

The Pony Express

Morgan Hill Pony Baseball Newsletter
January 2004

2003-2004

Board of Directors

Board Staff Positions

(all emails @mhpb.org)

Baseball Store--Judy Mason 776-1523 store@mhpb.org

Booster Chairs--Laura Moquin/Tam Bouslog booster@mhpb.org

Database Manager--Joe Devine 779-9697 database@mhpb.org

Equipment Manager--Tim Mason 776-1523 equipment@mhpb.org

Fields Director--Ray Wylie 398-2395 fields@mhpb.org

Fundraiser Chair--Bill Cinnamond 848-6483 fundraiser@mhpb.org

Head Scorekeeper--Carolyn Rusch 778-6974 scorekeeper@mhpb.org

Newsletter Editor--Tracie Zarubi 776-1303 newsletter@mhpb.org

Publicity Director--Bob Benevento 779-8959 publicity@mhpb.org

Snack Shack--Christine Kerner 294-6866 snackshack@mhpb.org

Sponsorship Chair--Daryll Hughes 779-8498 sponsorship@mhpb.org

Training Director--Joe Sorci 779-6640 training@mhpb.org

Winterball Director--Mike O'Connell 778-0609 winterball@mhpb.org

Tournament Director--Craig Martin 683-2721 tournament@mhpb.org

Webmaster--Joe Devine 779-9697 webmaster@mhpb.org

Division Representatives

Shetland Division

John Howard 776-0316 shetland@mhpb.org

Jim Persons 779-9987 shetland@mhpb.org

Pinto Division

Cody Pyle 683-5611 pinto@mhpb.org

Manny Brum 683-5681 pinto@mhpb.org

Mustang Division

Chris Blocker 782-2185 mustang@mhpb.org

Bronco Division

Louie Andrade 779-5711 bronco@mhpb.org

Pony Division

Alan LaBranche 782-1197 pony@mhpb.org

James Neet 776-7832 pony@mhpb.org

Colt Division

John Bennett 776-0983 colt@mhpb.org

Executive Board Members

President--Bob Morris 847-7552 president@mhpb.org

Vice President--Mike Rusch 778-6974 vicepresident@mhpb.org

Secretary --Steve Barber 779-7023 secretary@mhpb.org

Treasurer--Rob Conlan 778-7052 treasurer@mhpb.org

Player Agent--Gregg Hall 778-4805 playeragent@mhpb.org

Player Agents Corner

Well, the new season is almost upon us. We will be having our evaluation day on January 31st, with the rain out date being February 7th. Evaluations are held for the Mustang, Bronco, and Pony Divisions. This year we will also be holding evaluations in the Colt Division, but that date is still TBD.

The schedule for evaluations is as follows:

9:00am to 10:30am-First year players, last names starting A-M
10:30 to 12:00 noon-First year players, last names starting N-Z
12:30pm to 2:00pm-Second year players, last names starting A-M
2:00pm to 3:30pm-Second year players, last names starting N-Z

As always, if you can't make it during your scheduled time, please come when you can. It is ultimately better for the league if all players can be evaluated, so that when the managers and coaches are drafting, we can get a good balance for the league.

We have been planning for this season since late August, and we hope that you all will see some good things happening in our league. Our new fields director has been out working hard already, and the fields are starting to get into playing shape. Please look for the dates of upcoming field days elsewhere in this newsletter and come out and help. Remember, the bad hop that is prevented by taking care of the field just might save you a trip to the dentist!

Something else that everyone will see this year that is new to the league is that all members of the board now have green and gold hats that they will be wearing out at the field. One of the largest complaints in the past has been that the board is not visible, so this year you should be able to spot them when ever you need to. These folks have all put in countless hours of their free time to make things happen for your son or daughter. Without them we wouldn't have a league at all.

Teams will be formed the week of February 9th-13th, and your manager should be calling you to let you know the details. The first official day of practice will be February 14th , and opening day will be March 14th .

The updated rule book for 2004 is already completed and printed, and is available online at mhpb.org. Please take some time to read the rules. If everyone knows the rules, a lot of problems and complaints can be avoided. Look soon for the posting of the approved outlines of play on the website as well. The outlines will be available through the division link for your child's age group.

Please don't forget to get your registration in. We also have online registration this year where you can use your credit card. There is a link on the website if you would like to choose that option.

Looking forward to seeing everyone back out on the field!

Gregg Hall

finance committee

The finance committee, along with the Morgan Hill Pony Baseball board, has been hard at work during the off season to help make the 2004 MHPB program a successful one.

The Finance committee is made up of:

Rob Conlan-Treasurer, Bill Cinnamond-Fundraising, Daryl Hughes-Sponsorship, Christine Kerner-Snack Shack, Judy Mason-Baseball Store, Tim Mason-Equipment, James Neet-Pony Division Representative, Jim Persons-Shetland Division Representative, and Tam Bouslog/Laura Moquin-Boosters.

We have increased the fees this year, and also require a two-hour commitment from each family to work in the snack shack. Organization and volunteerism is a key to the success of Morgan Hill Pony Baseball. Our goal is to make this league better. The fee increases and volunteer commitment will help the coaches and the Morgan Hill Pony Baseball board improve the Morgan Hill Pony Baseball program.

We hope to alleviate some of the responsibilities of the managers and coaches so they can focus on teaching our children the great game of Baseball.

In other youth programs, the Snack Shack is a major source of income to the league. We will focus a lot of our energy this year on improving the running and organization of the Snack Shack. The success depends on parent volunteers to deliver a product that will help raise funds needed to improve OUR league. Please volunteer when scheduled, and also patronize our Snack Shack. With your help we will have a full service facility with gourmet coffee (maybe even Starbucks), real Barbecue, and a full assortment of other treats to raise money that can significantly contribute to our league treasury.

It is our parents and volunteers who make things happen in Morgan Hill Pony Baseball. This is your league. Please help to make our program and your family's experience at Morgan Hill Pony Baseball an experience you'll cherish for a lifetime.

With your help, this coming year will prove to be one of the best for MHPB.

Please call or e-mail any of the Finance Committee members to find out how you can get more involved.

Pony Baseball to Conduct Pre-Season Workouts

It's that time of year again! Baseball (in Morgan Hill and in the Pros) is just around the corner. MHPB Player Evaluations will be held on January 31st, and Pre-Season team practices will begin around February 14th. To help jump-start the program and get your child ready for the spring season, MHPB will be holding workout sessions for all Pinto through Pony Division players. Budding high school players are also invited.

One of the most common problems found with our young people today is that they are just not in shape to play baseball. Thus they end up with sore arms, sore leg muscles and just plain sore all over. The workouts planned by MHPB are to help your child get a head start on preparing for the season. The workouts will involve light conditioning and throwing. All workouts will be supervised by select coaches and former local high school and college players. The workouts will be held every Sunday from 10:00 AM to Noon at the Live Oak High School Baseball Field. All sessions are free, and will be held rain or shine. Players should wear baseball attire and sneakers and carry their baseball shoes and equipment.

Parents who are interested in coaching or managing a team in MHPB this year are encouraged to attend these sessions also. If you've ever had the desire to coach or manage a team and said to yourself, "I'd like to, but I just don't know what to do!" now is the time to find out. League representatives will be going over how to conduct practices and what drills you should be teaching at each age level.

For more information, contact John Bennett evenings at (408) 776-0983.

Fields

This is the time of year when the Fields count most. What I mean by this is that most of the work done will be done in the next two months. After this time, the season will have started, and ONLY routine maintenance will be done. This is what MHPB NEEDS from ALL of you :

Your attendance on/at the following date:

January 17th - Saturday @ 9:00am - BRITTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

Your participation on this date will greatly help MHPB provide a safe environment, a championship environment, AND a great social environment for all who attend AND participate in Morgan Hill PONY Baseball in 2004. You will meet your Division Reps (DR's), Managers and Coaches, Board Members, and most importantly, fellow parents, some of whom you will know for years to come. The great game of Baseball is a fantastic way to meet people in your community, and I hope YOU will be there for the above date and to those of you who will be there, I hope to meet and talk to you about everything from DIRT (my 2nd favorite subject-Baseball is my 1st favorite) to local politics.

Big Time Thanks to the following:

Gregg Hall - BT Thanks for the help on the Shed and those Fences

John Howard - BT Thanks for the SOD pick-up -

Alan LeBranche - BT Thanks for "managing" the volunteers on the Pony Field (20 plus people) AND accomplishing what you did for the Pony Field.

Several Sundays ago, a work crew of 40 volunteers and 4 MHPB volunteers tackled the Britton fields. The Agenda was mound repair, field repair, shed clean-up, and overall maintenance of Britton Middle School. What was accomplished is as follows:

Shetland: Home plate weeding

Pony Field: Infield weed removal and aeration (not the grass portion) and leveling

Bronco #1: mound repair, light weed removal in the infield

Mustang #1: mound repair, infield weeding, fines and leveling

Track Field (area between Mustang 1 and Pinto 1) 200 lbs. of seed laid out

Picked up Trash over all of the school - a freebie for the school. Emptied ad-hoc trash cans on the field

Previously I outlined what Fields had accomplished. I forgot to mention one important person: **DARYL HUGHES**. Let me tell you what Daryl did on his own:

1.) Negotiated almost 50% off the cost of gold fines

2.) Had gold fines delivered for almost nothing.

3.) Is STORING gold fines at his business

4.) DELIVERED the gold fines to the fields with his own equipment

5.) Placed the gold fines so that on-site resources could manage the materials easier and quicker

5.) Utilized his own resources to help out MHPB.

6.) Gained another sponsor for MHPB

Without his DIRECT and IMPORTANT help, Fields again would not have been able to accomplish what was done. I am explaining this to all of you to show you that volunteers can make a difference, and that this is what is going on behind the scenes to make field days a success and build our organization into a championship-caliber baseball organization to be recognized across our country. I hope you can see that as I do.

DARYL HUGHES - THANK YOU!

Regards, Ray Wylie

Scorekeeping opportunities

If you are interested in becoming a league scorekeeper, or just learning some of the basics of scorekeeping, plan to attend our 2004 Scorekeeping Clinics. We will be having two scorekeeping clinics, February 26th and March 2nd. The February 26th clinic will cover scorekeeping basics, and the March 2nd clinic will provide additional review and cover the logistics for the Spring season. Returning league scorekeepers with 2 or more years of experience need only attend the March clinic. All others should plan to attend both clinics. League scorekeepers should be at least 12 years old or second year Bronco players. Both clinics will be held at Mountain Mike's Pizza at 7:00PM. If you have any questions, contact Carolyn Rusch 778-6974.

Carolyn Rusch



Morgan Hill Unified School District

Field Regulations

- 1 No alcohol, no smoking and no glass products on campus
- 2 Facility users are required to have a copy of their current facility use permit with them at the time of use
- 3 No animals allowed (except seeing eye dogs for the blind only)
- 4 All children on campus must be supervised
- 5 Organizations must provide their own garbage dumpsters, and call or have a scheduled pick up date
- 6 Trash needs to be picked up and garbage cans dumped daily
- 7 Grass clippings, used gold fines and any other foreign debris must be disposed of and removed from the campus daily
- 8 No vehicles on campus (exceptions made for loading and unloading equipment only)
- 9 Vehicles must not block fire lanes and or any gates (vehicles may be ticketed or towed)
- 10 When watering down the fields, please be careful not to pull the hose causing the quick coupler to break (a \$75 charge will be issued for replacement)
- 11 Any alterations to the fields must have District approval
- 12 If restrooms are not available, organizations must provide their own portable restrooms
- 13 Access gates must remain locked at all times (secured locks on fence must not interfere with District locks)
- 14 Storage bins must be kept up to District standards
- 15 Baseball fields: extra paint must be provided to the District to remove graffiti from backstops
- 16 All goal frames must be safely secured at all school sites (any goal that is not secured may be removed)