



THE BARN BURNER



SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION

Dedicated to the preservation of San Ramon's early farms and homesteads

Editor: Camille Thompson

A Message From The Board

Happy Fall Greetings from the San Ramon Historic Foundation Board! Our 7th Annual OKTOBERFEST was a HUGE success! We had over 500 participants and raised \$11,890 toward another farm building update. The music of the Olympic Fields Brass Band filled the air with delightful, upbeat Polka music and the Golden Gate Bavarian dancers encouraged us to dance!

The weather was perfect, so the four breweries and wine concession did very well! The GIFT SHOP sold many farm pioneer items. Everyone enjoyed the delicious lunch and sat at picnic tables with family and friends. The dachshund races were very competitive and fun to watch! Nobody was in a hurry to leave at the end of this very successful OKTOBERFEST!

We want to thank all the participants who came to the Farm to celebrate OKTOBERFEST! Every year this event gets bigger and better with many new activities added. We appreciate your attendance at this FUN event, so Mark your Calendars for next October 2020.

Carol J. Rowley
President of the Foundation Board



Holiday on the Farm

December 14th is Holiday on the Farm. Come on down and meet Santa in his decorated Sleigh and take pictures of your children. See the live reindeer and enjoy a puppet show. There will be tractor rides and old fashioned games. The San Ramon Historic Foundation has been collecting gently used ornaments that will be for sale in the walnut barn. We only charge a quarter, fifty cents, a dollar or whatever it's worth to the buyer. Some wonderful vintage items have been found. We also will have "Stuff-a-bear" for you for a fee and each bear will get a Christmas t-shirt. It is a fun, fun, day. So come on down and enjoy Holiday on the Farm.

Membership Drive

We encourage you to renew your San Ramon Historic Foundation membership for 2020. Your generous support allows the Foundation to continue programs to educate thousands of students, families and community members about farm life in the early 1900s.

Forest Home Farms is San Ramon's only Historic Park. The Boone House is on the National Register of Historic Places and can never be torn down. That is why it is important to preserve



Mark your calendar for these upcoming events!

 **HOLIDAY ON THE FARM**
December 14, 2019

FRIDAY!!!  **CRAB FEED**
January 24, 2020

 **SHEEP SHEARING** 
April 25, 2020



and protect one of San Ramon's beautiful and delightful parks! Send in your membership today and support upkeep of Forest Home Farms Historic Park

!! Don't Miss the Annual Crab Feed !!

SAN RAMON HISTORIC FOUNDATION

**TAKE NOTE: A NEW NIGHT
FRIDAY, January 24, 2020**

Dougherty Station Community Center
17011 Bollinger Canyon Road – San Ramon

6:00 P.M. Hors d'oeuvres
7:00 Dinner

Live auction for special desserts and
a silent auction for some great prizes.

Adults - \$55 Ages 6-10 - \$35 Under Age 5 – Free

Reservations: PayPal at www.srhf.org/events
Or Send a Check to SRHF – P O Box 1 – San Ramon, 94582

No tickets will be issued. Your Pay Pal receipt or
payment by Check reserves your space.

ALL PROCEEDS go toward upgrades to Forest Home Farms
Any Questions: Call 925-785-3395

**Appreciation for These
Generous Grants**

The San Ramon Historic Foundation extends its gratitude for these generous grants.

The **Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley** is funding an immersive, self-guided audio tour of the farm. Visitors can visit the kiosk near the Welcome Center and pick up a tour brochure explaining how to access an audio tour of the site via cell-phone. This project is an extension of our efforts to make the rich history of the San Ramon Valley accessible to people of all ages.

Formed in 1956, the **Kiwanis Club of San Ramon Valley** is a service organization dedicated to supporting the community through volunteerism and grants. For more information, visit www.srvkiwanis.org.

The **Dublin/San Ramon Women's Club** and the **Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Foundation** are helping give elementary school kids an interactive and memorable experience of early farm life. For the past 13 years, almost every 3rd grade student in the area has visited the farm and participated in hands-on activities to learn about local history and life in the San Ramon Valley during the late 1800s and early 1900s. The farm programs, serving approximately 3,200 Tri-Valley students annually from both public and private schools, would not be possible without funding from these wonderful organizations dedicated to serving our community.

The **Dougherty Valley/San Ramon Rotary Foundation's** mission is to raise money and make charitable contributions directed at youth and education within the San Ramon area and/or California, as well as causes which alleviate suffering in a time of crisis. For more information, visit www.dvsrrotaryfoundation.org.



Music, dancing & great food!
OKTOBERFEST at the Farm!

Meeting to Review Future Projects

In September, the San Ramon Historic Foundation Board and City Staff met at Forest Home Farms to do a facility review and to look at future projects to be funded by the City and Foundation. The following City staff attended: Marty Gonzales, Joe Pachen and Scott Rennicks from Public Services, Robin Bartlett from Engineering, Brad Morris, Adam Chow, and Jessica Raeber from Parks and Community Services. San Ramon Historic Board members at this meeting included Dall Barley, Shirley Ernest, Patsy Galati, Rene Kullick, Pat Boom, H. Abram Wilson and Carol Rowley. We reviewed 16 structures and made notes about what was needed to preserve the structure or increase its functional use. A small committee was created to bring forward next steps to the Board and City. This will determine which projects will be funded. Watch for future news, as the Farm needs constant upgrading!

Pioneer Picnic

Pat Boom

The San Ramon Historic Foundation has been honoring the pioneers of the San Ramon Valley with a pot luck picnic at Forest Home Farms Historic Park for number of years. We provide hot dogs and beverages and the attendees bring a variety of foods to share. The event is by invitation only. This year we included the members of the San Ramon Valley Historical Society, some of whom had never been to Forest Home Farms. After lunch we let members of the pioneer families tell stories of their lives in the early days of San Ramon. And what amazing stories we heard.

This year, as guests began to leave, a gentleman came to me and said, "I hope you continue to do this because it is the only time I get to see my friends who are farther away. We love it so much."

We hope to hold this event for many years to come.



Tractor Rides

Walter Sommer

The tractor and engine maintenance volunteers offer rides during events such as Halloween Trick or Treat, Holiday at the Farm and Sheep Shearing Day. The rides are very popular and are busy during the entire event. There is no charge for the rides, but donations are accepted.



A deck was added to a 1935 Caterpillar BTW Model Twenty-Two, the Creepy Crawler, that accommodates 10 riders. The ride is made exciting by tight spin turns and a few lurches.

More recently the volunteers used a variety of parts and built a surrey that is pulled by a cute 1950 Farmall Cub. This ride is gentler than the Creepy Crawler except when it traverses the mounds made by the Caterpillar. The Cub also occasionally takes a path through the trees.

Many visitors ride both vehicles. It is a fun day for the tractor group, as well, and also shows that our tractors are more than just show, they work hard.



COMING SOON!

December

Dec 7 – Holiday Wreath Making
Dec 14 – Holiday on the Farm
December 21 – Closed
December 28 – Closed

January

Jan 4 – The Farmer’s Toolbox
Jan 11 – Old Fashioned Games
Jan 18 – Victorian Music
Jan 25 – Embroidery

February

Feb 1 – Groundhog’s Day
Feb 8 – Victorian Valentines
Feb 22 – Weather & Time
Feb 29 – Victorian Tea Time

For details about these events, see the SR Parks & Comm. Svcs. Activity Guide

----- BOARD MEMBERS -----

President: Carol Rowley

Vice President: Shirley Ernest

Secretary: Carol Lopez-Lucey

Treasurer: Dall Barley

Pat Boom Robert Downum Patsy Galati H. Abram Wilson

Herb Moniz Rene Kullick Don Kowalski

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