

# San Carlos Eaton Hills 4-H San Carlos Eaton Hills 4-H

**ISSUE SIX**  
**MARCH 2004**

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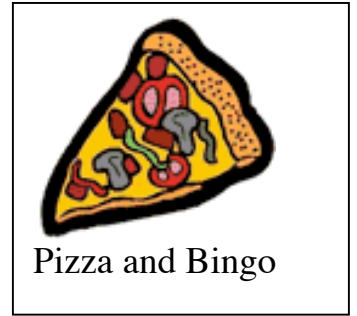
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## **GENERAL MEETING** **March 16, 2004**

**Clifford School, Redwood City – 6:30 pm**

### ***Message from our President***

Hello 4-Her's

Well, spring is definitely here. I hope everyone is enjoying the warm weather, at least while it lasts. This month's theme is green and white in honor of Saint Patrick's Day. This month we are also hosting our annual pizza and bingo night. Please come hungry and ready to win some awesome prizes. We have purchased Jamba Juice, Baskin Robbins and Starbucks gift cards. We will be starting the meeting promptly at 6:30 so everyone please arrive on time. See you soon!

Amanda Smith, President

### **Upcoming Events**

#### **April**

Sat 3	Farm Clean-Up. 9-2	<b>Potluck Lunch</b>	
Mon 5	<b>County</b> Animal Science committee. County Office		
Tues 6	Jr/Teen Leader Meeting. 6:30-7:30 Round Table Pizza		5\$ for pizza, drink
Tues 13	Newsletter Deadline		
Thurs 15	<b>County</b> Ag Steering Committee. Farm Bureau, HMB		
Mon 19	<b>County</b> Lifeskills & Hobbies. 7:15 Fox School. Belmont		
Tues 20	General Meeting. Clifford School 7PM	<b>wear pastels</b>	Cookies for Judging cont
Sat 24	<b>County</b> Fashion Revue Hillsdale Methodist church		
Tues 27	Record Book Extravaganza. 7-8:30. Clifford School		Record Book

## **Beekeeping Update**

On Sunday, March 7th, we had our first meeting for the beekeeping project. We are planning to install two new hives of Italian and Carneolan bees at the farm sometime in April to replace the hives we lost last winter. Besides talking about bees and beekeeping, we watched a worker bee collecting pollen from our ceanothus bush in our garden. If you look closely at the bees' legs, you can really see yellow balls of pollen clinging to the hairs. This might seem like a foolish idea, but bees don't sting unless they get scared. If you move slowly and don't get too close, it's easy to observe bees without getting stung.

My parents have discovered two "bee trees" in the neighborhood, one of which is very near the farm, and we watched a video my dad took of the trees. Dozens of busy bees were coming and going from holes in the trunks! We also compared the flavor of our delicious 4-H honey to the commercial honey from the grocery store. Did you know that nectar from different flowers makes different flavors of honey? With all of the warm weather we've been having lately, if you go out in your yard, I bet you'll bees collecting nectar and pollen from your flowering bushes and trees. Take a look!

By Anne Peale

## **Cavy Project Update By Carson Sprock**

This year we have seven people in the cavy project, Hannah Williams, Danielle Grimsby, Emma Martino, Elisa Donovan, Andrew Bowler and Charlie Setser. Hannah is the only 'alumni' member; she has two American Red cavies, Olive and Hazel. The other members with cavies are Emma, Andrew and Charlie.

The older members, Hannah, Danielle and I meet a half hour earlier to work on cavy proficiency levels and prepare for the small animal challenge in May. When the other members arrive with their cavies, we work on cavy basics like diseases, proper handling and food. At our February meeting, we worked on cavy body parts identification. And the meetings end with cookies and hot cocoa!

### **"Yes Martha, there really is a Dog Project!"**

It's finally starting after much anticipation. The proposed schedule for the Dog Project is listed below. Each enrolled member will receive an email as a reminder and to confirm that you are still interested in participating. We plan to have at least one field trip and hope to participate in the 4H County Doggie Fun Day (date not yet set).

Saturday, March 27, 2-4:30pm

Saturday, April 17, 2-4:30pm

Saturday, May 22, 2-4:30pm

Saturday, June 26, 2-4:30pm

Saturday, July 17, 2-4:30pm

Also, the Dog Obedience and Show competition at the San Mateo County Fair is on the first night of fair: Friday, August 13, 5pm

By Anne Williams

## **What Are Cavies?**

**By Carson Sprock**

What are cavies? Cavies are guinea pigs. They are a member of the rodent family and originated in the Andes Mountains of Peru. Their closest relative is the capybara, a very large swimming rodent.

Cavies are very social animals and usually live in groups or herds. This is why captive cavies enjoy the presence of other cavies.

Cavies are also a food source in Peru. Highly nutritious and rich in protein, they are considered a delicacy.

**Next Newsletter Deadline: Tuesday, April 20th, 2004**

**Email articles to: [csomerton@yahoo.com](mailto:csomerton@yahoo.com)**