

## **Wild Safari Night at Auction Preview**

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It was an appropriately hot and sticky night Wednesday when the Santa Clarita Valley Boys and Girls Club held their annual VIP Preview party for the Wild Safari Nights benefit auction at the MacMillan Ranch estate of Darryl and Trudi Weaver.

Despite jungle-like temperatures, nearly 100 VIP guests enjoyed the lush backyard grounds of the Weaver estate as they previewed a selected sampling of auction items available at the 31st annual auction to be held Saturday, June 15 at 29125 Avenue Paine in the Valencia Commerce Center.

Meeting and greeting guests were two of the three bachelors that will be up for auction, Newhall dentist Dr. Dell Goodrick and Sgt. Andy Hernandez of the California Highway Patrol.

Goodrick said he hasn't worked up a routine for the auction runway, but will be stylishly attired in a tuxedo and snakeskin shoes. "The shoes go with the theme," he said. Goodrick said he is nervous about the auction, but believes ladies will be bidding more for the specifics of the date, then for him. Goodrick's date includes a half-day of beauty courtesy Monique's Day Spa in Saugus followed by a private tour of Agua Dulce Winery. The day ends with an evening airplane flight over Los Angeles and the coastline followed by dinner in Santa Monica.

Hernandez, who said he was in the number one bachelor slot for a reason, will offer his date a two-hour spa treatment followed by a visit to the Long Beach Aquarium. Champagne, a romantic gondola ride through the canals and dinner at a fine restaurant are also included.

The final bachelor of the evening will be Captain Al Bustillos of the Los Angeles County Fire Department. His date will enjoy a helicopter flight from San Pedro to Catalina Island followed by a day exploring Catalina Island, including dinner at an exclusive Avalon restaurant before returning to the mainland.

Del Holland, vice president and general manager of Six Flags Magic Mountain and chairman of last year's Boy's and Girls Club auction, returns as chairman of the Wild Safari Nights Auction.

"We've got many exciting auction items available this year," he said. "It is very important to have a record breaking auction this year." Holland said the annual auction provides more than 50 percent of the operating budget for the Club which serves 1,600 Santa Clarita Valley children.

"Additional money is needed to open the new 27,000 square foot Canyon Country facility," Holland said.

The facility, expected to open in 2003, is an innovative joint use project between the Boys and Girls Club, the William S. Hart Union High School District and the City of Santa Clarita. The Boys and Girls Club expect 1,000 children to make use of the Canyon Country location at Sierra Vista Junior High School.

"There is not a better location in Canyon Country," Jim Ventress, executive director of the SCV Boys and Girls Club, said.

The auction allows annual dues to be kept affordable to all SCV children.

As ash from the Copper fire in Saugus and San Francisquito Canyon fell on the zebra, ocelot, leopard and tiger-striped tablecloths guests enjoyed dinner of babyback pork ribs, tri tip, chicken and Caesar salad donated by Outback Steakhouse. David and Rosie Cass, owners of the popular Aussie themed eatery, were on hand to help restaurant volunteers serve the VIP guests.

"All the employees are here on their own time," David Cass said.

Among the numerous ladies working the VIP crowd and displaying jewelry that will be available at the auction were Myrna Shepro, Shake Kontogianis, Pat Allen, Donna Lee, Barbara Morris, Wendy Ash and Dianne Crawford. Each sported an "Ask Me About My Jewelry" tag and were quick to rattle off the karats and carats of each piece. Guests to the VIP preview enjoyed the chance to socialize and plan what auction items they covet. "This is a great turnout. We're looking forward to having a great auction," Ventress said.

Holland thanked everyone who made the evening possible and thanked auction sponsors for their support. "Without all of our wonderful sponsors, we couldn't do what we do," he said.

Auction guests are promised an exciting auction evening, one of the premiere social events in the SCV. "I love the theme," Ventress said.

Last year's auction attracted nearly 1,500 guests and raised nearly \$300,000 for the club. The addition of the Canyon Country facility increases the operating budget needs of the club and the goal of the Wild Safari Nights auction is to raise well over the \$300,000 mark said an auction official.

The live auction will feature 89 items including jewelry, an original Randy Wicks cartoon, vacation and golf packages and autographed sports and celebrity memorabilia. Also on the block will be a choice of a 2002 Chevy Trailblazer, 2002 Honda Accord EX, 2002 Chrysler PT Cruiser, 2002 Ford Explorer Sport, 2002 Mercury Cougar or 2002 Dodge Stratus donated by the Auto Nation dealers of Valencia.

Nearly 500 silent auction items will be available with bid boards closing throughout the evening. Art, beauty baskets, legal and a variety of gift certificates, along with many unique and exotic items will be available at the silent auction.

Gerald and Liz Price have donated a \$40,000 Phantom automobile to the SCV Boys and Girls Club. Raffle tickets will be on sale at the auction for \$50 each. The drawing for the classy car will not be held until Oct. 5.

Limited seating is still available. The auction will be held at a new building in the Valencia Commerce Center, courtesy of Hewson Real Estate Development, Scott Sheridan, Sr. Vice President.

Doors open to the black tie event at 5 p.m., dinner will be served at 6 p.m., live auction starts 7 p.m. with dancing at 10:30 p.m.

For information on tickets and seating availability call 254-2582. For a preview of auction items visit [www.scvboysandgirlsclub.org](http://www.scvboysandgirlsclub.org).

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