

Zoofari Ball XXIV:

WILD WILD WEST

By JEANETTE CASILLAS / CASA

YEEHAAA! Local cowboys and cowgirls hitched their horses at the 24th Annual Zoofari Ball for a *Wild Wild West* themed evening at the Santa Barbara Zoo on Saturday, August 29th.

“The Zoofari Ball is the zoo’s biggest fundraiser of the year,” shared Nancy McToldridge, SB Zoo Director and Event Co-Chair. “There is something new and different every year, but the best part is that it helps the animals and it helps people connect.”

About 500 buckaroos, rounded up for the evening, were greeted with ice-cold, Maker’s Mark *Cowboy Lemonades* in the Zoo courtyard. The partiers then hopped on the train for a ride to the Zoofari Corral, where drinks and appetizers were a plenty.

“This year, we celebrate the Zoo’s accomplishments with our California-inspired theme set against a backdrop of the brand new *California Trails*, featuring Condor Country, Rattlesnake Canyon, and renovated habitats for desert tortoises and our favorites, the

Channel Island foxes,” shared Nancy and Tom Crawford, Honorary Chairs.

In keeping with this year’s theme, the silent auction included one-of-a-kind cowboy boots decorated by celebrities and artists including David Arquette and Courteney Cox, Kenny Loggins, Gore Verbinski, Henry Winkler, Rob Lowe, and John C. McGinley, among others. The live auction, led by professional auctioneer Sean Kelly, offered exclusive “only at the Zoo” activities and travel packages including: an opportunity to name the SB Zoo’s first Humboldt penguin chick; A Black Angus steer from York Ranches in Alturas, CA; a 2010 Kentucky Derby package; a table for ten for Zoofari Ball 2010; and more.

Guests also had an opportunity to “dig for gold” by purchasing \$25 leather-wrapped Mystery Boxes, each containing a certificate for a special item. After the money was spent and the wallets put away, the cow bells rang to announce that dinner was served. The buffet style dinner was provided by Zoo Catering Services by Rincon. The music of local band Soul City Survivors followed dinner. It was time to take off the spurs and hit the dance floor!



Nancy and Tom Crawford, Honorary Chairs



Karen Shiffman, Senior Vice President, SB Bank & Trust; Felicia Sutherland, Vice President, Advertising Manager, SB Bank & Trust; Linda Clough, Director, Mosher Foundation



Patricia Griffin, Board President and Ginni Dreier, Owner Dreier Museum



Betty Hatch, Scott Slater, Stan Hatch, and Margaret Slater



Dave Talbott; Michael Dominguez; Kelly Magne; and Alan Varsik, Assistant Zoo Director



Ray Kolbe, Jessica Kolbe, and Scott Orlosky



Joe Dobbs, Carol Dobbs, Carol Kallman, and Don Barthelms



Mare and Herb Barthels and Craig Case



The Zoofari Ball directly benefits Zoo animals and visitors. SB Zoo is a private, non-profit corporation with no tax-based support. The \$8 million operating budget is generated through general operations. All capital improvements are made possible through the support of individuals, businesses, foundations, and events such as Zoofari Ball. For more information call 962-5339 or visit www.sbzoo.org.



Diana Raab, Simon Raab, and Josh Raab