

# Civil War Days at Duncans Mills July 17 & 18

*Ted Milgenich*

Now in its eleventh year, "Civil War Days at Duncans Mills" sponsored by the Casini Ranch Family Campground and the California Historical Artillery Society is rapidly becoming the West Coast's premiere summer reenacting event. This invitational event is the July club event for the ACWA and NCWA, but re-enactors from Southern California, Oregon, Nevada, Idaho and Washington are also expected to attend. Last year's event drew nearly 500 re-enactors and over 3000 public, and this year's could certainly exceed that. With the hamlet of Duncans Mills situated along the beautiful Russian River resort area many re-enactors are making it an annual outing, combining reenacting with some great vacation time.



Command and control of this invitational event change yearly between the clubs, with this year's tactical command under NCWA control. All re-enactors will need to contact their respective commands to confirm attendance. This is paramount for camp layout and battle scenario planning. If you show up without checking with your respective command, you may find yourself being placed wherever there is room.

Due to battlefield size restrictions, Artillery guns per side will be limited as set forth by each command staff. CHAS is also limiting Artillery Powder reimbursements to a total of eight Confederate and six Union Guns. All Artillery attending must contact their respective command staff.

Contacts are:

- ☆ Union CO - Col. Joe Fiffick, [joe@calcompserv.com](mailto:joe@calcompserv.com)
- ☆ Confederate CO - Col. Mike McKinsey, [mmckinsey1863@gmail.com](mailto:mmckinsey1863@gmail.com)
- ☆ Sutlers - Lewis Williams, [lodownrebel@aol.com](mailto:lodownrebel@aol.com)
- ☆ Civilians - Susan Pfiefer, [spfiefer@comcast.net](mailto:spfiefer@comcast.net)

The site and format are basically the same as last year, with all camps in the same locations. Re-enactor passenger car parking will once again be located behind the Confederate camp. Horse trailer, large vehicle and RV (non hook up) parking will be available in the rodeo grounds at the corner of River & Moscow Rds. Traffic control directors and a shuttle will be available. If you require an RV hook-up contact the Casini Campground directly at (707) 865-2255 or e-mail [info@casiniranch.com](mailto:info@casiniranch.com), or any of the nearby camping resorts on the Russian River.

The interconnecting meadows are spacious and provide shade along the perimeters. Both Confederate and Union camp sites also have available wooded "campaign style" camping areas. Be aware! Poison oak is persistent in all wooded areas, so enter at your own risk! The mid-July weather is typically mild, with temperatures in the mid-seventies during the day. Due to proximity to the ocean, evenings can be relatively cool and foggy. Straw, firewood, water and porta-potties will be provided at all camp sites. Hay and water troughs for mounted units are available. Trash containers will be available, so please leave areas clean when you leave. In ground fire pits are allowed, just back fill all holes. Fire danger is always a concern and must be paramount in everyone's minds. All fires require a bucket of water immediately available - NO EXCEPTIONS. No discharging of weapons of any kind is allowed beyond the battlefield areas.

Reenacting members of recognized reenacting clubs (e.g. PACWR, ACWA, ACWS, CCWR, CWRS, FTHA, NCWA, RACW, WBSHA) are all invited to the event. These members need to show their club's membership card to receive discount entry fees. Any reenactor not having a recognized club membership card will need to pay a fee of \$20.00.

To try and recoup what we now have to pay for land usage, this year we will institute 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





continue to 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. Unless and until we find sponsor(s) to defray our expenses something like this has to be done to keep the event going.

CHAS supports the West Coast reenacting federation and as such supports the reenacting community. Club membership in a recognized reenacting organization supports this effort. All reenactors will be issued an event ID card upon check in. Retain this card, as command and CHAS event staff will be checking. Concession- style food and beverages will be for sale during public hours in the sutler/ civilian area. CHAS has adopted the West Coast federation's (PACWR's) standard safety rules for the event. These are listed on the web site for review. Any safety issues will be dealt with swiftly using the club Presidents of ACWA, CHAS & NCWA.

Back by popular demand, the Saturday night dance will be held from 8:00 to 11:00 at the Casini Campground recreation hall, next to the General Store near the campground entrance off Moscow Road. Due to an expected large turnout, this will be an outside venue open to reenactors and the public. Period dress is of course preferred, but not required. There will be a shuttle from the event main entry bridge area to the dance location from 7:30 to 11:30 pm. There will also be parking available at the dance site if you wish to drive. Or you can walk the one mile to the dance if you prefer. There is no charge for the dance, but since last year's dance lost money we will be placing a donation box at the hall. Beverages and snacks can be purchased at the General Store adjacent to the dance area.

**REENACTOR ARRIVAL TIME:**

Begins Friday at 12:00 noon. Unit set-up locations will be staked out. Sutlers may begin arriving Thursday and need to check in with Sutler coordinator Lewis Williams for set up locations.

**PUBLIC HOURS:**

Saturday, July 19th - 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. NOTE: All re-enactor cars must be out of camps at 9:00 am. No vehicles will be allowed back until after public hours end on Sunday, so plan accordingly. Sunday, July 20th - 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Cars will be allowed to reenter camp areas as soon as we can get the public out of the areas and it becomes safe to enter with vehicles. Every effort will be made to get this done quickly.

**EVENT INFORMATION:**

- ☆ Public event information phone numbers - (707) 922-5901 or (831) 751-6978.
- ☆ Public & Re-enactor information web site - www.civilwardays.net.
- ☆ Event coordinator Ted Miljevich - CHASELDUCE@aol.com, or (707) 922-5901. Feel free to contact Ted directly with any further questions.

There have been a few questions regarding medical coverage for the weekend. Each year CHAS has teamed up with local fire and EMT support to provide emergency response for the reenactors and our guests. We will continue that support this year. Also, as requested, here's a list of area hospitals:

- ☆ Memorial Hospital (1165 Montgomery Dr., Santa Rosa, CA 95405 707-546-3210
- ☆ Kaiser Hospital 401 Bicentennial Way, Santa Rosa, CA 707-571-4000
- ☆ Sutter Medical Center 3325 Chanate Rd, Santa Rosa CA 707-576-4000
- ☆ Palm Drive Hospital (closet to event site) 501 Petaluma Rd., Sebastapol, CA 707-823-8511

**ON CALL VET:**

Dr. Mark Horrell, Canyon Large Animal Clinic. 707-792-4335

**Directions to Duncans Mills -**

*From Highway 101:*

Use the River Road/Guerneville exit (about 1 mile north of Santa Rosa). Turn west onto River Road toward the Russian River Resort Area and continue on to the town of Guerneville. Travel straight through Guerneville and continue on to Duncans Mills. Turn left onto Moscow Road and continue over the bridge (about 1/4 mile). At the end of the bridge, make a right turn onto Freeze Out Road. Follow the signs to the site (about 1/4 mile).

*From Highway 1:*

Turn east on Highway 116 (River Road/Guerneville) and continue on to Duncans Mills. Turn right on Moscow Road and continue over the bridge (about 1/4 mile). At the end of the bridge, make a right turn onto Freeze Out Road. Follow the signs on Freeze Out Road.