

# Orinda Horsemen's Association Application Form: Riding Partner

Return to P.O. Box 904, Orinda CA 94563

## Member and Partner Information

### Part 1: Request by Proprietary Member

I, \_\_\_\_\_, as a Proprietary Member of Orinda Horsemen's Association, hereby nominate \_\_\_\_\_ for membership as a Riding Partner. I hereby accept responsibility for the presence and conduct of the Riding Partner. I understand that I may have no more than three riding partners with active membership at any one time.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Part 2: Information about Riding Partner

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_  
home work cell

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street city state zip

Do you want to receive OHA emails?  yes  no

Do you have health insurance?  yes  no Do you have personal liability insurance?  yes  no

Emergency contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your relationship with the OHA Member in Part 1 (friend, relative, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Briefly describe your experience with horses \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Part 3: Riding Partner Agreement

As a Riding Partner of the Orinda Horseman's Association, I agree to:

1. Abide by the rules, regulations, and by-laws of the Association, as adopted by the Proprietary Members and the Board of Directors, including but not limited to the Grievance Adjustment procedures;
2. Participate in the Association as a responsible Riding Partner and fulfill the membership obligations outlined in the Rules and Regulations, specifically the responsibilities under Riding Partner Membership, and to abide by rules pertaining to the right to access the OHA pasture **only when** accompanied by an OHA Proprietary Member and acknowledging that riding partnership does **not extend** to bringing friends and family members onto the OHA pasture;
3. Acknowledge that personal liability insurance is highly recommended.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Riding Partners must also fill out and submit the Liability Release Form**

## **Orinda Horseman's Association**

To help you better assess whether participation in Orinda Horsemen's Association is appropriate for you, we provide the following information.

**The Association:** Orinda Horsemen's Association is a nonprofit cooperative of horse owners. We have approximately 33 members, including Proprietary Members, who board their horses at the pasture, and Associate Members, who help care for and ride horses belonging to Proprietary Members. There are approximately 38 horse spaces in the pasture at any given time. Proprietary Members may own one or two horses, but no member may have more than two horses at the pasture. Stallions may not be boarded at the pasture.

The Association leases approximately 500 acres of hilly pastureland from East Bay Municipal Utilities District (EBMUD). The horses live as a herd and roam freely across the pastureland. These living conditions keep the horses in excellent physical and mental condition. It keeps members in shape as well, as strenuous hiking is sometimes necessary to find the herd!

OHA is administered by a Board of Directors consisting of seven members elected by the membership. The Board meets monthly, and all members are welcome to attend. A meeting of the entire membership is held once or twice annually.

As tenants of EBMUD, the public utility that provides water to local residents, we are required to follow certain regulations that will ensure the maintenance of high-quality water on the watershed. These responsibilities include rotational grazing, protection of certain wetland areas, and maintenance of the facilities, including removal of waste from stalls and paddocks. In addition, for liability reasons, EBMUD allows only OHA members and family members access to the leased property.

### **The Pasture and Facilities**

The land we lease is divided into five pastures. We rotate the horses between the pastures throughout the year, depending on the growth patterns of the grass. During the winter months, when forage is limited, we feed the horses alfalfa hay once per day.

The facilities at the pasture are minimal. There are six paddocks with covered stalls and three paddocks without shelter. These are available for short-term use, such as when a horse is recovering from an injury or awaiting a veterinary visit. Cold running water and electricity are available at the main saddling area. There is a fenced riding arena with dirt footing, which is not accessible during inclement weather, when the footing is wet.

Trail access is excellent from the property, and most members are avid trail riders. Riders may head west or north into Tilden Park, south onto the Seaview Trail, or, with a trail permit, east onto EBMUD land around San Pablo and Briones reservoirs.

**Responsibilities of Membership:** Members pay annual dues in two installments, in June and December. The dues cover the cost of leasing the land, purchasing hay for winter feeding, two wormers per horse per year, and the costs of maintenance and administration of the organization.

All members must participate in the maintenance of the pasture. Members are currently required to perform 24 hours of work per year if they own one horse or 32 hours per year for two horses. In addition, during the winter months, when we supplement grazing with hay, each member is responsible for seven feedings per year if they have one horse at OHA or 14 feedings per year if they have two.

All members are expected to follow the rules and regulations of the Association.

If you have questions regarding OHA or the completion of the application form, please contact us via our website.

### **Membership Criteria and Qualities**

#### 1. Criteria for Proprietary and Associate Membership

##### a) Required criteria:

- (i) The primary member must be at least 21 years of age, and
- (ii) Must have health insurance

##### b) Preferred criteria:

- (i) The member must have the ability and willingness to partake in a cooperative environment, including: 1) conducting themselves in a collegial way with other members, even when involved in a conflict or disagreement; and 2) participating in pasture-related activities and work parties, serving on the Board, and performing all of their work hours (currently, 24 hours a year for one horse and 33 for two horses) and herd feedings (currently, seven times a year for one horse and 14 times for two horses).
- (ii) The member must have basic knowledge of their horse and should have a general understanding of what to do in a horse emergency. They should possess basic horse care and safety skills and know or be open to learning about a herd environment (we're not just looking for experienced horsemen and do not want to preclude consideration of novices who want to learn). They should be able to provide contact information for a previous barn owner or other relevant reference who can attest to their abilities with horses.
- (iii) The member's horse should be able to do well in a herd environment and be able to maintain its health primarily on pasture. The horse should be in good health and be rideable (not placed at OHA for retirement). The horse must be sufficiently sociable as to not be likely to injure other horses or people. (If a horse turns out to be a chronic aggressor, causing injuries, the member may be asked to move the horse out of OHA).
- (iv) The member should be able to commit to seeing their horse at least weekly and plan to be actively involved in its care and maintenance.
- (v) The member must live or work within 25 miles of the pasture.
- (vi) The member must own no more than two horses with which they are actively involved.

#### 2. Application for Associate Membership

- a) Each request for Associate Membership must be made in writing to the Board by both the Proprietary Member and the proposed Associate Member.

- b) The proposed Associate Member will be interviewed by a committee prior to approval. The Board will approve or deny Associate Membership on a case-by-case basis.
3. Privileges of Associate Membership
- a) Associate Members will have all the rights and privileges of Proprietary Members except where stated and not including the right to vote in general elections, serve on the Board, board their own horse in the pasture, or have Riding Partners.
  - b) Associate members may ride their own horses at OHA if they provide the current OHA secretary with a declaration of up-to-date vaccination for the horse.
4. Responsibilities of Associate Membership
- a) Following acceptance by the Board and prior to receiving a key, the Associate Member will sign a liability form for each member of their immediate family who will visit OHA.
  - b) Fees
    - (i) Associate Members will pay an annual fee of \$50 to the Association upon joining, unless the payment date falls within 90 days of June 15<sup>th</sup>, in which case the payment will be pro-rated, then paid every June 15<sup>th</sup> going forward.
    - (ii) Associate Members will be subject to a \$10-per-month late fee if the annual fee is not paid on time.
    - (iii) No refund of the annual fee or any portion thereof will be made under any circumstances.
5. Other Rules Pertaining to Associate Membership
- a) OHA, as represented by the Board, takes no responsibility in the selection of Associate Members. Each Associate Member is chosen by an individual Proprietary Member, and a request in writing to the Board is made for approval or denial of the Associate Membership.
  - b) Proprietary Members are responsible for supplying their Associate Members with a copy of the Rules and Regulations and ensuring the Associate Member's compliance with them. Associate Members, although in personal contract with an individual Proprietary Member, must abide by all Rules and Regulations of OHA.
  - c) Members may not request Associate Membership status for the owner of a horse that the Proprietary Member is leasing.
  - d) Associate Membership will be renewable annually, subject to review by the Board at the end of each fiscal year.