

# The Pony Express

*Morgan Hill Pony Baseball Newsletter*  
October 2003

2003-2004

## Board of Directors

### Board Staff Positions

*(all emails @mhp.org)*

Baseball Store--Judy Mason 776-1523 [store@mhp.org](mailto:store@mhp.org)

Booster Chairs--Laura Moquin/Tam Bouslog [booster@mhp.org](mailto:booster@mhp.org)

Database Manager--Joe Devine 779-9697 [database@mhp.org](mailto:database@mhp.org)

Equipment Manager--Tim Mason 776-1523 [equipment@mhp.org](mailto:equipment@mhp.org)

Fields Director--Ray Wylie 398-2395 [fields@mhp.org](mailto:fields@mhp.org)

Fundraiser Chair--Bill Cinamond 848-6483 [fundraiser@mhp.org](mailto:fundraiser@mhp.org)

Head Scorekeeper--Carolyn Rusch 778-6974 [scorekeeper@mhp.org](mailto:scorekeeper@mhp.org)

Newsletter Editor--Tracie Zarubi 776-1303 [newsletter@mhp.org](mailto:newsletter@mhp.org)

Publicity Director--Bob Benevento 779-8959 [publicity@mhp.org](mailto:publicity@mhp.org)

Snack Shack--Christine Kerner 294-6866 [snackshack@mhp.org](mailto:snackshack@mhp.org)

Sponsorship Chair--Daryll Hughes 779-8498 [sponsorship@mhp.org](mailto:sponsorship@mhp.org)

Training Director--Joe Sorci 779-6640 [training@mhp.org](mailto:training@mhp.org)

Winterball Director--Mike O'Connell 778-0609 [winterball@mhp.org](mailto:winterball@mhp.org)

Tournament Director--Craig Martin 683-2721 [tournament@mhp.org](mailto:tournament@mhp.org)

Webmaster--Joe Devine 779-9697 [webmaster@mhp.org](mailto:webmaster@mhp.org)

### Division Representatives

#### Shetland Division

John Howard 776-0316 [shetland@mhp.org](mailto:shetland@mhp.org)

Jim Pearson 779-9987 [shetland@mhp.org](mailto:shetland@mhp.org)

#### Pinto Division

Cody Pyle 683-5611 [pinto@mhp.org](mailto:pinto@mhp.org)

Manny Brum 683-5681 [pinto@mhp.org](mailto:pinto@mhp.org)

#### Mustang Division

Chris Blocker 782-2185 [mustang@mhp.org](mailto:mustang@mhp.org)

#### Bronco Division

Louie Andrade 779-5711 [bronco@mhp.org](mailto:bronco@mhp.org)

#### Pony Division

Alan LaBranche 782-1197 [pony@mhp.org](mailto:pony@mhp.org)

James Neet 776-7832 [pony@mhp.org](mailto:pony@mhp.org)

#### Colt Division

John Bennett 776-0983 [colt@mhp.org](mailto:colt@mhp.org)

### Executive Board Members

President--Bob Morris 847-7552 [president@mhp.org](mailto:president@mhp.org)

Vice President--Mike Rusch 778-6974 [vicepresident@mhp.org](mailto:vicepresident@mhp.org)

Secretary--Steve Barber 779-7023 [secretary@mhp.org](mailto:secretary@mhp.org)

Treasurer--Rob Conlan 778-7052 [treasurer@mhp.org](mailto:treasurer@mhp.org)

Player Agent--Gregg Hall 778-4805 [playeragent@mhp.org](mailto:playeragent@mhp.org)

*Spring Baseball Registration Enclosed*

## Message from the President

Well, summer is finally over, the kids are back in school, and football season is now upon us. Our thoughts of baseball at this time of year are on the playoffs, the World Series and the winding down of baseball. But for MHPB, we are just starting to get going on the 2004 Pony Baseball season as well as the running of the Winterball program. Planning has already started for next year's season. So, even though our thoughts are on football and the World Series, your Board is hard at work making sure our kids have a great baseball season in 2004.

What is happening with your MHPB Board? The membership of MHPB seated a new board effective in August 2003. As many of you know, Roy Jackson retired this year from the position of Board President. I was elected to fill the position for the 2003/2004 season. Though I fill the position, I do not think anyone can replace Roy for the history and knowledge of the league he possesses. Roy had somewhere around 15 to 18 years of experience on the Board (depending on which story you hear). He is well-known by anyone in the South Bay who has anything to do with Pony Baseball. His experience on the Board is going to be missed. Fortunately for us, Roy will continue to be involved in MHPB. He will continue to be involved in the Palomino program and will advise the board on an as needed basis.

We also have new board members in almost every Division Representative position, bringing new ideas to help make each division fun for all, but yet still competitive. The Executive Board also has two new members. Steve Barber has replaced outgoing Secretary Byron Lengsfeld, and Rob Conlan has replaced me as the Treasurer for the league. I think this Board has had the largest change in membership that we have seen in many years. This year, we have 13 new Board members out of the 30 currently seated (that's almost 50%! ). Getting so many members to step up and take on a responsible position on the MHPB board is very encouraging for the future of MHPB. I am hoping that next year we'll be able to welcome more new faces to our Board.

Over the last several years, we have seen a significant reduction in parent volunteerism in MHPB. As we all know, the league is run by our volunteers, without which we could not exist. Unfortunately, the last couple years have seen only a handful of dedicated volunteers doing all the work. We need to correct this problem. Over the past couple years, I have heard complaints about the quality of our fields, the toilets not working, the bleachers too rough, the equipment in need of repair, etc. Most of these complaints come from parents whom we never see volunteering for anything. This year, you are going to see new rules that will encourage ALL parents to do their fair share of the league work. If these initiatives work, we should be hearing far fewer complaints, and the rest of us will hopefully not have to do it all... ..

As always, we want to encourage every member of the league to contribute to the success of the league. We want to hear your ideas on how to improve the league. Our website lists the names and contact information for every board member. Please do not hesitate to contact them with your concerns or suggestions. If you feel that you are not being heard by the contact you made, then please elevate it to the Executive Board (an organization chart will be published on the website). You can also call me with any concerns or suggestions you have. I am looking forward to meeting as many members as possible this season while enjoying watching our kids play.

Bob Morris  
President

## Player Agents Corner

First of all, I would like to congratulate everyone on the very successful season we had last spring. We had some very exciting times, and some great end-of-season tournaments. Our post season all-stars did extremely well, with our teams advancing to the second round in every single division, and with the Pony 13 and Colt teams making it all the way to the Zone Tournaments!

Winterball is now under way for the Pinto through Colt divisions, and for the first time in quite a while, registrations for

Winterball are up this year. We currently have 3 Pinto, 4 Mustang, 3 Bronco, 2 Pony and 1 Colt team playing ball.

Winterball is the time when players can develop and refine their skills without the pressure and intensity of the spring season. It is really great for those who are moving up to a new division, as they get an extra "season" at the new sized field and the more advanced play. We also have a lot of out of town players coming in because of the low key, high development atmosphere in our Winterball program.

In the background, the board has been working toward improving the league for the upcoming spring season. We have many new faces on the board with lots of energy and ideas, something we need to foster. The Ops committee has been meeting to discuss proposed rule changes for next year. We have a by-laws committee to clean up and modify our by-laws as needed, and we have a volunteer committee that has been tasked with increasing the level of volunteerism throughout the league.

This next point is probably the single greatest need we have as a league. For too many years, there have been just a few folks who have done the majority of the work, and they are either moving on or have burnt out. We need new blood and new ideas to help us grow as a league. There will be some new expectations next year, team volunteers in the snack shack and mandatory help from the All-Star families to run our tournaments in town just to name a few. Please keep an eye out for upcoming information, and please step up and help to do your share; without the league, there would be no baseball for your kids.

Lastly, please fill out the enclosed registration form and mail it in. We will be looking hard at the registrations, and will be forced to limit the teams if we don't get enough registrations soon enough. What this means is we will not draft teams of only 10 or 11 players as we did last year in Bronco and Mustang. So, if we don't have enough registrations, we will reduce the number of teams, and someone might be left on a waiting list rather than on a team. If you don't mail your form early, that player might be your son or daughter.

Looking forward to seeing you all on the fields.

Gregg Hall  
Player Agent

## Pony Division

Welcome Pony Baseball players, parents, and coaches.

With the Winterball program starting, and the spring season just around the corner, we want to welcome each of you back to Pony Ball. We hope that everyone had a great summer vacation, and you are ready for the beginning of the new season. We are looking forward to seeing the returning players, players moving up from

Cont'd... ..

Bronco, and new players to our division. We know the 2004 season will be filled with special moments and great memories for the players and their families. Myself, James Neet, and Alan LaBranche will do our best to put together a great season for all Pony players. As always, we are going to ask for help from each one of you. It is so nice when family members, Moms, Dads, Grandmothers, and Grandfathers are out there helping. Your participation helps our players build confidence, camaraderie, and a sense of community. We ask them to hustle, play hard, practice hard, and be a team player. That is what we are asking you to do. Be the team player, show some hustle, watch the game hard, and cheer for all players. We are proud to live in this community. We have made a lot of friends and look forward to another rewarding season of play. All of our divisions advanced to sectionals and/or regional, with Colt going the furthest. We like being part of a winning community, don't you? We have an opportunity to impact our children's life now and in the future, and we look forward to that challenge. We look forward to meeting each one of you during the season, and having an opportunity to serve this community. Please introduce yourself, and enjoy the fun!

James Neet, Pony Division Rep

Alan LaBranche, Pony Division Rep

## **Pinto Division**

The 2003 Morgan Hill PONY Baseball Pinto Division enjoyed a fine All-Star season during the months of June and July! Overall 48 players enjoyed the experience afforded in tournament play. Both of the "A" teams medaled in their respective Sectional Tournaments, with the American League team bringing home to Morgan Hill the Sectional Championship flag! In the Divisional Tournament the games were started with a Morgan Hill Pinto Division City Championship of sorts with the American League hosting the National League. The National League earned "bragging rights" for the year! Rosters, results and highlights of notable play are as follows:

### **American League A Team**

Manager: Ray Wylie -Yankees Coach, Kirk Quadros -Indians, Bus. Manager: Mark Gion -Indians, Lorenzo Aguayo -Rangers, Mitch Pasek -Yankees, Nick Swanson -Athletics, Jackson Gion -Indians, Kyle Quadros -Indians, Taylor Turnipseed -Mariners, Nick Giordano -Twins, Sean Schlaefli -Mariners, Joe Tuttle -Twins, Tommy Naranjo -Rangers, Jayson Smith -Yankees, Josiah Wylie -Yankees

### **American League B Team**

Manager: Bill Cinnamon -Athletics, Coach: Steve Dawes -Yankees

Nathaniel Batad -Yankees, Lucas Cook -Twins, Patrick Hanne -Angels, Nicholas Blocker -Indians, Noah Cook -Twins, Ryan Mitchell -Angels, Jesse Burns -Athletics, Casey Dawes -Yankees, Nathaniel Paresa -Mariners, James Cinnamon -Athletics, Westyn Herscovitch -Angels, PJ Tercero -Rangers

### **National League A Team**

Manager: Kevin Crowley -Giants, Coach: Raul Bueno -Giants, Bus. Manager: Cody Pyle -Cardinals  
Mitch Crowley -Giants, Mitch Hickey -Padres, Joey Persons -Mets, Andres Bueno -Giants, Ben Hughes -Braves, Blake Porzio -Reds, John Forestieri -Braves, Kyle Kinsey -Mets, Nelson Pyle -Cardinals, Jordan Heintz -Mets, Kevin Nielsen -Reds, Aiden Styczynski -Cardinals

### **National League B Team**

Manager: John Rydstrom -Diamondbacks, Coach: Tony Latos -Braves, Bus. Manager: Tony Butterworth -Braves, Mark Butterworth -Braves, Jimmy Hagan -Cardinals, Blake Latos -Braves, Brandon Cressi -Cardinals, Matt Jarvis -Diamondbacks, Brad Morris -Braves, Joey Davey -Reds, Mike Jarvis -Diamondbacks, David Robinson -Cardinals,  
Ty Gardner -Reds, Brett Kirchick -Reds, Wyatt Rydstrom -Diamondbacks, Justin Salgado -Giants

## Fields

### **Winterball Field Support – ATTENTION PARENTS**

Parents and Friends of MHPB, I would like to introduce myself, Ray Wylie, as your new Fields Director. This "position" has enormous responsibilities AND it cannot be accomplished WITHOUT YOUR HELP. First off, Winter Ball started September 6<sup>th</sup>, and the fields have re-grown over the summer. I am known by many of you as the "LOUD" Coach or the "LOUD" Parent. Now I will be known as the "LOUD" Fields Director and you will see or hear me there as well. As a volunteer driven organization, this position relies directly on PARENTAL support. When YOU sign up YOUR PLAYER, YOU also sign YOURSELF up to support the Managers and Coaches in our organization. One of the many ways YOU impact the organization is by helping out with the initial field maintenance event, whether it be Winter Ball or Spring Ball. Here is that chance. Parents if you have yard tools please bring them to Field Days. Dads and Granddads, this is an excellent chance to put the weed-whacker to work. Moms, you can help out as well. Single Parents, I know this is tough on you, but your help is equally important. Please be at your player's field to help out... and Parents, DON'T wait to be asked, JUMP RIGHT IN, the work will be on-going. In closing, MHPB is the oldest and most relational organization in all of Morgan Hill. Please come out and meet your Managers, Coaches, Board Members, and yes, even fellow Parents. You will see all of them at work in a variety of ways and areas AND they are excited to meet you as well. Looking forward to meeting and talking with ALL of you. I have included my phone number in the event you have ANY questions, comments or suggestions as well as sharing my goals for the MHPB organization, whether it be the fields or the future of MHPB.

MHPB Paint Day Parents, our league has an upcoming event that WILL NEED YOUR valuable help. This event will bring our playing facilities one step closer towards looking like a championship facility. I am talking about PAINTING our facilities at Britton Middle School. As the fields director for MHPB, we have an opportunity to paint the playing facilities at Britton. WE CAN ONLY accomplish this WITH YOUR HELP. The date is roughly late October. Please call me about details and PLEASE volunteer your valuable time to help MHPB. Thank you Parents.

Regards

MHPB needs YOU to donate a new or used Lawn mower. Preferably in good working condition. The league's lawn mowers are extremely old. Please contact me--Ray Wylie, MHPB Fields Director (408-398-2395/vm) on how the league can receive your generous donation. THANK YOU.

## Winterball Parents

The military term "Bravo Zulu" comes to mind when I remember WINTERBALL Field Day 2003. Bravo Zulu is the highest, non-medal award for a job-(extremely) well done. Winterball Parents - BRAVO ZULU. PINTO Parents, I have never seen so many parents help with the field for Winterball-you finished the field in roughly 40 minutes. Bronco Parents, thanks to those of you who showed up, both with and without your STARBUCKS, to sweat for 3+ hours to get the field in great shape. PONY parents, thanks to ALL you parents who responded to the call (and slogged through the infield mud) for help from Coaches Alan Lebranche and James Neet. I know that all parents would gladly help if asked. The call was made and YOU responded. From the Division Reps, The MHPB Board, and myself, THANK YOU PARENTS for all of your valuable and great support.

Ray Wylie

## Help Wanted

Parents, your valuable help is needed to improve the fields and facilities that our children play on. Since taking on the voluntary position of Fields Director, I can personally assure YOU that the parents of our league are stepping up to help our league improve our fields and facilities to championship form. To that end, I am seeking out parents, by division, to help further develop our fields to championship form. To re-iterate a goal, I would like to host a championship tournament- a regional, sectional, zone, or maybe someday-a PONY WORLD SERIES. MHPB is more than capable of doing that. Our tradition is rich with successful Baseball. Please make the next step--call me about being on a "team" that will steadily transform MHPB and its fields and facilities. Your investment would be roughly 1 hour a week, no more, at first. As this commitment goes, the initial investment would need the greatest amount of attention, and as it progresses, the investment would need only 1 hour a month. Please consider what I have said. Call me, and if you see me on the MHPB fields, come and talk to me about what you have read. Thanks MHPB Parents.

Fields Director – MHPB  
Ray Wylie (cell: 398-2395/vm)

## Sponsorship

Just a quick note to thank all of our sponsors for making the 2003 Pony Baseball season a great success. Without your financial help and commitment, it would be an impossible task to put the children and young people in such a vital program as MHPB. We are looking forward to the 2004 season with great anticipation as we try to add to and grow the programs guided by MHPB, providing more young people the opportunity to participate in and enjoy the sport of baseball. We would hope that you have been rewarded in some way by helping us, and look forward to your contribution to our 2004 season. I will be making contacts soon, hoping to secure your support once again. If you know of anyone else also interested helping us shape the lives of young people, please contact me @ 779-8498 or [sponsorship@mhpb.org](mailto:sponsorship@mhpb.org). Again I say, "Thank You"! from the board, players, and families who have had a great year because of your willingness to help. I look forward to talking with you soon.

Daryll Hughes  
Sponsorship Chairman

## Taylor Made Baseball I

Located in Morgan Hill, and dedicated to developing the young pitcher and his arm, Taylor Made Baseball has just gone live with a new website. You can find it at [www.taylormadebaseball.com](http://www.taylormadebaseball.com). "Now, in the off-season, it is the perfect time to take advantage of non-competitive situations and get some throwing and pitching instruction," explains Rich Taylor. "It's the perfect compliment to Fall Baseball." Check out the site and stay tuned for Taylor Made Baseball's Father and Son Clinics and pre-season conditioning and arm strengthening classes.

Rich Taylor  
17338 Serene Drive  
Morgan Hill 95037

## MHPB 2004 Spring Registration Form

Player Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address(es): \_\_\_\_\_

Mom/Guardian Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Mom/Guardian Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Dad/Guardian Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Dad/Guardian Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Check Here	Division	Birth dates	Cost until 1/17/04	Cost after 1/17/04
	Shetland	8/1/97 – 7/31/99	\$60.00	\$80.00
	Pinto	8/1/95 – 7/31/97	\$80.00	\$100.00
	Mustang	8/1/93 – 7/31/95	\$100.00	\$120.00
	Bronco	8/1/91 – 7/31/93	\$125.00	\$145.00
	Pony	8/1/89 – 7/31/91	\$125.00	\$145.00
	Colt	8/1/87 – 7/31/89	\$150.00	\$170.00

This is your official Registration form. Complete all Sections and return it by mail with a check for fees made payable to MHPB:

**Morgan Hill Pony Baseball**  
PoBox 353  
Morgan Hill, CA 95038-0353

The number of positions on each team will be limited this year to improve playing time for each player. Therefore there is a chance a position will not be available for your son or daughter if you register late. So don't delay, register today. Player evaluations for Mustang to Pony are scheduled for January 31<sup>st</sup> with February 7<sup>th</sup> as our make up day incase of rain.

Our league is run by volunteers, if you do not wish to volunteer, then you may choose our \$50 waiver. By signing here, I acknowledge that that I am paying \$50 and will not be required to volunteer. \_\_\_\_\_

Dad/Mom will volunteer to ( )Manage ( )Coach ( )Field Work ( )Team Parent ( )League Volunteer  
( )Opening Day ( )Player Evaluations ( )Team Sponsor - \$300 fee

I understand that if I do not pay the \$50 Waiver fee I will be required to work in the Snack Shack for one 2 hour shift during the course of the season. Must initial here: \_\_\_\_\_

### Parental Release:

This is to certify that I, parent or guardian of \_\_\_\_\_, a player on a Morgan Hill Pony Baseball team, hereby grant permission to the adult manager, coach, and business manage of the team to obtain medical care from any licensed physician, hospital, or medical clinic for the player named herein at such times as either parent or legal guardian cannot be contacted in person or by telephone. This authorization shall include all league activities: and we do hereby waive, release, absolve, indemnify and agree to hold harmless Morgan Hill Pony Baseball, PONY Baseball Inc. the organizers, supervisors, participants, and persons transporting the player to and from those activities for any claim arising out of an injury to the player. It is recommended that all players wear athletic supports with a hard cup.

Physical Limitations: \_\_\_\_\_ Medical Conditions: \_\_\_\_\_

Medications: \_\_\_\_\_ Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Personal Physician and Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian Names (print): \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship: \_\_\_\_\_