

Marin Horse Council

2015 FALL/WINTER NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 124

Marin Horse Council | 171 Bel Marin Keys Blvd. | Novato, CA 94949 | 415.259.5783 | www.MarinHorseCouncil.org



Arriving and getting ready for MHC's Fall Ride at Olompali State Historic Park!

From the Saddle

Button up your overcoat when the wind is cold...

Fall is upon us and maybe, just maybe, we will begin to feel the change of weather and not the continuing 90-degree temps. Traditionally I remember Indian Summer lasting through the first two weeks of September; however, this pattern seems to be staying with us. I shouldn't complain as the riding weather is glorious, but the constant extremes between night and day are problematic for some horses and may cause some horses to colic. Electrolytes have been our friend lately and knock on wood our barn has only seen two incidents of mild colic out of 120 horses. The other concern is our old friend Pigeon Fever. The rain coupled with the high daytime temps brings out the flies. I understand that a very high percentage of flies are carriers, so it's wise to take precautions. Otherwise, like I started to say, the riding is spectacular! Linda Albion and I rode Point Reyes out of Five Brooks and found ourselves in "Narnia"! I kid you not. Out Olema Valley to Texiera to Ridge and back to Stewarts. Pictures don't even do this ride justice this time of year. WOW! We live in the midst of some of the most beautiful riding country anywhere. I thank my lucky stars each time I get to head out.

Speaking of heading out, this year will conclude my tenure as the president of the Marin Horse Council. It's been a good four years and we have accomplished quite a lot in that time. I've had the privilege of working with a great supportive board while also working with a dedicated population of trail and open space enthusiasts. Together we have made strides in setting trail policy that protects equestrian safety, we've raised and donated funds for the preservation of stables and trails. We have hosted the horse course, group rides, tails and tires clinics where mountain bikes and horses come together for safety education on the trail plus funded ribbons and an educational booth annually at the Marin County Fair.

It's time for a fresh face or two to continue the good work the MHC has been doing and continue to work toward preserving horses, barns and trails in Marin. If you are interested in finding out more, please come to our next board meeting November 10th.

Happy Trails to you, until we meet again...

- Monte Kruger | President, MHC

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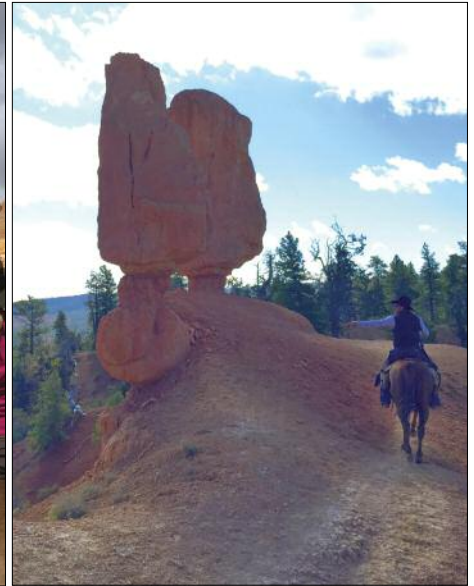
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OUT ON THE TRAIL



MHC's Fall Ride

The Fall Ride at Olompali was a huge success. The weather was perfect, the park was perfect. It was mostly us there that day. On horseback we had pastoral views of Rush Creek, the area north of Olompali which we rarely see and the blue baylands. I pre-rode the trails Saturday looking for any obstacles or rocky areas but there were no problem areas and I was glad to see a few new trails! Everyone had a fun ride and got to meet new people and see old friends riding by ponds and fern forests next to Silviera Ranch. Marin Horse Council installed a new water trough a few months ago and the horses enjoyed it. The entrance to the Park was improved this year as part of the 101 freeway construction so horse trailers now have one mile of easy driving on the frontage Road.

Park Ranger Robert was a great guide and provided lots of Olompali history to us. He said we were doing all the right things using the park and he hopes that smaller horse groups will ride here too. It is an easy drive from Petaluma or from Southern Marin. We had 50 riders and an additional 15 people came just for lunch and to catch up with everyone. The BBQ as always was delicious! Good vibes and a great day!

- Michael Willin, Ride Honcho

The Red Rock Ride in Utah

They call it a "western outdoor vacation" and say it's physically demanding. You don't ride hard, but you do ride long... 3-9 hours in the saddle 6 days in a row.

We rode through Zion National Park, Bryce National Park, the forestry land where Butch Cassidy lived and did his business. We even saw one of his hideouts and heard stories that had been passed down by his sister and those who knew him. We finished our week riding mules into the Grand Canyon. Talk about natural wonders! Each day opened up new surprises of grandeur.

The rocks, walls, and formations are wonders that have inspired artists for generations. We even saw some dinosaur prints along with Indian carvings and the writings of the early settlers in the area. A special treat was that the Wranglers are all from generations of settlers in the area and they've grown up hearing the stories that have made up our history. Because of that insight and being on horseback (or on a mule) in some extremely remote areas it was like taking a trip back in time. We climbed hills, slid down a few, straddled narrow ridges, and crossed creeks and rivers -- sometimes laughing and sharing tales and sometimes being quiet and appreciating nature and what she offers.

The Red Rock Ride is a first class operation. One guest said it was run with military precision. True, but in a very family easy going way. Cabins are for two people each and the bathrooms are at each end of the site, but are cozy with soft cushions and a pillow. It's not a hotel, but it's nice. There's a giant barn, where you are wine, dined and entertained with western music, cowboy poets and more. Your every need is accommodated with a smile and every detail is attended to. The horses and mules are matched well to riding abilities and the Wranglers.....well, we all wanted to take them home!

The rides are offered six times a year and book up two years in advance. Cancellations sometimes do occur, which is how I was lucky enough to be able to join two friends who had been anticipating this trip for two years!

Check out redrockride.com. Watch the cool video and go live the life of the wild west!

-Linda Albion



Dedication of Sandy's Bench

On July 27, Sandy Greenblat's wife Marilyn, daughter Jerris and a group of Sandy's friends and riding pals hiked or rode to Divide Meadow on the Bear Valley Trail to dedicate a new handmade bench and stools to Sandy. Since the National Park Service forbids the installation of any plaques or memorials, this had to be done verbally. On July 29, Sandy would have been 81 and Divide Meadow was one of his most cherished spots in the park. Among his many accomplishments, Sandy managed to get many picnic tables and hitch rails installed throughout the park but NPS would not allow him to put a picnic table in Divide Meadow near the hitch trail he had put in, citing it a wilderness area.

We managed to convince the park that the old decrepit bench that was there and had fallen apart needed to be replaced to give hikers, bikers and horsemen a place to rest along the trail. We have seen many people using and enjoying it since its installation in late May.

And so it is apropos to dedicate this bench to Sandy to complete the last part of the work he did. We have named the bench "Sandy's bench". We even go so far as to tell people using it a tidbit about Sandy and how it's earned its name so as to pass the word. We hope you will refer to it as "Sandy's bench" when you sit there enjoying Divide Meadow's splendor or meet a friend there in the park. - *Duffy Hurwin*



Trail Safety Quiz

from the SLOW & SAY HELLO campaign

Safety on the trails is important to all of us. Think of the answers yourself, or with some friends, then check if your answers match ours.

1. After crossing through a ranch gate, should you leave it closed or open?
2. You're on a horse (or mountain bike) and you encounter a shallow puddle completely across the trail. What should you do? Go around the puddle or through it?
3. You approach a horse and rider on a trail. On which side should you pass?
4. What are several signs that a horse is on alert and may spook?
5. What is the safe speed for passing others on a trail or fire road?
6. What is the speed limit on public lands?
7. What issues do ear buds create?
8. What terrain features require extra caution to avoid accidents with others?

For answers see page 4.

Tribute to Fannie

Background: Fannie Mae (Fannie) has long had, indeed enjoyed, a reputation of being slow in the gait. She has served as President of the Slow Horses of America for some time now, and recently decided to resign her position. In that regard, she asked me (Rich, guardian) to write her a tribute.

This I agreed to do, to the tune of 'Home on the Range'.

Tribute: How slow can we go, I really don't know, it's never been tested before.

I thought about it, but I don't give a shit.

I'm not gonna ride fast no more, no I'm not gonna ride fast no more.

- *Rich Gould*

OUT ON THE TRAIL

TRAIL QUIZ ANSWERS FROM PAGE 3:

1. You should leave the gate however you found it. Sometimes ranchers leave gates open so stock can get to water or feed.
2. You should go through the puddle. riding around it widens the trail.
3. Ask the rider. Always talk when approaching a rider on horseback. Some horses are skittish on one side and OK on the other. The rider should take charge and let others know what is safe for their horse. Also, talking helps to assure the horse that you are a person, not a possible predator.
4. Alert signs – Head held high; ears pinned or fixed; eyes open wide with white visible; swishing tail; tense body; prancing legs
5. Safe passing speed is generally no faster than the slower person. 5 mph is usually reasonable.
6. Most public lands have a 15 mph speed limit for joggers, bikes, horses.
7. With two ear buds in place, the jogger, biker, rider or hiker is in a shared, public space but cannot hear others around them. They become disconnected from their surroundings and lose the ability to react safely when others approach. One ear bud only!
8. Restricted sight lines (blind corners, thick brush, etc.) narrow constrained trail section, and steep grades are features that require particular caution to avoid accidents with others.



On Becoming A Trail Master

More than two years ago I wrote an article for Ride! Magazine called "Don't Be That Guy"!

Just yesterday someone brought that article up again. It is still one of my most frequently spoken about articles. Why? Because no one wants to be the person who obviously does not know what to do, especially on trail rides.

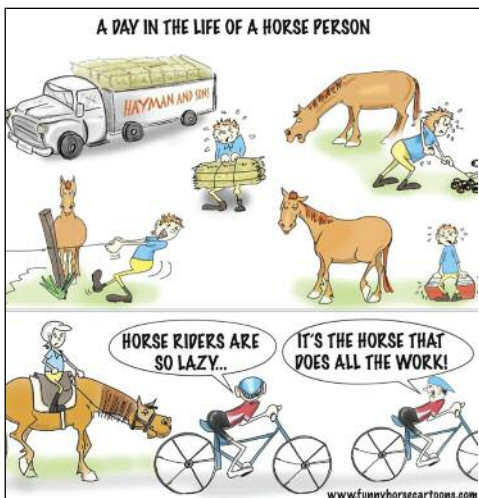
When I think of a Master Trail Rider, I think of someone who not only has his or her own act together, but also someone who is assisting others with their trail riding experiences. Master Trail Riders are cordial and considerate with other trail users, including bikers, children and hikers. Our behavior as equestrians is remembered by all users of the parks and our actions reflect on how others view all riders.

Being prepared is not only a Scout's motto, but also a must for a Trail Master. Checking your own tack to ensure soundness and safety, and carrying a little extra tack that might be needed. It is a bummer when your cinch breaks three hours from the trailer.

Knowing the territory and where you will be riding is important and following all the park rules and regulations. This includes unstated rules like staying on the trails and not cutting new switchbacks which cause major damage. If you see trees down or danger on the trails contact the proper authorities.

Assessing ways to reduce the risk for all in your trail party is a sign of a good leader. Encouraging risky behaviors such as galloping over rough terrain or running past others who are walking their horses only demonstrates inexperience or insensitivity. Encouraging all in your group to ride only at the level of the greenest rider and horse shows maturity and leadership. I hope you have fun and safe trail rides this fall and become a true Trail Master.

- Gary Stauber



The Valley Fire

In September, when the Valley Fire burned through Lake County fleeing residents often had to leave their small pets and horses. These animals were forced to fend for themselves but some survived and found shelter and water.

Veterinarians knew they would need to move quickly. Dr. Jeffrey Smith's clinic was one of the few structures left standing. The staff swung into action treating all the animals. They were joined by veterinarians and vet technicians from UC Davis and members of the California Veterinary Medical Association, who all volunteered services.

While animals flooded Smith's Clinic, all treatments were provided free of charge. In addition, animal rescue groups in the surrounding counties provided support. Wine Country Animal Lovers, based in Napa, coordinated collections of donated supplies and took them to Lake County.

Numerous tack and feed stores in the area donated many supplies.

The Valley Fire is over but it will take years for people to rebuild their home, barns and livelihood. It will also be a long road ahead for the animals.

Please consider donating to Middletown Animal Hospital.

- Constanza Perry



Dr Jeff Smith of Middletown Animal Hospital.



Dr. Scott Sims RIP

Dr. Scott Sims, DVM (1955 – 2015)

Scott passed on July 25th, but his life-long passion for animals and their care will live on.

A brilliant veterinarian and scientist, Scott loved to teach, mentor and innovate. Every visit to his clinic and every vet call came with a little education, humor and compassion, even in the middle of the night. Before moving to Hawaii Scott lived in Novato for many years and was active with the Marin Horse Council in the 1990s and 2000s. He was friend, veterinarian and more to so many and returned frequently to see his friends in Marin. Scott's absence will be felt in the hearts of all who knew him. Aloha Team Scott.

He recently formed the Pegasus Foundation to provide pay-what-you-can veterinary care to animals in need in Kauai.

If you would like to contribute to The Pegasus Foundation in memory of Scott donations can be sent to: The Pegasus Foundation, P.O. Box 2, Hanalei, HI 96714. www.pegasusfoundationkauai.org

Donation to Fire Victims

Thank you so much for your generous donation to the Valley Fire Animals. We were able to ship 29 stock tanks to Middletown of all different sizes. I am sorry the pictures weren't very good but I cried the whole time. I was just overwhelmed by everyone's willingness to make this happen. Thank you again for your kindness.

- Dana, Western Farm Center



Ken Frank (of Novato Horsemen) thank you so much for your donation of these stock tanks.



Help the Animals of Lake County

Dear Friends: On September 12th you may have witnessed the destruction caused by the Valley fire in Lake County, CA in which over 1,300 homes burned to the ground and an unknown number of animals perished or are still at large. The scene in the small community of Middletown can only accurately be described as apocalyptic. In an amazing stroke of luck, the Middletown Animal Hospital remained in tact and has now become a center for animal care and sheltering in the community.

The animals of Lake County are in dire need of medical supplies and veterinary service to treat burns, dehydration, wounds and illness. Middletown Animal Hospital veterinarian Dr. Jeff Smith has made it his mission to keep his doors open to offer free veterinary service for any and all animals that are brought to him. In the past eight days he has already treated hundreds of animals ranging from dogs and cats to horses and cattle. While supply donations from the surrounding community have aided his effort this week, there are still several months to come in which he will absorb operating expenses with little to no income.

Please consider sending a donation to Dr. Smith and his dedicated staff. I know him personally and can guarantee that every dollar will be spent to keep this vital resource for animals open in a time when they have no other options.

To donate, visit this website: https://www.gofundme.com/h24mk7qk?utm_source=internal&utm_medium=email&utm_content=cta_button&utm_campaign=upd_n

Please forward this thought and message to your friends.

Thank you,
Grant Miller, DVM



20 Valley Fire Horses Found Safe

Some very good news among all of the heartbreaks. Hard day today for our officers (Sept 19th) - Officer Scott did a lot of searches, mostly recovery. This fire was cruel and had no limits, it

seems. Then, he came upon a miracle. Through burned up hellish landscapes where no life could exist, he finds a field, with a pond - and about 20 horses. They're banged up, but alive! He carries hay and grain so he left what he had, and radioed for hay, grain and horse trailers sent. Something to celebrate, as these guys are going to make it.

#ValleyFire #PetalumaAnimalShelter #OfficerMark Scott

Concerns about RTMP Proposals

A Memorandum by Linda Novy to Marin County Open Space District and Marin County Supervisors

Overview: Horse owners stable well over 200 horses in the San Geronimo Valley, and more (Baywood Canyon Equestrian Center and Marin Stables and Trails to name two) in the Fairfax Area. The overall goal of equestrians on the trail is to have a safe, enjoyable experience with their horse in natural surroundings. This can take place most often on trails that are hiker/horse only. The only such trail in the San Geronimo Valley is the Roy's Redwoods Loop Trail. All the other trails open to horses are fire roads (all of which are open to bikes) or narrow trails, such as Willis Evans, Porcupine/White Hill and 680 that are also open to bikes. Our goal is to have at least some trails where mountain bike riders are prohibited. Why? Because bikers ride at much faster speeds than equestrians and hikers and pose a danger to both groups. Even on fire roads, bikers pose a threat to the safety of other users because of the short sight-lines resulting from blind corners and from the "rolling dips" recently installed by MCOSED on the East Sylvestris and Manzanita Fire Roads. Equestrians and hikers must be "on alert" at all times on fire roads and on narrow trails open to bikes. Equestrians and hikers need places where we can be free from bikes. We offer these comments to make our position clear and hope that they will be considered by MCOSED and by the Supervisors in the final Region 2 planning.

RTMP workshop feedback: The County did not mention the role of enforcement on the trails or the expectation of compliance from all trail users and consequences if compliance is not observed. The meeting was confusing for many. The digitized trail numbers and lack of map cohesiveness was not effective, and competition at the tables made offering comments difficult.

Proposed Region 2 Plan Specifics: We thank the District for the proposed closure of Conifer Ridge Trail, an illegally ridden (by mountain bikes) trail that dangerously intersects with the Willis Evans Trail, a primary trail used by horses and hikers to reach Conifer Fire Road.

We request that Willis Evans Trail be restored to a hiker/equestrian trail as it has historically been. It was changed arbitrarily with no public input by the District. The current trail use designation creates a dangerous multi-use condition for horses and riders through exposure to mountain bike riders coming fast downhill. The rolling dips encourage bike riders to jump their bikes and to speed. This trail is "an accident waiting to happen," and near misses are common, displacing many riders who consider it unsafe to ride.

{continued on page 8}



Ocean Rider's Fundraiser a Success!

Ocean Riders wishes to thank everyone who attended our first fundraising event to celebrate the signing of a ten year lease and to help us raise funds to restore our historic dairy barn roof. We had a perfect afternoon and warm evening with a great turnout, excellent BBQ by Big Jim, fabulous dancing music by the Miracle Mule Band, and an amazing silent and live auction, featuring Richard Habib. We were pleased to honor Tink and Dick Pervier and their daughter Melanie who for several decades provided horse boarding and riding lessons. Ocean Riders would not be here without them and we intend to carry on that wonderful sense of community that always came with boarding at 'The Dairy', also known as Tink's Barn.

Jess Pinto discussed the power of horses to heal, and to partner in learning to teach leadership and communication skills before giving a choreographed demonstration of trust and respect with her horse Little Bear.

Ocean Riders appreciate the generous donations to our auction items by friends and other Park Partners.

We are also grateful for the support of the Portuguese community that has been enthusiastic about our efforts to preserve this historic Portuguese Dairy barn. We hope to schedule our new roof before the rains come!

- Maureen Pinto



Circle Oak Equine Health Fair

Circle Oak Equine is sponsoring a free educational Equine Health Fair October 31 from 9:30am-3:30pm at their facility in Petaluma.

'From Prevention to Performance', lots of interesting speakers and exhibits:

Come tour the "haunted hospital" and have a spooky good time!

Founder of the NeuroKinetic Therapy systems for humans, David Weinstock, will be talking about compensation and injury .

Learn the latest on balance and myofascial connections from Dr. Kerry Ridgway.

Dr. Carol Gillis will share more than 30 years of rehab and lower limb injury experience.

Dr. Justin McCormick will demonstrate an over the ground upper airway scope.

Dr. Claudia Sonder from the Center for Equine Health will be giving an update on current research project.

Dr. Pete Heidmann will be talking about respiratory issues that can effect performance.

Equinology is back offering hand-on small group wet labs on equine myofascial release.

More wet labs include lower limb anatomy, Phil Tresenrider with lower limb "press" and small group palpation and bandaging labs for lower limbs problems.

Live horse demos on gastric scoping, saddle fit for soundness, kinesiotaping and shoeing for lower limb soft tissue.

For more information contact Melynda Silvashy, 707-738-2529 or admin@circleoakequine.com. The address is 911 Mustang Ct. Pelaluma

The addition of 7 miles of biker/hiker trails in Giacomini and Cascade Preserves will, we believe, serve as an attractant to more mountain bike traffic to the preserve and this concerns us. If this proceeds, then it should be only as a pilot program. Additional enforcement and metrics on non-compliance and hikers' perception of their safety, should dictate if it continues as a biker/hiker use designation.

While mtn. bike riders received 7 miles of additional biker/hiker trails, the equestrian community did not seem to be acknowledged in the trail system. While equestrians have many fire road opportunities, given the danger posed by many of the Region 2 fire roads (steep, blind corners, rolling dips, and limited enforcement resources), safe trail riding opportunities are mostly on the Roy's Redwood Loop and flat areas of fire roads where sight lines are good.

The equestrian community requests an additional enforcement presence now, and in the future, as we continue to experience unsafe mtn. bike rider behavior, and believe the new trails will attract more out of the area bikes to the Giacomini Preserve.

Future projects: the equestrian community will participate cooperatively with the District in restoration projects that restore plant habitat and is seeking those project opportunities.

Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

- Linda Novy

RIP Bob Dougherty

You will be missed.

Robert Starrs Dougherty (1927 – 2015).

Our horse family lost a good man and horseman July 2nd, Robert Dougherty (1927 – 2015). Bob was a breeder of fine Arabian horses and, with his wife Diana operated Dougherty Arabians where many continue to learn good horsemanship and how to ride. In November 2014 Bob became the founding President of Wine Country Arabian Horse Association to support and promote the breed he loved. Bob is missed by so many.

"It is with immense sorrow that his family announces the passing of Robert Starrs Dougherty who died peacefully surrounded by loved ones at his home due to complications of pneumonia. Bob was born in San Francisco September 16, 1927, the youngest of three children born to John and Ada Dougherty. He was a graduate of St. Ignatius High School and went on to earn a degree in mechanical engineering from Santa Clara University. Bob put his knowledge and skills to work as President of San Francisco's Conlin and Roberts, a leading West Coast steel design and fabrication company which produced an array of custom products for companies including Boeing and fabricated many Bay Area structures including the toll booths on the Golden Gate Bridge, the canopy over the Bay Bridge toll plaza, and the flag pole atop the Golden Gate National Cemetery. He later developed two commercial buildings in San Francisco's Design District. As a boy, Bob was fascinated with horses and rode every chance he had. After marrying Diana, his wife of 34 years, Bob and Diana founded Dougherty Arabians, an equestrian breeding, training, and boarding facility in Nicasio, California. Several of the horses bred by Dougherty Arabians were award winners and champions. Bob had a playful attitude and loved to tell or hear a good joke, particularly of the Irish persuasion. He was a proud and passionate member of the Saint Mary's Church of Nicasio parish choir. His big baritone voice will be sorely missed there.

The family asks that donations be made to CHANGE, which cares for abandoned and neglected horses in Sonoma County. <http://www.sonomachangeprogram.com/>

The Snaffle Bit - Wonders and Woes

We use the sensitivity of the horse's mouth to communicate with them. Go left, right, stop, back up. Everything is some definition or deviation of those 4 moves.

Going back to the masters of the 17th through the 20th centuries, this bit was used to start the young horse, as it is today. However, today, the snaffle bit has the reputation of being a "soft", "kind" bit. It is and it is not.

The true definition of the snaffle is a bit that has no shanks. The true snaffle is not just a bit that has a jointed mouthpiece. A snaffle can have a straight, unbroken mouthpiece or the ones by Myler, with various forms of ports.

The jointed snaffle is a bit for lateral movement of the horse. That is, moving sideways, and turning. To use the snaffle bit to stop the horse is where the "woes" occur.

When you pull the reins equally on a jointed snaffle bit, the horse now has a pliers in his mouth. As the joint collapses, it points up to the palate, bumping or stabbing it. The horse's first instinct to avoid the pain is to throw his head up. The rider pulls harder and the horse seeks relief by eventually dropping his head.

The horse now is entirely focused on how to avoid future pain from the jointed bit. This is not the outcome that a sensitive, skilled rider is going for.

So how do you use the snaffle to its best advantage and the least discomfort to the horse? The answer is simple, but the habit of most riders is to pull both reins to stop. The answer is to never pull evenly with both reins while the jointed snaffle is at the other end of the reins in your hands. Pull back more with one rein than the other.

At first, the horse will think you are asking for a turn. But, when you stop pulling with the rein you pull most, at the moment the horse stops, you are beginning to teach the horse to stop with the jointed snaffle, one rein at a time. Remember, it is the release that teaches. When you release the pull as the horse stops moving his feet, he begins to understand what you want.

Eventually, if you practice this with consistent effort and concentration, the moment you pick up on one rein with the intent of stopping, your horse will willingly stop his feet.

But, please read on. Many riders already know all of this. Just consider this truth. The horse reads our intent, before we start the signals. Take some time to test this out. Our bodies translate our intent far sooner than out visible effort. The horse senses this. Try just using your body language to turn or stop. Give the horse a few seconds to try to sort it out. Watch what happens after a few tries.

So, what is the Wonder of the snaffle bit? It can turn them easily and stop softly. The Woe is that it can cause pain in the sensitive mouth, causing the horse to not learn but only focus on avoiding the pain. We all have heard of horses' tongues being badly damaged by various forms of broken snaffle bits. Now, you might have a better idea of why.

Best of all, the kindest bit is determined by the hands at the other ends of the reins. What are you doing with your end of the reins? - Susan Tomasini

Flying Changes


Halleck Creek Ranch is proud to announce the success of one of our newest programs for those in need: Flying Changes. Halleck Creek Ranch invites women who are in transition or facing a life obstacle to join Flying Changes, a horsemanship and riding group for those both with and without previous horse experience.

Held weekly at our historic Nicasio Valley ranch, this powerful form of equine-assisted therapy is for women who want to gain confidence, persevere through personal obstacles and be empowered.

Riding and practicing horsemanship skills leads to improved balance, muscle control, flexibility, and strength. Bonding with the horses and learning about their nature will lead to increased self-confidence, self-esteem and assertiveness.

Another Fall session is being offered November 2 - December 13, 2015. The group will meet weekly on Mondays, 9:30-11:00 am. Participants will work with the horses both on the ground and from their backs, as well as do some self-work in the process. Limited scholarship funding is available. No horse experience is required. If interested, please contact Program Director, Molly Scannell at msscannell@halleckcreekranch.org for more information.



The Marin Horse Council is on  Facebook. Check out all of the events and activities we are involved in.

Shows & Events

Sonoma Horse Park

Joe Fargis clinic at Sonoma Horse Park . Dec 4,5,6 ,2015. He is a two time gold medal Olympian. Contact Marian Nelson 707-766-9066. All levels. Auditors welcome

Tonya Johnston: Equestrian Mental Skills Coach sports psychology clinic for riders. Nov 7, 2015 at Sonoma Horse Park. Contact Marian Nelson 707-766-9067



Our Newsletter is Going Green

The Marin Horse Council is going "Green"! We will be sending out our quarterly Newsletters via e-mail. In doing this we are conscience of our responsibility to the environment and financially we will be saving money that can be put towards supporting our equestrian presence in Marin County.



All MARIN HORSE COUNCIL memberships now renew on JANUARY 1st. Renew online or use the renewal form included in our quarterly newsletters. To smooth the transition from our old system to this new "everyone renews on the same date" system we are extending 2015 membership to those people who renewed in November or December of 2014. To ask about the status of your membership: contact@marinhorsecouncil.org

Halleck Creek's Annual Dinner

November 20, 2015. Annual Dinner Celebrates HCR Unique Programs
Event also Honors Amberley Snyder with Silver Buckle Award

NICASIO, CA—Halleck Creek Ranch, renowned for its Therapeutic Horseback Riding programs in the Bay Area, will honor competitive barrel racer Ms. Amberley Snyder at its' Annual Dinner Nov. 20, 2015 at Rancho Nicasio in Nicasio, CA.

Ms. Snyder will be honored with the organization's Silver Buckle Award in recognition of her incredible accomplishments. The Halleck Creek Ranch (HCR) VIP Reception and Awards Dinner is the organization's signature annual event, featuring fine food and wine and more, in celebration of the incredible one-of-a-kind experiences the organization provides for hundreds of youth and adults with special needs.

Ms. Snyder's story is one of determination and inspiration. The past winner of the Little Britches Rodeo Finals and World Title, among many other achievements, Ms. Snyder suffered a broken back in a car accident and was left with a dire prognosis; she would never walk again — let alone ride a horse. Five years later, through hours of hard work and an enduring spirit, she has returned to rodeos and competition and an inspiration to over 100,000 Facebook followers with her weekly "Wheelchair Wednesdays" videos documenting her path to physical independence and her return to riding.

"I didn't even have my back brace off before I got onto a horse again. It was four months after my wreck when I sat on the back of one of my horses again," Ms. Snyder says, recalling the process of relearning her barrel racing techniques with her physical limitations. "Once I knew I could do all that, I entered a race less than a week later. I have been running ever since, competing in barrel racing and rodeos around the Western United States."

While Ms. Snyder now pursues a Master's degree in school counseling at Utah State University, she is competing on the college rodeo team in barrel racing and breakaway roping and serves as the Women's Team Captain. Her story reflects the HCR mission to help those with disabilities live a life without barriers and she inspires HCR's volunteers and staff as they continue to serve over 75 riders a week, providing more than 3,500 hours of therapy each year.

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HCR's Annual Dinner offers an opportunity to socialize with old and new friends, enjoy incredible cuisine and to learn more about HCR's therapeutic riding program and its accomplishments. A live and silent auction will offer tempting one-of-a-kind items including travel and adventure, exclusive wines, outdoor gear and more. Proceeds from the event will provide scholarship funding for HCR riders, as well as supportive care for HCR's herd of 19 therapy horses.

About Halleck Creek Ranch

Nestled along Halleck Creek on a 60-acre historic West Marin ranch, HCR pairs gentle horses with dedicated volunteers and passionate staff, to create a dynamic team to bring "special" riders into the rugged Nicasio countryside. The non-profit 501 (c)(3) is one of the largest and oldest Therapeutic Horseback Riding programs in the Bay Area and was founded by Duane Irving and Joyce Goldfield in 1977 serving riders with a wide range of developmental, physical and sensory disabilities. A member center of the Professional Association of Therapeutic Riding International (PATH), HCR is also a project of Marin County 4H Council.

For event tickets and to find out more information about the Halleck Creek Ranch go to their website www.halleckcreekranch.org. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

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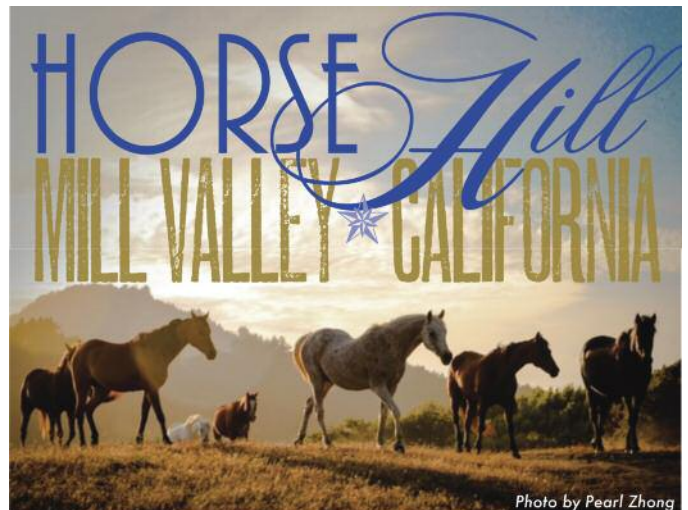


Photo by Pearl Zhong

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- Adult \$25
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 "Golden Horseshoe" \$100
 Life Member \$250
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Help MHC to better serve you -- tell us about yourself. The MHC never shares or sells its members' information.

What stables do you ride at? _____

- Own a horse?** Yes No
Your interests: English Western Trail Riding Endurance Show Jumping Dressage
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- MHC needs volunteers! Please indicate if you can help us with:** Finance, Communication, Membership, Barn Liaisons,
 Government Affairs, Horse Course, Eq Evac, Events committee, Marin County Fair, Volunteer Co-coordinating

Your membership in the Marin Horse Council helps support the Council's many activities on behalf of Marin's equestrians and equines. Donations are also welcome. Fees and donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Thanks for joining! Mail your check to Marin Horse Council | 171 Bel Marin Keyes Blvd. | Novato, CA 94949-6183 11/15



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Thank You!

The Marin Horse Council depends on the continued generous support of Marin's horse lovers. Thanks to all members, and in particular, thanks to those who join or renew at Lifetime, Golden Horseshoe, or Silver Buckle membership levels.

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