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Charity Horse Show opens in Atherton

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"Horses in Art" is the theme of the 32nd Menlo Charity Horse Show, returning to the Menlo Circus Club in Atherton Tuesday, August 5, through Sunday, August 10. The show benefits the Peninsula Center for the Blind and Visually Impaired.

The invitation for this year's event features a reproduction of Leroy Neiman's "Color Horse." The artist has donated two signed prints of "Color Horse," one of which will be offered for bidding at the sponsors' dinner and auction to be held Friday, August 8. The second print will hang in the offices of the Peninsula Center for the Blind in Palo Alto.

Menlo Charity Horse Show, which started as a neighborhood gathering in 1970, has grown into a world-class equestrian show. In 2002 the show raised more than \$290,000 for Peninsula Center for the Blind.

Competition is Olympic-style jumping, which takes place on grass in three separate show rings. Of particular note are the unique jumps, many of which are decorated by local florists and artisans.

Riders will compete for more than \$100,000 in prize money and to gain points toward national championships. As with other "AA" events, riders of all ages take part wearing formal attire.

On Tuesday and Wednesday, August 5 and 6, activities begin at 8 a.m. and end at 4:30 p.m., with a variety of hunter, jumper and pony classes held in all three arenas. Thursday events continue from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. and include the \$2,000 Oakland Raiders gambler's choice jumper class at 6 p.m.

An evening party for sponsors on Friday, August 8, begins at 5 p.m. with wine tasting and a silent auction. The Maple Leaf Farms Ryman Memorial Speed Jumper Class takes place at 6 p.m.

Dinner and the live auction are scheduled for 7:30 p.m., to be followed by dancing to the Black Pearl Band. Auction items include an African safari, a horseback riding trip for two in Ireland and the Leroy Neiman color print, "Color Horse."

Tickets are \$125 per person. For reservations call 324-1005. Barbara Ellison of Wild Turkey Farm in Woodside is underwriting the event.

Saturday is Alfred Hitchcock Day with the Hitchcock \$10,000 Grand Hunter Challenge at 4:30 p.m.; the \$35,000 San Jose British Motors Grand Prix is at 6 p.m. A poolside barbecue will be held following the Grand Prix; the cost is \$35 per person. For reservations call 322-4616.

Sunday the show concludes with the \$10,000 Sheryl White Kappeler memorial junior/amateur owner jumper classic; the \$10,000 amateur jumper classic, and the \$10,000 modified junior amateur jumper classic.

Betsy Glikbarg of Atherton is chairman of the Menlo horse show, as she has been every year since its beginning in 1970. Laura Cornish of Portola Valley and Sandy Levison of Atherton are sponsor chairmen. Nancy Collins of Menlo Park is chairman of the sponsors' dinner and Jane Yates of Portola Valley is in charge of trophies and awards. Stu Whittelsey of Woodside is making arrangements for flag bearers from the Mounted Patrol.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase on the grounds. In addition, the Menlo Circus Club will be open to all visitors, and a buffet lunch will be served each day.

Admission is \$10 per day, with six day passes available for \$35. Children under 12 are admitted free. For more information, call 701-0543.

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