



THE PONY EXPRESS



VOLUME TEN

NUMBER THREE

JANUARY 2002

2001-2002 Board of Directors

Executive Board Members

President	Roy Jackson	779-1041
	president@mhp.org	
Vice-President	Mike Rusch	778-6974
	vicepresident@mhp.org	
Secretary	Byron Lengsfeld	779-2369
	secretary@mhp.org	
Treasurer	Bob Morris	847-7552
	treasurer@mhp.org	
Player Agent	Tom McClung	778-0792
	playeragent@mhp.org	

Division Representatives

Shetland Division

Gregg Hall 776-7427
(Second required)

Pinto Division

pinto@mhp.org
Tim Mason 776-1523 ("Mason")
Gordon Perry 782-5018 ("Gordy")

Mustang Division

mustang@mhp.org
Louie Andrade 779-5711
Patty Goularte 683-0489

Bronco Division

bronco@mhp.org
Mike O'Connell 778-0609
Alan LaBranche 782-1197

Pony Division

pony@mhp.org
John Bennett 776-0983

Colt Division

OPEN

Board Staff Positions (all emails @mhp.org)

Baseball Store	Barb McClung	778-0792
Booster Chair	Nanette Muhn	778-5800 booster...
Equipment Manager	Ralph Villafuerte	778-3395 equipment...
Fields Director	Matt Crider	847-7436 fields...
Head Scorekeeper	Mark Mom	778-5481 scorekeeper...
Newsletter Editor	Sally Plafker	782-6025 newsletter...
Publicity Director	Ken Howell	778-5422 publicity...
Snack Shack	OPEN	
Sponsorship Chair	Tony Saenz	778-2097 sponsorship...
Training Director	Joe Sorci	779-6640 training...
Winterball Dir.	Bob Benevento	779-8959 winterball...
Tournament Dir.	Gregg Hall	607-7427 tournament...
MHPB Directory	Stacy Barrett	779-3403
Webmaster	Mike Heil	782-8770 webmaster...

MHPB Information 778-MHPB

MHPB Web Site www.MHPB.org

Player Evaluation Schedule

By Sally Plafker

It is time to "try out" for MHPB spring baseball. We will be having player evaluations (a chance for the coaches to get a look at how you play) on Saturday, 2/2/02. All the "try outs" will take place on the Britton Middle School fields in accordance with the following schedule:

If your last name starts with A through L, please come at 9:00 a.m. and plan to stay until 12:00 noon.

If your last name starts with M through Z, please come at 1:00 p.m. and plan to stay until 4:00 p.m.

We are trying to get all the evaluations done on Saturday, so please do your best to be there. There will be no evaluations for Shetland players (ages 5-6), Pinto players (ages 7-8), or Colt players (ages 15-16).

If you cannot make it on Saturday, there will be a quick "try out" on Sunday, 2/3/02 from noon until 1:00 p.m. However, remember that is Super Bowl Sunday, so you probably want to make it out on Saturday!

The Bronco division (ages 11-12) will NOT be holding a Sunday make-up.

Training for Coaches

By Joe Sorci

MHPB provides training for managers and coaches to insure they are prepared to meet the challenges of coaching youth baseball. Training consists of A.C.E.P. or American Coaching Effectiveness Program, First Aid, Rules Clinic, and a Coaching Clinic. ACEP is a three-hour class which consists of preparing the first year coaches to effectively meet the demands and responsibilities of coaching youth baseball. The prospective coaches learn to prepare a team to compete safely and have fun. It will help them plan their season's schedule as well as going over coaching skills needed to communicate with the players. This is a one-time mandatory class for the first year coach. Dates for these classes, which will be held at Mountain Mike's Pizza at 7:00 p.m. are 02/07/02, 02/28/02 and 03/13/02.

Training for coaches, (Continued)...

First aid classes are non-certified classes which help the coaches to very generally address some of the injuries which may occur on the field. Things like first aid for minor injuries and when to call 911, are addressed. Again this is a non-certified class, meaning you will not receive a first aid card, but you will become more aware of possible injuries and how to react for the safety of the player. This class is also mandatory for coaches every two years unless you have a valid first aid card, then you're exempt. Dates for this class will be 01/31/02, 02/26/02, and 03/05/02. These classes will be held at 7:00 p.m. at Mountain Mike's Pizza.

The Coaches Clinic is also mandatory. It is usually put on by the skipper of the Live Oak High Varsity Baseball Team, Mark Cummins. This is a very helpful clinic where the Varsity Players are involved in demonstrating the skills which Coach Mark Cummins and his staff teach. It is very up to date and geared specifically the toward the divisions you will be coaching. A date for this clinic is yet to be set, but it will probably be in early March. You will be advised.

Lastly, there is the Rules Clinic. This is an optional class but many coaches attend and find it quite helpful. Here, you will be able to ask questions regarding rules in your specific division of play. A date is also still pending.

Field Maintenance 101

By Joe Sorci

It's time for baseball to begin again. Along with the game come peripheral duties like field maintenance. I had a good chuckle the other day at an operations meeting when it was suggested that I include field maintenance in my training program this year.

So here goes...

First of all, it's going to be wet when we start the season. So many times we come to the field and find mud puddles. I've seen coaches do some strange things trying to get the puddles out. The best way is to sweep them away with a push broom. You want to disperse the water on to the dryer Gold Fines. The push broom is the best way. It removes the water but not the Gold Fines. You do not want to rake puddles, it just makes a mess. Sweeping gets the water out along with some silt. After that is done, cover the wet spot with dry Gold Fines, rake it and your ready to go. Remember, do not pour dry Gold Fines over a puddle of water. You just get mud pies. If you use a shovel, don't get Gold Fines on the grass; Gold Fines ruins grass. It's best to put in behind the backstop where, after it dries, it can be used again.

I'll have more tips in our next session.

UPCOMING FIELD DAYS

By Matthew Crider

It is very important to maintain the baseball fields so that our children have a safe and clean place to play. Before each and every game and practice the fields need to be cleaned and leveled. Each family participating in the Morgan Hill Baseball program is required to donate 4 hours of their time in order to help maintain the fields. Additionally, the families that sign up and volunteer to help assist in the maintaining of the fields will be required to participate in the preseason field days as well as help with the fields before and after games. It is not the job of the managers or the coaches to maintain the fields. Their job is teaching the children how to play baseball. Ultimately it is the responsibility of the managers and the coaches to make sure the fields get clean and level, but if they're working on the fields they're not teaching. The managers and coaches spend countless hours workings with the children; please help them with the fields.

Schedule of FIELD DAYS

All the field days will start at Britton Middle School at 8:30 a.m. in front of the snack shack. After a group has arrived at the school we will begin work on the field in most need of help. Any and all yard tools that you can bring will be very helpful and much appreciated.

January 27^h

We will be weeding the infields, cutting back base paths and the grass between the outfield and the infield.

February 10^h

We will be replacing base pegs, repairing holes at the pitchers mound and home plate, weeding and spreading infield dirt, Gold Fines.

February 24th

We will be repairing benches, backstops and score keeping booths. Along with weeding and spreading infield dirt, Gold Fines.

March 3rd

We will be spreading infield dirt, Gold Fines, weeding and finishing repairs to the backstops, benches and score keeping booths.

March 10^h

This is a very important field day it is the last one before opening day. We will need a good turn out to pick up all the loose ends.

See you there.

If you have any questions please call me at 847-7436. Thank you.



Respect the Game Officials

By Tom McClung

I have been a high school football official for about 10 years now, with 7 of those years in front of diehard Texas fans. I know from personal experience that being in charge of the game is not easy. Everybody in the stands except the blind official sees every play perfectly, especially the guy in the last row. Taking heat from fans and coaches as a high school football official is part of the job. Taking heat as a young umpire or a volunteer coach, on the other hand, should not happen.

Most of the umpires in MHPB do it because they love the game of baseball. Sure, they get paid, but not enough to put up with the ridicule and arguments they get from coaches, players, and parents. They are not experts on the rules and clearly make mistakes and errors. It is important that we bring those errors to light and help them interpret the rules uniformly and correctly. There is a time, a place, and a way to do this though, such as quietly, between innings. We should make sure that how we do this is respectful and calm.

There is nothing wrong with talking to the umpires. Yelling at them in front of the players, however, is not a constructive part of the game. Lou Pinella may get away with swearing and throwing bases, but that is inappropriate for coaches or parents whose primary task should be that of role model. Calm voices and quiet questions are much more likely to be heeded, and believe me, you'll get many more breaks on the calls. You'll also make more points with your players.

Parents are just as guilty, if not more so than coaches. Parental outrage is not just at umpires. Often it is at coaches too. When there is a problem with coaches, address the issue one on one with the coach, even when the coach is on another team. Coaches volunteer because of the players, and the last thing they need is more abuse from parents. Coaches are game officials and do directly affect the level of joy the players get from the game. Coaches deserve respect from umpires, players and parents.

It is nearly time for the spring season to start. I urge you to curb the competitive spirit and respect the game officials. Instead of giving out abuse, give out encouragement. It will help everyone involved.

New Summer Season Teams

By Tom McClung

There has been a lot of talk about keeping play for MHPB going longer into the summer. Many players want to keep playing, and want the level of competition to be greater. In an effort to address this need, MHPB will start a summer season of competition on a trial basis in the upcoming year.

The summer season will be different from the spring and winter leagues, though, because the teams will be competitive. Players who are chosen for these teams will play in 4 competitive tournaments during the late summer and fall. Tryouts will be held to choose the teams. Here's how it will work:

Teams will be by age, not division. There will be teams of 10 and under, 11 and under, 12 and under, 13 and under, 14 and under, and 15 and under. Managers and coaches will be selected by the Board. Tryouts will be held over 3 sessions, and the players will be evaluated by impartial people, (i.e. no direct involvement with any of the players). A list of the top performers will be generated and the teams will be filled from the list. The teams will start play after All-Stars, and will continue to November. Players may participate in Winterball if they choose. The cost for participating will be determined, with each team funding itself.

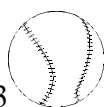
We certainly hope there is a lot of excitement about this. This will allow an opportunity for players to continue to improve their skills and most importantly, to play for the love of the game.

THEN I BECAME A TRAVELBALL PARENT

From Website <http://www.californiabaseballclub.com>

I used to have a regular life. (Actually, many of my friends say that sentence should say, "I used to have a life", period.) It doesn't really seem that long ago. Then I became a Travelball parent.

- I used to think anything over \$40 was an exorbitant price for a baseball bat. Now the contents of my son's equipment bag are worth more than everything else in the house-- including clothes, jewelry, watches, and my laptop computer.
- I used to be one of the leaders in my field of work. I still am. (You have to keep a good paycheck coming in if you want to support a travel ball habit!)
- I used to think a double-header was a long day at the ball field. Now after two games we're just getting warmed up.
- I used to look for little restaurants that served seafood fresh off the boat. Now I'm a connoisseur of nachos and hot dogs and my kids rate a city by the quality of a tournaments snack bar!
- Sunflower seeds used to be something I would see at a store and wonder who would eat those things? Now I don't feel comfortable leaving the house with out a bag in my pocket.
- My lawn used to be like a carpet. It was green, mowed, trimmed, fertilized, and watered. Now I have two big bare spots fifty feet apart and dents in my garage door from fastballs that got away!



Travelball Parent (Continued)...

- My car used to draw admiring looks and comments. It was clean and waxed and shined and Armor-All'd. Now it only draws attention when it wins the "dirtiest car in the parking lot" prize.
- I used to have a garage, now I have an indoor batting area.
- My friends and I used to spend Monday mornings talking about a round of golf or movie we had just seen. Now I bore them to death with detailed play-by-play descriptions of five or six low-scoring ball games.
- We used to sit and talk for hours. We still do- however, now it's to keep the driver awake when we're headed home late Sunday evening after a tournament.
- My summer casual wardrobe used to be made up of color-coordinated polo shirts, cool cottons in bright colors, and the occasional "aloha" shirt. Now I have a closet full of T-shirts that have Tournament Names on the front and competing teams on the back.
- We used to spend our summer vacation relaxing on the beach or visiting family. Now we hit the road with 20 of our closest friends in a caravan that could rival some small town parades.
- I used to be concerned that I would fall into the trap of living my life through my kid. Now I know that I'm privileged to live my life WITH my kid!!!

Yes, I'm a Travel Ball Parent, what could be better!

Open Board Positions

By Sally Plafker

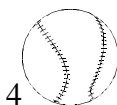
Just a reminder... we still have these positions on the MHPB Board that need to be filled. Please consider helping us (and your kids) in one of these vital capacities:

1. A second Shetland Division Representative.
2. The Colt Division Representative.
3. The Snack Shack Manager

We are in desperate need of someone to step up to the plate and take over management of the snack shack. MHPB gets a majority of our funds from the shack and **WITHOUT THE SHACK, THERE CAN BE NO PONY BASEBALL**. What we really need is someone to keep the shack stocked with food and get the money to our treasurer. We have students who can help run the shack during games.

PLEASE HELP!

A huge **THANK YOU** to Dena Crider for taking over the fundraiser role. We really appreciate it!

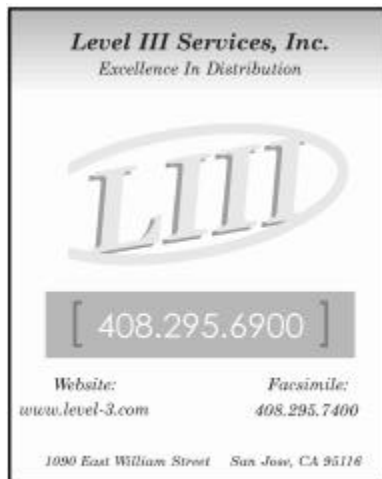




NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE PD.
MORGAN HILL, CA
PERMIT # 99

PONY EXPRESS

Post Office Box 353, Morgan Hill, CA 95038-0353



Sew Original

Custom Embroidery

13505 Foothill Avenue
San Martin, CA 95046
408-683-4414
cell: 408-218-5142
e-mail: denise@seworiginal.com

Your business card ad here will help
support Pony Express expenses &
mailing.

For Details

Check the Sponsorship link at

www.mhpb.org

or contact

Tony Saenz

Or e-mail at sponsorship@mhpb.org

Important Information Inside

Spring Baseball Player Evaluations

Upcoming Field Maintenance Days

Open Board Positions

