

Open Letter from CHAS to the Reenacting Community

For eleven years the California Historical Artillery Society (CHAS) has put on what many of you tell us is the finest event in Northern if not all of California--Duncans Mills. When we started the event twelve years ago the primary objective was to add a good event and site for the Nor Cal area where substantial numbers of members of various clubs could come together. That objective has been achieved every year and is even more important now with the lack of good sites available. We are pleased to inform you that the event is on again July 16-17 2011. Here is what you can look forward to:

- Excellent weather with the coastal influence present
- Redwood covered hills and mowed pasture battlefields
- The best sight lines and chance to get in the Civil War moment with surroundings devoid of modern contraptions. Even porta potties are covered in burlap to keep from spoiling the view.
- One of the largest turnouts of both reenactors and public in CA
- Great camping, easy access to drinking water, plentiful firewood, hay for horses, access to quality Sutlers and much more
- Saturday night dance with free shuttle bus transportation to and from
- Your attendance helps support a 501C3 non-profit provide the only horse drawn artillery in the West

The event is put on by CHAS without any other sponsors. We have surely looked for sponsors in the past and never been successful getting one or more to help pick up the sizable costs of the events. Thousands of hours of our members' time are put in before and after the event doing substantial site preparation, wood clearing/cutting/splitting, weed control and pasture mowing, bridge assembly and tear apart, bleacher moving and on and on. During the event about half of our members participate in the event while the other half does event coordination duties to keep things running smoothly for both the reenactors and public.

Over time our costs have gone way up to put the event on. To have use of the DM site we pay a substantial land use fee in addition to our labor to be able to bring you this event. Last year we instituted a policy of charging reenactors a fee to attend the event. Reenactors with a current membership card from a recognized club will pay a flat fee at registration of \$10. Families with current cards for all members registering at once will pay \$15. As has always been the case in the past, those without current membership cards at time of registration will pay \$20 per individual or \$30 for all family members registering at one time. We know that this may be difficult for some, onerous to others, but hopefully understood by all as necessary to keep the event going.

For those of you who want to help us get ready for or put on the event, here are some ways you can help.

1. Work party weekends to prep site June 11-12, 25-26, July 9-10 and the week leading up to event.
2. Front gate help during event to add color, greet the public, or help with ticket sales. Contact Karen Foster at foster_scott@sbcglobal.net.

Information on the event, directions, health facilities in the area and more is available at www.civilwardays.net. Contact us with questions or to volunteer to help out.

For those that can attend we promise another memorable event this year. We look forward to having you with us.

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