

## **2018 TVT Member Wildflower / St Jude Fundraiser Club Ride**

Saturday, March 10 (*Rain Date March 17, 2018*)

Staging at Macedo Gate Mt Diablo State Park **Ride out 10:00 am**

Trail Boss: Penny Marrs C: 925.980.6563 email: pennymarrs@gmail.com

***Please RSVP by 3/7/18***

**St Jude Fundraiser** has been a yearly event for TVT thanks to Joann Swift's coordination. We have helped to provide many children with needed medical services over the years. Fundraiser forms will be at the WF ride, and again at the general meeting 3/14/18. Even if you cannot participate in the ride we urge you all to support this very worthwhile organization. If you cannot make the meeting or the ride, donations can be made online through St Jude (making sure its identified for TVT), or money will be collected at the following meeting. Prizes given at Summer Party Social Event.

Due to the unusually early Spring, we have moved the our traditional Wildflower Ride, originally led by our own botany teacher, Marilyn Russell through the years, a month earlier than usual. The prairie done on February 8<sup>th</sup> was confirmation that the flowers are already bursting! This trail has been the traditional early season ride, but does have a number of fairly short BUT steep up-hills, and a long downhill from BBQ Terrace. Knowing that some horses may still have some winter coats and some fitness issues, we will be taking a lot of rest stops along the way to point out the flowers and terrain, while resting our horses. At the prairie there was a completely full, large, round water trough at the top of the BBQ Terrace Road that has not had water in a few past years, so that's good news for our horses. Already this year I've seen in bloom on Diablo: *Indian Warrior, CA Golden Bush, Buck Brush in bloom, Hounds Tongue, wild pansies, Milk Maids, Blue Dicks, fields of mustard, and Buttercups and a few more.*

**Stage: Macedo Gate**, End of Green Valley Road (Directions attached)

**Park Fee:** \$6, Seniors: \$5 (62yo +), or *STATE PARK PASS*

**Time: RIDE OUT 10:00 am**

**Parking:** Plenty of room

**Terrain:** Rolling open trail road, with short steep hills up, and long winding downhill road back.

**Footing:** Hard dirt rd., sandy rock slabs, rocky, dirt, gravelly downhill, wet creek Xing's, mud.

**Distance:** 8.05 miles.

**Elevation Change:** 1090'

**Lunch Stop:** BBQ Terrace. Horse Water, Tie Rails, Bathrooms, Picnic Table

**Return Time:** 2:30 -3 pm at a slow walk with stops.

**CSHA Info Trails ridden:** Wall Pt Road, Summit Trail, BBQ Terrace Rd, Stage Rd, Dusty Road.

**If fitness for the overall group is a concern, the trail route can be changed.**

Please bring a halter and lead rope & lunch. Some areas are rocky. Recommend using good tick spray on you and your horse's legs. There will be tall grass at BBQ Lunch stop, and March is usually breeding season for ticks. A jacket is recommended as once we get to top of Wall Ridge the wind can be pretty icy.... This is not a technical ride at all. The road is wide and can accommodate a group of horses easily, but also we will encounter many bikers and hikers at times as this is a very scenic route.

## **Directions to Macedo Gate Mt Diablo State Park**

### **From Livermore or Castro Valley Area:**

680 North to *Stone Valley Road East* (Alamo)

Right on *Stone Valley East* to *Green Valley Road* (just past Monte Vista High School)

**Turn Left here on Green Valley DO NOT GO ACROSS GREEN VALLEY ROAD**

Continue on *Green Valley Road* where it ends at the *Macedo Gate Parking Lot*.

Fee Kiosk is near the Bathrooms....

### **From Concord, Walnut Creek, Martinez, and Brentwood Area:**

680 South to *Stone Valley Road East* (second Stone Valley Exit)

Right on *Stone Valley East* to *Green Valley Road* (just past Monte Vista High School)

**Turn Left here on Green Valley DO NOT GO ACROSS GREEN VALLEY ROAD**

Continue on *Green Valley Road* where it ends at the *Macedo Gate Parking Lot*.

Fee Kiosk is near the Bathrooms....

PLEASE PARK AS CLOSE TOGETHER AS IS SAFE TO ACCOMMODATE ALL TRAILERS BUT LEAVE ROOM TO ALLOW CARS TO GO AROUND EACH END OF TRAILERS. THEY NOW HAVE A MANURE BOX, WITH CART AND FORKS TO CLEAN UP OUR AREAS. NO HOSES FOR WASHING HORSES, BUT THERE IS A FRESH WATER SPIGOT NEAR THE PICNIC TABLES, PLUS A LARGE ROUND HORSE WATER TROUGH.

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