



ASSOCIATION OF MONTEREY BAY AREA GOVERNMENTS

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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\$1,000 WINNERS FOR JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2009 ANNOUNCED IN RIDESHARE REWARDS CLUB DRAWING

Marina, Calif. – March 20, 2009 - Commute Alternatives, the Monterey County rideshare program of the Association of Monterey Bay Area Governments (AMBAG), is proud to announce the winners for the January and February drawings of its Rideshare Rewards Club. The Rideshare Rewards Club is an incentive program for residents and employees of Monterey County, who use sustainable transportation modes for their commute. Participants log their sustainable transportation mode trips monthly and each month one participant is randomly selected in a drawing to receive \$1,000.

The January 2009 winner is **Lynne Penrose**, a Volunteer Coordinator at the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Penrose lives five miles away from work. In the last three years she has been carpooling to the Monterey Bay Aquarium with co-worker Becky Cada on daily basis. She carools to work to help the environment and “because it makes sense.” Penrose hadn’t calculated her savings from sharing a ride with a co-worker. However, even though her motivation is not monetary, the benefits are obvious. Carpooling with another person cuts her commuting cost in half.

The winner for February 2009 is **Marcella Mitchell**, a Communication PBX Operator at the Community Hospital of the Monterey Peninsula (CHOMP). She has been using the CHOMP shuttle for a year – as soon as she started working for the hospital. Mitchell lives in Seaside and drives a mile to a parking lot where the shuttle picks her up. She is really pleased with the service. The shuttle is very convenient and helps solve the parking shortage at the CHOMP premises. In addition, the drivers provide great customer service. When dark, they wait at the parking lot long enough to make sure the employees have gotten into their cars. The shuttle at Mitchell’s location leaves every 30 minutes and is operated on a first-come-first-serve basis.

The Rideshare Rewards Club is funded in part through a grant from the Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District. In January, participants logged 3,051 roundtrips in which they used alternatives to driving alone such as carpooling, vanpooling, bicycling, walking, riding the bus, telecommuting, or working a compressed work week schedule. In February, the tips logged were 3,247. Since the program started in April of 2007, more than 900 people from 62 employers became members and logged a total of 55,642 trips.

To learn more about the Rideshare Rewards Club, or to register your company with the program, visit www.commutealternatives.info or call 422-POOL. Free carpool matching services are also available.