



Wild Oak Saddle Club (WOSC) Member Guide

Welcome to Wild Oak Saddle Club where leisure, laughter, friends and fun await!

For 45+ years, warm friendships, shared laughter and fun times have been hallmarks of the private social community of Wild Oak Saddle Club. Many of Sonoma County's most interesting people are WOSC members! They have found our member-owned Club a haven for friends and family to come together and create memories that last a lifetime. WOSC facilities are graced with those seeking solitude, relaxation, recreation and entertainment in special events of all kinds. In addition to personalized service from our exceptional staff, Club members enjoy a tranquil setting of unsurpassed beauty—the post-card vista of Wine Country Polo Field and the emerald green panoramic Mount Hood backdrop. Welcome to the community, lifestyle and rich heritage of Wild Oak Saddle Club!

The Club's Interesting, Colorful History:

For many years, a group of men who enjoyed the outdoors, horsemanship, and lively camaraderie met to ride the trails around Northern California. These outings usually ended with BBQ and beer, a song or two and captivating storytelling around the fire.

In 1975, the riders decided to form a Club where they could meet regularly to promote interest in horsemanship and enjoy recreational and social activities with members and their families. Five acres of land resting in the shadow of Annadel State Park, along with the historic Santa Rosa Coney Ranch house were purchased from Henry Trione, and Wild Oak Saddle Club had a permanent home. (Note: In 2016, Annadel State Park was re-named Trione-Annadel State Park by the California State Parks Commission.)

Henry Trione was the first Club president, followed by Ed Hochuli and then Ben Heck. Within five years, the Club began to evolve from its roughrider roots to reflect broader interests. Women were welcomed as members in 1980, and in short order, the Club benefited noticeably from that inclusion. In a quote from the *Sonoma County Horse Journal*, Volume 6, Issue 1, Jack Taylor, past Club president remarked, "That was certainly a change for the better! When the women arrived, carpets and curtains were installed, and the lunch menus improved!" Currently on display at the Club is a prized hide with original signatures of all 125 founding members, honoring them for the atmosphere of western informality and fellowship still enjoyed at the Club.

Since WOSC was formed, numerous facility improvements have been made to the Trione Club House, kitchen and exterior grounds. Over the years, the storied equestrian Club has become a social sanctuary offering fine dining with world-class wines, plus a host of activities including tennis, pickle ball, bocce ball, swimming, bridge, dominoes, polo exhibitions, live music and Clubhouse festivities. Four-plus decades after horsemen first gathered beneath wild oaks, WOSC retains the spirit originally envisioned by Henry Trione and his friends: an extension of home, where friends, families and neighbors gather to create fun and fellowship, and to celebrate life.

The Management Team: Day-to-day operations are managed by General Manager **Lori Darling**. Lori oversees all aspects of Club life: dining, Club events, buildings and grounds, special events, and private Club affairs such as weddings and other fee-for-service events.

The excellent culinary offerings—from regular lunches, dinners, and brunches to all special events—are overseen by Executive Chef **Joe Farinacci** and his capable staff.

Billing is handled by bookkeeper and CPA, **Kathie Leader**.

Contact Information:

Main Club office phone number: **(707) 539-8629**

For Reservations: Email your date(s) requested to a dedicated email address:
reservations@wildoaksaddleclub.com **OR:**

For those who do not use email, we have a reservation line available at (707) 539-8634. Please remember to speak clearly and make your message succinct. If you have multiple dates to request (and you do not use email), come in to the club and sign up in the Reservation Book in the Club Living Room. We encourage everyone to use the Reservation Book whenever possible. If you are requesting a last-minute reservation on the **SAME DAY** as the event you want to attend, please call the club directly at 539-8629 to speak to one of the staff and make sure we are able to accommodate your request.

Lori Darling, General Manager, may be reached by email at: lori@wildoaksaddleclub.com

Joe Farinacci, Executive Chef, may be reached by email at: joe@wildoaksaddleclub.com

Website: www.wildoaksaddleclub.com

Club Governance: Wild Oak Saddle Club is a nonprofit mutual benefit corporation. The Club is governed by its Board of Directors who bring a wide variety of perspectives and experiences to guide in decision making. **A listing of Board officers, directors and committee chairs may be found on the Club's website.** Further details regarding the Board are available on the website Bylaws tab for your perusal. The italicized information below includes highlights from the Bylaws, which are posted on the members' private side of the website:

The affairs of the Corporation shall be governed by a Board of Directors composed of at least fifteen (15) directors serving three-year elected terms and up to two (2) ex officio directors to be appointed as necessary.

Each director shall be a proprietary member of the Corporation in good standing at the time of election. Spouses and registered domestic partners of proprietary members shall also be eligible for election as a director.

Regular meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held on the third (3rd) Tuesday of each month. (All members are welcome to attend.)

The election of directors shall be by mail ballot. The election shall be held at the Annual Meeting of members. The newly elected directors shall take office at the Annual Meeting of members. The annual meeting of the proprietary members of the Corporation shall be held on the third Tuesday of January of each year.

Member comments, suggestions or concerns related to Club matters should be directed to Board officers or appropriate committee chairs.

Other General Information:

Billing: Members receive a monthly statement via regular postal mail. The statement reflects the previous month's membership dues and any charges incurred. Payment by check to: Wild Oak Saddle Club (WOSC) may be mailed to the Club or placed in the box on Lori Darling's desk in the Club office. The Club address is: 550 White Oak Drive, Santa Rosa, CA 95409.

Annual Gift Request: Every November, members receive an invitation encouraging their participation in making a monetary contribution to a general gift fund. The fund is shared with all employees during the December holidays. This is a wonderful way to express gratitude for the excellent care and service provided by the dedicated staff throughout the year. Historically our members have given between \$200-\$300 per household; some members give more. Members' generosity is greatly appreciated.

Dress Code: The Club's history and present-day orientation lends itself nicely to "Sonoma Casual." All we ask is that members and guests reserve swimwear and sunbathing attire for the pool! Thank you.

Facilities Use / Private Events: The Club is among the most beautiful and enchanting settings to host a private affair in the Valley of the Moon and is particularly popular for weddings. Because the Club is a full-service venue, the entire planning process makes for a seamless experience. As a popular wedding venue, Club dates are often booked far in advance. Early planning is advised! For information, contact General Manager, Lori Darling.

Tennis and Pickle Ball: Club members may enjoy the use of the tennis and pickle ball courts by making a reservation through the members tab on the website. Click on the Membership tab, login, and click on the Activities tab to access the links to the reservation system.

Bocce Ball Court: The bocce ball court spans the south side of the deck area next to the Trione Club House. Due to its proximity to the dining areas—both the deck and the adjacent patio—bocce may be played any time the Club is not hosting a private event.

The Pool: Once weather permits, the pool will open from 9am to 5pm, Tuesday through Sunday. Watch for the announced pool opening date in the Club's *Hoof Beats* newsletter. We ask that members enjoying the pool be mindful of any events (in particular, weddings and private parties) that may be taking place and monitor the noise level during their use of the pool. We also ask that members use discretion outside the pool area and avoid walking around the grounds in swim attire during events.

Equine Facilities: For equestrian members, the graveled area to the west of the parking lot offers the space for trailers, horse tie-ups, water, and waste bins. Corrals and paddocks are available. Trails connect to the network of equestrian trails in Trione-Annadel State Park and the adjacent Spring Lake Regional Park.

Code of Conduct: WOSC is committed to providing an environment that is respectful, safe, accepting of cultural differences, and free from inappropriate and abusive behavior. The Code of Conduct policy (approved by the Board in 2021) covers Club members, guests and others who participate in and engage with WOSC. The Code of Conduct policy statement is provided to members by email, USPS mail or hard copy in the Club office. Member conduct encompassing any behavior that is divisive or detrimental to the Club's interests and harmony—whether directed toward an employee, member, or guest—is unacceptable. The Board may discipline a member who engages in any violation of the Code of Conduct policy and/or the Club's adopted Bylaws. The Bylaws are posted for members on the Club's website: www.wildoaksaddleclub.com.

Communications to Members:

Monthly: Members receive *Hoof Beats*, the Club newsletter that includes messages from the Board President, General Manager, special announcements, as well as fliers and updates on planned events. Also included are the menus for Tightwad Tuesdays and Friday Night Dinners. *Hoof Beats* is emailed to most members, but paper copies are also available in the Trione Club House living room.

Occasional Emails: From time-to-time, members may receive an email announcing a special event and providing details on how to make a reservation. Club events are very popular among members and frequently reach capacity. Early reservations are recommended.

Website Info: The Club website: www.wildoaksaddleclub.com

Members will be issued a user name and password to login to the members-only tab on the Club website. Once on the private side of the site, members can access a directory of Club members, a list of current board members and committee chairs, archived board meeting minutes, finance reports, Bylaws and a calendar of events by month.

Social Media: Members are encouraged to follow the Club via social media to see what's happening and stay up to date with upcoming events. Follow on Facebook and Instagram under the moniker @wildoaksaddleclub.

Dining, in General: Among the benefits of Club membership are the delectable meals offered on a regular schedule and enjoyed on the deck with views of the beautiful Mayacama Mountains in the distance and the polo field in the foreground. In addition to regular dining options, there are many Club events throughout the year (See *Annual Club Events*). During the Wine Country Polo Team's regular season—generally May through September—league polo matches are held during Sunday brunch. What a special treat! *For member comfort when dining, overhead heaters and lap blankets are available, upon request.

Weekly Menus: The weekly menus for the coming month are included in *Hoof Beats*, are posted online, and also placed on the bulletin board in the Club Dining Room.

Reservations: For onsite dining reservations, email reservations@wildoaksaddleclub.com or call the Reservation voice mail at (707) 539-8634. Advance reservations are required for all events, other than lunch service. **Lunch reservations are recommended, but not required.** (However, if you are planning on a large group for lunch, please be sure to make those arrangements with Lori in advance.) In addition to phone and email reservations, a binder is placed in the Trione Club House living room and reservations may be made in person on the event sign-up sheet. After making a reservation, members will only be contacted should there be an issue with the reservation. ***If requesting a same-day reservation, call the Club office at (707) 539-8629 to speak to one of the staff and check on seating availability.**

Gratuities: A 15% gratuity is added to all Sunday brunch charges. At other events, tipping is not required; however, some members do choose to tip staff directly. As mentioned on **page 3 - Annual Gift Request**, at the end of the calendar year, all members will receive a letter and be provided an opportunity to bonus the staff with a year-end contribution tip amount. We do not automatically provide a holiday bonus program as part of employee compensation, but rather rely on this annual member contribution request to demonstrate how much we value the diligent work of the WOSC team.

Bar and Beverages: Some Club events include spirits and wine, and other events and dinners do not. For example, due to the great value offered for Tightwad Tuesdays, beverages are not included either for the cocktail hour or during the meal. Friday night dinners always include a full bar and wine during the cocktail hour and also with dinner.

Corkage: Members are welcome to bring their own wine. A corkage fee is not charged during regular meals with a few exceptions. Sunday brunch corkage is \$10 per bottle.

Regular Dining:

Lunch: Lunch is offered on the deck Tuesday through Friday from 11:30am to 1:30pm. Lunch reservations are recommended, but not required.

Dinner: Dinner is offered on a regular basis Tuesday and Friday evenings throughout the year. Additionally, there are some Thursday night dinners placed on the schedule.

Tuesday Dinners: A long-standing tradition, Tuesdays are known as “Tightwad Tuesdays.” Chef Joe Farinacci designs enticing menu offerings each Tuesday for an amazing \$18+ tax per person for a complete dinner. *Drinks are not included for Tightwad Tuesdays.* The 1st Tuesday of the month offers a very popular fried chicken dinner, while the 3rd Tuesday is always Italian night. The other two Tuesday nights are chef’s choice. The bar opens at 5:30pm with dinner served at 6:15pm. Reservations are required.

Wednesdays: No dinner offered.

Thursday Dinners: Thursday nights are events occasionally added to the Tuesday/Friday calendar and include Burger Night, Fish & Chips Night and other announced chef’s choice menus. Watch *Hoof Beats* for information. The bar opens at 5:00pm and dinner is served at 6:15pm. Occasionally, live music can be enjoyed during the cocktail hour on the patio. *On Burger Night, beverages during the cocktail hour are offered at no-charge; any beverages ordered during dinner will be billed.*

Friday Dinners: *Watch Hoof Beats for monthly menus!* Friday nights feature a Farm-to-Fork theme in which Chef Farinacci creates a delicious menu presenting locally sourced ingredients; there’s also a mixed-grill night with NY strip steak, chicken, sausages, and fish, and the ever-popular last Friday of the month offering prime rib with a special fish option for those who prefer. Typically, members enjoy live entertainment on the last Friday of the month. The bar opens at 5:30pm; dinner is served at 6:45.

**Full bar and wine are included throughout the cocktail hour and dinner for all Friday night dinners.*

Sunday Brunch: Sunday brunch is popular throughout the year and advance reservations are required. Service times are from 9:45am to 12:30pm, and the last reservation time is 12:15pm. *Corkage is \$10 per bottle and 15% gratuity is automatically added to the bill.*

Annual Club Events: The Club offers an abundance of events supporting its mission to provide a warm and inviting social venue for members and often, guests.

Special Club Events During the Year: Besides regular dinner nights, the social scene includes traditional events scheduled each year. Events are announced with details in ample time for members to make a reservation. Watch for email announcements and information in *Hoof Beats*. As mentioned previously, members are advised to reserve early, because Club events tend to be very popular!

Annual activities include:

Crab Dinners, Valentine’s Day Dinner, St. Patrick’s Day Party, Easter Brunch, Winemaker Dinners, Kentucky Derby Day Party, Mother’s Day & Father’s Day Brunches, Green Valley Growers’ Hydrangea Tour, July 4th BBQ, Annual Golf Outings, Thanksgiving Feast, December Holiday Party, and a New Year’s Eve Party.

Derby Day: In early May, tied to the Kentucky Derby both by date and theme, Derby Day is home to the Club's one and only fundraiser of the year. Members step out with their finest Derby hats and an ascot or two. Silver-tipped canes are welcome! There's always live music, a delicious luncheon, and tons of fun. Fundraising activities include an online auction leading to the actual event and a raffle the day of the event. The funds raised are dedicated to the Club's operating budget and are integral to the Club's ability to maintain its low food and beverage prices, which have not been raised in many years. Everyone is encouraged to participate—by donating goods, services, or dollars to the auction and raffle—and by bidding. It is through the collective participation and generosity of our members that the Club is able to maintain affordability throughout the year.

Special Note During Covid: Our top priority has always been to create an unparalleled experience of fun and fellowship for members. During the pandemic, our team has been working tirelessly to ensure members' and staff safety every day, in every way. We are committed to following Sonoma County Health Department guidelines for operations to provide a clean and safe environment. Until the mask requirement is lifted, all members, guests, staff, and any other service personnel entering our grounds must wear appropriate face covering at all times other than when at a table enjoying a meal or seated during the cocktail hour. If it is necessary to leave one's table, a face covering must be worn. Presently, dining is available on the outdoor deck and cocktail hours are hosted on the patio by the fire pit. Hand sanitizing stations are conveniently located at entrances to the Trione Club House. In addition, frequent hand washing is a must. It is our goal to keep everyone healthy and safe while continuing to enjoy all the Club has to offer. We are truly grateful for your cooperation.

Once again, we welcome you to our wonderful private Club!

