen. As survivors, we take a day or two out of our daily lives once a year to pay tribute to those who fate and the hostile fringe of society have taken from us. The fine line between life and death in our chosen profession galvanizes our resolve to serve our respective communities and face evil wherever it tears at the fabric of law and order. A little of each of us goes into

the ground with these heroes, while a little of them embeds in each one of us.

The CMOA was well represented by members attending from up and down the state. CMOA provided a catered dinner for all attending mounted officers the night before the event. Riders had an opportunity to have their photos taken with the state capitol building in the background, also courtesy of our organization. If you've participated in this important ceremony, you already know the vital role it plays in comforting the families of our fallen brothers and sisters. The ride and gathering are punctuated by a release of doves and the discharge of the twenty-one gun salute. It is a challenge to get through the day, and a real validation of your horsemanship under stress.

Thank you to the Folsom Police Department Mounted Unit for hosting a guided trail ride and BBQ lunch the day prior to the ceremony. It was a great way to ready the horses for the next day. We also thank the Sacramento Police Department for hosting lunch after the ceremony.

Last Ride for Bert by Jason Salas

This past July 4th, marked the last deployment of Santa Monica Police Department's Mounted Patrol Unit's most senior mount. Bert finished his career in the City of Santa Monica 4th of July Parade. At 17 hands and 2000 pounds, Bert has been our unit's largest horse. During the parade it was as if Bert knew it was his last ride, acting as the anchor for a newer mount. Bert rode steadfast, undeterred by the large crowd of participants and onlookers, unusual sounds of the live bands, and all the pomp and frill that comes with a parade. Bert finished his career just like he started: solid.

Bert is a Percheron Draft horse who is 21 yrs old and started with the Santa Monica Police Department in 2005. Bert consistently worked every deployment, call out, and special event to which the unit was assigned. Bert served admirably in countless details, notably the 2014 World Cup Soccer Civil Unrest in Monterey Park and the 2016 Presidential Candidate Trump Rally in Anaheim. Bert excelled in crowd control scenarios not just due to his imposing size but because of his calm demeanor and willingness to do what his rider asked. He was the rock other horses leaned on in stressful and seemingly dangerous situations. Previously owned by Amish farmers, Bert had the rare ability to obey voice commands which at times proved to be a valuable asset.

Bert was the Alpha male of the Santa Monica Police department's stable of horses and often had to prove it with younger upstarts such as "Sammy" challenging for the throne. Although the Alpha male, Bert was a gentle giant especially with children, he never shied away from a young fans attention.

Bert finished his career with nagging injuries but served when needed for such events as Chief Cynthia Renaud's Swearing in Ceremony and the 4th of July Parade.

Bert's many years of service performing admirably at CMOA Mounted Schools, Trail Trials, Concerts, Mounted Patrol Details and Mutual Aid Situations will not be soon forgotten.

Upon retirement, Bert has been adopted by a longtime Santa Monica Mounted Unit volunteer Ruby, who stated he will be stabled next to his pals on the unit at the same facility. Ruby stated she has grown to love Bert and that he will be well taken care of.

Bert you will not be forgotten by me especially since he once stepped on my foot with his diner plate size hoof. Bert you will be missed there will never be another like you.



East Bay Regional Parks Inaugural Round Up

By Tim Dempsey

On August 4, 2018 the East Bay Regional Parks Police Department (EBRPD) held its first annual Mounted Round-Up and BBQ for the Northern California regions' mounted enforcement officers, deputies, and posse volunteers. The event took place along the rolling hills above their Vasco Caves Regional Preserve. The call went out far and wide months before the event date, to ensure the maximum number of personnel would have an opportunity to take part, with 35 riders ultimately attending. The trail ride itself was moderately challenging, with some up and down elevation changes, a few technical pathways for our animals to navigate through, and a cattle boneyard to step through. Denise Jungling and I were there to represent the CMOA.

What made the ride most challenging were the sensory obstacles spread out along the trail. You don't usually encounter twenty foot tall air men, giant spiders, and swimming pool noodle curtains on the trails, but if you did, wouldn't it be comforting to know you can get your horse up to each of them and ride away to tell the tale? There were also more natural obstacles such as dead fall, step up platforms and narrow gates to navigate.. The ride was followed by more sensory obstacles, situated throughout the covered arena.

After securing our mounts, we were treated to a sumptuous BBQ lunch. As we dined, Denise and I were allowed to speak about the CMOA, and the benefits one enjoys as a member of same. Based upon our participation

that day, we added four new members to our ranks, and sold a fair share of our merchandise.

Officer Tom Walsh and other members of the EBRPD worked with members of the EBPRD Posse to put this event on. Through donations, they were able to offer the day to every participating member for free. The general consensus was that the day was a wild success. My own experience in riding the course was that it offered enough challenge for most anyone. The host agency personnel were wonderful hosts, and the amenities are high caliber and sufficient to make repeat trips there for future trainings a no-brainer. Watch for future invitations from this forward thinking agency.

**CMOA members represent two countries
at the official War Horse Memorial
opening in the United Kingdom in June**

2018

**by Nigel Allsopp, Queensland PD,
Australia**



On June 8, 2018, President of the Australian War Animal Memorial Organization (AWAMO), 2017 ANZAC of the year, and CMOA Member Nigel Allsopp attended the United Kingdom's War Horse memorial opening at Ascot Race Course England. The memorial consists of a bronze war horse statue which weighs 1.5 tonnes and stands on a three-metre high stone plinth, in the middle of a roundabout in Ascot high street. During the unveiling, a minute's silence was held as a mark of respect. Underneath lies a sealed chamber which contains significant artefacts from the Great War. The memorabilia includes medals, coins and buttons collected from across the UK and even barbed wire from No Man's Land.

Nigel was contacted last year after he opened the WWI War Animal memorial at Pozieres France which he had been instrumental in establishing to act as the Australian Ambassador for Equines at the UK event.

Nigel laid a wreath at the opening and was asked to address the VIPs at the reception at Ascot afterwards. A video message was

delivered by the British Prime Minister and letter read out from HRH The Queen by her Pageant master Bruno Peek LVO OBE OPR.

The event was attended by many VIPs, Actors and Ambassadors from NZ, Canada, USA and France, plus several members of Parliament and the head of the House Hold Cavalry. CMOA Member Rick Wagner was asked to represent the USA as an Ambassador at this special event.

Nigel and Rick were interviewed by the BBC after the ceremony and a documentary crew who were making a film on the event.



*Rick Wagner, CMOA was interviewed by the
BBC TV*

2018 Annual Memorial Trail Trials at Dunnigan

On June 23, 2018 the Annual Memorial Trail Trials was held in Dunnigan, at the Running I Ranch. Forty-six contestants pitted themselves against one another, and against a very challenging sensory course. At stake were bragging rights across the State of California for the victors, and the knowledge of what to work on for those missing the mark.



The obstacles included a ten foot tall wooden grizzly bear, sporting razor sharp claws (albeit rubbery to the touch). There was a hula hoop draped over one claw. Each rider had to side pass about ten feet to the bear, retrieve the hula hoop then side pass back out and present the hoop to the judge. There was a lake obstacle, where the rider walked their mount into the water from a beach. To achieve a passing score, one had to walk parallel to the beach for about fifteen feet, before exiting the water. Extra points were awarded for riders who walked out and through a noodle obstacle that was positioned at the waters' edge and above a cement step up from the beach.

Another challenging obstacle was a ten foot in diameter wooded circular platform, with a balance point in the middle. Riders had to have their mount step onto the platform from one end, then walk across the platform as it suddenly dropped as the animal walked beyond the balance point.

Top Law Enforcement honors were awarded to Chris Pena and in the civilian class, Angie Moreland won first place. The winning team consisted of Eric Anderson, Brian Carrion, Bruce Frazee, and Chris Pena.

Friday night, we all gathered for a taco dinner put on by the Friends of the Mounted Unit associated with CHP. There was a dummy roping contest, emceed by the legendary Officer Wes Fish of the CHP. In the end, LASD's (and CMOA board member) Catarino Gonzales took top honors, throwing "houlihans" like they were child's play, never missing a single catch.

Saturday night was the CMOA BBQ and awards ceremony, along with the traditional raffle. The prizes were top notch and a good time was had by all.

Running I is open to anyone wanting to ride the obstacle course. It does get hot there, but the property is very shaded. The course allows you to pick and choose which obstacles to attempt, and in what order you attempt them in. You can contact Running I at (916) 425-0629 if you would like to set up a time to ride.

Thanks to everyone who attended Trail Trials!

The North American Mounted Unit Commander's Association (NAMUCA) Conference 2018

by Chris Pena, Region 5 Director

The North American Mounted Unit Commander's Association (NAMUCA) held our annual conference this year in McAllen, Texas. The conference was hosted by the United States Border Patrol – Rio Grande Valley (RGV) Sector Horse Patrol Unit and the Texas Department of Public Safety Mounted Police.

Since 1924, the Border Patrol has been patrolling desolate areas along U.S. borders by horseback and today the sector utilizes nearly 40 horses that were adopted through the Noble Mustang program. The mustangs in RGV have undergone a basic training at the Kansas City Correctional Facility by trustee inmates, followed by training with agents for field deployment. During the conference, it was made clear that on the rugged border between the United States and Mexico, however, on craggy mountains where even the toughest four-wheel-drive vehicles can't pass, there's still a need for real horsepower.

The conference included a full day of lectures and guest speakers, a full day at the rodeo arena for demonstrations and vendors, and the third day riding along the border on their mustangs as well as the a tour of the Rio Grande River, US/ Mexico Border in patrol boats! The Customs and Boarder Protection (CBP) agents even have their own band which set up and played for us during a great BBQ lunch on Sunday. A BIG thanks to the Texas DPS Mounted Unit and the U.S. Border Patrol for hosting a great conference!

"The mission of the North American Mounted Unit Commander's Association is to provide mounted unit commanders and stakeholders with the opportunity to share experience, information and best practices, ensuring the delivery of professional mounted services to our law enforcement organizations and communities." www.NAMUCA.com



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