

Volunteers Prepare for the Stonyford Rodeo by Roy Stewart

David Brandenberger is leading a crew of stalwarts in preparing the arena for the upcoming Stonyford Rodeo, which begins on Friday, April 29, and lasts through Sunday, May 1, 2022. This year the task is building a livestock pen of welded iron pipes.

Preparing the rodeo grounds and arena for the current year's rodeo is a necessity that involves Horsemen's Association volunteer workers. Every year they work on the arena and rodeo grounds construction and repair efforts, they refurbish and create new fence signs, and they perform cleanup work on the kitchen and toilets. Usually it's the same group of twenty, or so, men and women; however, if the job is large, the work may involve the whole town.

A "whole town" effort occurred in 1986 when the old, "falling down" bleachers were replaced with a new grandstand that was fronted with a five-foot high concrete block wall. This wall set the grandstands off from the action in the arena. This was a massive effort that cost in excess of \$40,000 and involved forty or more workers. This effort is documented in the history book, *75 Years and Counting*, which will be available for purchase at the Stonyford Rodeo.

Tickets are *now* available at www.stonycreekhorsemen.org and at the following locations: Stonyford General Store, Stonyford; Carl's Feed, Willows; Boot Barn, Chico & Yuba City; Bucke's Feed & Grain, Orland; Marie's Lakeshore Feed, Clearlake; Rainbow Ag, Lakeport; and Ace Hardware, Arbuckle. Pre-rodeo ticket prices are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children, ages 7-12. At the rodeo gate, ticket prices are \$15 for adults and \$7 for children, ages 7-12. The pre-rodeo cheaper prices are only available until April 25, so get your ticket now and save money. Tickets for the May 1, 2022, amateur events can only be purchased at the rodeo gate on that Sunday. Ticket prices are \$5 for persons aged 13 and older; children 12 and younger are free.



David Brandenberger (kneeling) and Tim Leach work the metal corral fencing. Photo by Roy Stewart



Jill Gleason (left), Emily Murillo and her daughter, Brittany, work with arena fence signs. Photo by Barbara Leach