

# Marin Horse Council

2012 SUMMER EQUINOX NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 111

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*"There is more to lose than land. A way of life and an understanding of who we are is also at stake. Horsemanship is important to our country's history and lore. It teaches us responsibility and stewardship and how to care for another life form. When we protect this, it enriches our communities."*

- John Turner, President & CEO, Conservation Fund, 1997



## From the Saddle

The Marin Horse Council was represented during **Heritage Day**, May 20th at Olompali State Park when Mike Willin, Becky Rosales and I volunteered to attend and demonstrate the role the horse plays in our local history and as a current user of our State Parks. Upon our arrival we were greeted very enthusiastically by Diane Einstein of "The Olompali People" who thanked us for coming and then proceeded to ask if we would consider becoming part of the volunteer mounted patrol of Olompali State Park. We all said that we would be glad to help. Off we went to saddle up for a day spent meeting and greeting the folks who came out for this beautiful day full of activities that highlighted the history and lore of Olompali along with Main and Sonoma Counties. During the day we took the opportunity to ride a 3-mile loop that circles the middle of the park. What we found was a lovely trail that granted us vistas of the Petaluma River, Rush Creek, and the surrounding hills of Petaluma. We also found the trail to be in somewhat of a state of disrepair. In further conversations with Diane, we learned that not only was Olompali slated for closure but that currently Olompali was sharing ranger support with China Camp leaving the park with only bare bones maintenance and no ranger patrol to site illegal trail use by mountain bikes.

"The Olompali People" are in the process of writing a petition to the California State Park administration in a campaign to keep the park open, if only on the weekends, by showing CSP that visitor numbers warrant the park remain open. If visitor numbers don't increase, the park will close. July 1st is the deadline for the submission of the petition.

On a similar note, my husband Curt and I attended the 2012 Trails and Greenways Conference held in Woodland Hills California last April. The theme was "Navigating Radical Change – The New Normal." The gathering was attended by dedicated trail enthusiasts who share a passion for trails and trail programs. The conference explored new ways of addressing the ever growing need to work with reduced funding.

Our local land management agencies face numerous challenges with our trail systems and we as users need to organize. Trail access, safety and maintenance may depend on our ability to find the resources necessary for the survival of a healthy trail system. In doing so we will be looking to each of us to do more, to teach, to reach out and inspire rather than depend on dwindling budgets. We need to become the ones who act by becoming proactive stewards in the health and welfare of our resources for future generations of equestrians.

I welcome your comments, please e-mail me at [montek3777@gmail.com](mailto:montek3777@gmail.com)  
Happy Trails - Monte Kruger | President, MHC

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# OUT ON THE TRAIL



A fine time was had at the Spring MHC BBQ! Equestrians: Hillary Jones, Amanda Kent and Linda Novy enjoying the ride. Praise to the feast makers: Shawn Sack, Mike Willin, and others for cooking up a delicious meal!

## The Ride of Spring

Marin Horse Council's Annual Spring Ride and BBQ took place at Novato Horsemen's on May 19. A beautiful warm spring day with sunny skies greeted 35+ riders who arrived to enjoy coffee and muffins, and a spacious area to park and tack their mounts. The gorgeous morning ride took place in the hills and wetlands of Rush Creek, in Marin Open Space, with varied terrain and stunning views. Giant oaks shaded the wider trails and there were vistas to view shorebirds out fishing. There were a few hikers in our group as well. The horses departed in small groups and seemed to be smiling as happily as their riders!

Meanwhile, lunch was prepared in the NH clubhouse area, with a large outdoor dining area shaded by eucalyptus trees. After the riders rode off, the cooks started doing their thing. Shawn Sack was a huge help and cooked an amazing grilled chicken luncheon, including Monte's grilled portabello/mozzarella/red pepper sandwiches on ciabatta, her delicious homemade baked beans, a variety of salads, asparagus and cookies. Over 65 people came to enjoy lunch and honor Joel Bartlett, MHC's outgoing board president, for his years of service from October 2009 through January 2012. Perfect weather for our weather man!!

Thank you to all our excellent volunteers and the MHC board for such a great day of equestrian fun. Thank you to Novato Horsemen's for use of their wonderful facilities. - *Michael Willin, Spring Ride Honcho*

## Spring in Pt. Reyes National Seashore

### A BEAUTIFUL THREE HOUR SCENIC RIDE FOR THE CASUAL RIDER

To begin, park at the Bear Valley parking area near the Visitors Center. Travel west on Bear Valley Trail 3.2 miles to the intersection of Bear Valley Trail, Glen Trail on your left and Baldy Trail on your right. Turn left and travel up Glen Trail past the Glen Loop Trail intersection. This is a very pretty trail. It is a gradual climb, traversing meadows, hillsides covered with ferns and wildflowers in the Spring.

As you near the top, you will see a trail off to your right marked "Coast-Glen Spur North". Take this trail about 4/10's of a mile, including two short uphill sections (wet and muddy in winter) to an intersection with Coast Trail.

Turn right on Coast Trail and proceed along the side of the ridge, through pines, firs, Manzanita, flowering vines and seasonal wildflowers. Watch out for poison oak. There are great views of the ocean from up here. Many riders have seen whales off shore during the migration seasons.

As you ride along the ridge, and then start downhill, you will come to a view point on your left. Stop here and gather it in. Regardless of the weather, it is spectacular. The views are among the best on the Marin County coast. To your left, facing south, you will see (weather permitting) south to Double Point and all the beaches in between.

Part of the view includes Alamere Falls, about a mile south of Wildcat Camp. The falls pour right out of the side of a cliff, down to the beach. It is accessible from Wildcat Camp and Wildcat Beach, but watch the tides. Go at low tide or at least on an outgoing tide. After a rainy season, the falls flow most of the year. After a dry season, they drop of quite a bit by summer.

As you travel on, the view west reveals the rugged coast, Arch Rock and the Farallon Islands on a clear day. To the north, you will see all the way to Point Reyes. The lighthouse is not visible as it is located on the

{continued on page 3}

Thank you for flying  
**AIR AMATEUR**



Exits are located at the front, rear and sides •  
• You may experience turbulence during your descent • Please remain on the ground until your body comes to a full stop • In the event of a water landing, your saddlepad may be used as a floatation device •

Thank you for Flying Air Amateur,  
And We Hope You Enjoy Your Trip!

Cartoon by J.L. Werner and Misfit Designs  
Cafepress.com/JLWdesigns



# OUT ON THE TRAIL



north side of the point, but all the cliffs along Drake's Bay are visible and beautiful. A smaller version of Dover!

Once you start downhill, you will travel about one mile to where the Coast Trail turns north and joins the Bear Valley Trail. There is one fairly short downhill that is a bit steep but easily passable. The footing is good, and you are paralleling the coast line and waving to the hikers below you at the Arch Rock lookout.

Watch for turkey vultures, hawks, occasional Ospreys, and the two eagles who have long ago established residency there.

When you intersect with the Bear Valley Trail, you have four miles to return to the starting point, all on the wide and gorgeous Bear Valley trail, paralleling Bear Creek flowing west from Divide Meadow and east from Divide Meadow to the staging area where you started.

Distance: 12-13 miles. - Sandy Greenblat

## Horse Camping Basics

### CAMPING WHILE TIED OR CONFINED OVERNIGHT

So often we get caught up in the conditioning and riding aspect of our horses that we forget about some of the other things that we should be teaching our horses. Everything we can do to expose our horses in advance about overnight camping is going to help them. Let's face it, this will be an exciting experience. Are you both ready?

There are many different ways to confine a horse at a ride. The most common method these days is to use a tie-arm of some sort. That is the method I use. I have two trailer ties on my trailer far enough apart that I can put a line between them and allow one horse to have quite a bit more freedom. That works well when I have just one horse at an overnight ride (that horse can be on the line all the time,) or when I have two horses, the horse left in camp each day can be on the line all day. Next, are portable corrals. There are many different types- some are made out of steel, or aluminum. Some riders choose to use corrals made out of electric fence tape.

I do not like electric fences due to the wrecks, accidents and fatalities that I have seen occur as a result of them being used. One night camping out many years ago, two horses were camping next to me in an electric corral. The owners did not turn it on, or their blanketed horses did not feel it "zap". As a result their horses went through the fence at 3 am dragging it behind them and {continued on page 4}



## 680 Trail

Mr. Smoke, ridden by Todd Werby, and Harly, with Nonie Green, were the first two horses to put hoofprints on the new 680 Trail on May 19th, 2012. The 2.7+ mile long 680 connects Terra Linda - Sleepy Hollow Divide Open Space Preserve with Loma Alta OSP, and provides a detour around gated private property. Opening day was a demonstration in the sort of multiple-use trail bonhomie that an impressive presence of public officials and agency personnel brings out.

Management efforts on this first day included sending cyclists -- equipped with donated bells -- ahead in their own group, and providing a ranger-per-trail mile ratio of approximately 3 to 1. - Robert Eichstaedt



## My Horse Phily

She watches me from the corner of her eye  
My tender spine  
healing from injury  
Muscles around the discs gripping to protect  
against further damage.  
Too sore to sit on saddle  
I walk carefully  
Around the lake with my right hand resting on  
her back  
Her strong body offering support  
my left hand loosely holding her lead rope  
She knows to stay parallel and not run ahead  
As we walk quietly together.  
- Dennis Portnoy (recovering from an injury)



## Dear Murray

Dear Murray,  
I overheard my person saying that she was going to take me to a "clinic". This makes me nervous, just like when I see her get the thermometer out. What is a "clinic" - Sleepless in Stall 14

Dear Sleepless,

A "clinic" is a really long, really expensive riding lesson during which a complete stranger will try to convince your person to do the same things her own trainer has been telling her for five years. It is possible that the clinic teacher will make her a better rider. Then again, he might tell her to sell you and get a horse she can actually ride. Either way, you win.

- Dear Murray's answers come straight from the horses's mouth. Until iPads are built with bigger keyboards and shatterproof screens, Jody Werner assists him with the typing part.



## Park Phone Numbers

**MARIN MUNICIPAL WATER DISTRICT:**  
Mike Swezy - 945-1190

**MARIN COUNTY OPEN SPACE:**  
Matt Sagues--507-2686

**PT REYES NATIONAL SEASHORE: 464-5137**  
**SAMUEL TAYLOR STATE PARK: 488-9897**



right through my two horses. I got out as quickly as I could and found electric tape wrapped around my horses' front legs! I cleaned up the mess & went back to bed.

Each horse should be treated as an individual and evaluated for its ability to be safely contained in different types of containment systems, and be trained and comfortable before the camping trip. Whatever type you choose, your horse should still be able to tie to your trailer. You never know what might happen beyond your control that could require your horse to be tied temporarily for several hours or overnight.

Start with setting up your system in a safe place at home. If you have a portable corral system set it up inside your horse's living area. Start with putting your horse in his corral for a few minutes. It is fine to set up hay & water, just as you would at a camp. Work up to putting your horse in the corral for two hours at a time.

In my experience horses will get caught at least once. Either when they roll, or scratching an ear with a hind foot getting it over his rope. Plan on this happening and do not be surprised and panic. Stay calm and release your horse. Hopefully this happens at home instead of the campsite.

These lessons are meant for horses that travel and already have some training and conditioning. They reflect my experience and are not meant to be the only method of training a horse to be tied or confined overnight. Working with horses can be incredibly risky and dangerous. - Karen Chaton

## Pt. Reyes National Seashore Celebrates 50th Anniversary

Point Reyes National Seashore, one of the nation's most equestrian-friendly national parks, is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. Point Reyes National Seashore Association (PRNSA) in partnership with the National Park Service is sponsoring a new program to celebrate the anniversary called the 2012 Point Reyes Trails Challenge. The program is a fun and exciting way to inspire hikers and equestrians to explore the Point Reyes National Seashore while raising funds to support critical trails and wildlife projects. This self-paced challenge is a rewarding way to both celebrate and support the park.

The Trails Challenge will run from June 2nd through November 1st and funds raised support the Point Reyes Trails Trust, a long-term effort to restore and enhance the park's trail network. Registered Trails Challengers receive a special 2012 Trails Challenge T Shirt after raising or donating at least \$50, and every participant who completes their Challenge will receive a special commemorative pin. A \$50,000 fund has been raised to match contributions from participants and this year's goal is to raise \$100,000. The Trails Trust program {continued on page 5}



# NEWS & UPDATES



Susan & Anna Allison with Mike Willin representing MHC at PRNS 50th celebration

seeks to raise \$2 million over five years for much needed trails maintenance & improvement work.

PRNSA is making a special effort to reach out to the equestrian community for this program. One of the current top fundraisers for the Trails Challenge is veteran Marin County trail rider and Arabian enthusiast, Anne Sands. Trails Challenge Outreach Coordinator, Luke McGowan, recently addressed the Marin Horse Council's board meeting, where he discussed the program and encouraged the Council to invite its members to participate as Challengers.

The Trails Challenge will encourage participants to register for one of five challenge tracks and raise money from their families, friends and colleagues, much like a "walkathon," or in this case a "hike-athon" or "ride-athon." Over five months, registered Challengers will raise money online as they participate in one of the following challenge tracks: **All Park 150-Mile Challenge, Equestrian Challenge, Five Habitats Challenge, 50 Miles for the 50th Challenge, Family Challenge.**

The Point Reyes Trails Challenge was inspired by Jules Evens, author of the seminal field guide *Natural History of the Point Reyes Peninsula*. To celebrate the park's 50th Anniversary, throughout 2012 Jules is hiking Point Reyes National Seashore's entire 150-mile trail system and raising pledges online to support PRNSA and the park. He is blogging about his Point Reyes Walkabout on Bay Nature Magazine's website [baynature.org/ptreyes-walkabout](http://baynature.org/ptreyes-walkabout).

It is hard to imagine the Bay Area and Marin County—with its image as a mecca for nature lovers—without Point Reyes National Seashore on its Northwestern flank. It could easily have been otherwise, as the abandoned housing pads on Limantour Spit remind us. Thanks to dedicated public servants and committed citizens working together in the 1950s and 1960s, Point Reyes National Seashore is comprised of over 71,000 acres of contiguous protected landscapes adjacent to some of the most productive marine environments in the world.

The park's unique geology and geography have shaped a wealth of natural habitats, including 32,000 acres of wilderness, and 80 miles of unspoiled coastline. The Seashore features over 900 species of flowering plants and nearly half the bird species in North America. Deemed by the American Bird Conservancy as a globally important bird area, it is significant for 24 threatened and endangered species found at this seashore and bay.

The park contributes substantially to the local economy. A new study by Michigan State University reports that in 2010, park visitors spent \$85 million in local communities within and surrounding the Seashore. Over 1,000 local jobs are supported annually because of the creation of Point Reyes National Seashore.

On September 13, 1962 John F. Kennedy designated Point Reyes as a National Seashore in recognition of its unique position as a coastal wilderness and an agricultural reserve adjacent to a major population center. The public has embraced Point Reyes, which is enjoyed annually by over two million visitors.

Parties interested in joining the Point Reyes Trails Challenge can sign up or get more info at [www.ptreyes.org/pointreyestrailschallenge](http://www.ptreyes.org/pointreyestrailschallenge), or by calling 415.663.1200 x 310 or can e-mail [trailschallenge@ptreyes.org](mailto:trailschallenge@ptreyes.org) - Deb Callahan

**MARIN STABLES  
and TRAILS 75<sup>TH</sup>  
BIRTHDAY BASH  
FUNDRAISER!!!**

An afternoon of **FUN, FOOD, FELLOWSHIP** and fundraising for fire recovery of the **MAIN BARN** & the second phase of **RESTORATION** of historic **MARIN STABLES**

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Children: 12 & under \$15.  
Reservations required. For more info  
contact Ann Burke 415.795.1075  
[www.MarinStablesAndTrails.org](http://www.MarinStablesAndTrails.org)

**Samuel Taylor Park**

Starting March 30th Samuel Taylor Park will be open seven days a week to everyone for day use, including equestrians. Finally a chance to enjoy your favorite trails!!! The charge for trucks and trailers will be \$8.00 provided they park in the designated horse trailer parking location.  
- Rose Blackburn, Supervising State Park Ranger

# Trail Legend Barbara Weitz: Gone to Greener Pastures

*"Barbara Weitz was only 12 years old, riding her horse up a trail near Mt. Tamalpais when she saw something, and felt something she had never experienced before while doing her most cherished activity. Her heart sank. She saw a "NO HORSES" sign on one of her favorite trails. Well, I guess something good can come of something bad when you have the heart and determination of Barbara Weitz. An incredible trail advocate was born."* - Chris Towles, [www.ebtrails.org/news/](http://www.ebtrails.org/news/) May 2006 newsletter



We are saddened by the tremendous loss of an inspiring leader and friend, Barbara Weitz, who rode off on April 9, 2012.

If you didn't know Barbara, it's likely you have been to a barn, ridden on a trail, or driven by a pasture, that in some way Barbara helped support. Perhaps your horse sipped from a water trough, was tied to a hitch rail, or you used a manure bunker that Barbara assisted in making a reality.

She worked with quiet determination on the issues most dear to her heart – saving barns and trails for continued equestrian use. Always diplomatic and always taking the time to show up, speak up or write letters in support of stables and trails. Barbara never wanted to hear the words, "Once there was a stable here..."

Her devotion to the outdoors started in her youth riding her first horse, Firecracker, on the trails between Mill Valley, Muir Beach and Mt. Tamalpais. Upon retiring, Barbara rekindled her childhood love of horses and bought her faithful steed, Shahbee. Shahbee and Barbara logged many miles on the trails, including a number of NATRC rides (competitive long distance trail rides).



Since its founding in 1988, Barbara served for 20 years as a Board Member and as the Chair of the Marin County Committee for the Bay Area Ridge Trail Council. She steadfastly worked for the success of the 550-mile Bay Area Ridge Trail around San Francisco Bay. In Marin, she played a key role in completing sections of the trail, including Loma Alta, Big Rock, Inkwells Bridge and Whites Hill.

She served as a Director & Officer on the Marin Horse Council Board during the 1980's through the early 1990's, and also served as President of Miwok Valley Association (a non-profit managing Miwok Stables in Mill Valley).

In 1999, Barbara founded Bay Area Barns and Trails (BABTT). Since its inception, BABTT has donated \$157,000 to land managing agencies and equestrian organizations for restoration, construction, education and capacity building. In Marin, some of the projects it has helped support include: Marin Stables; Ocean Riders/GGNRA; Marin Horse Council/Pt. Reyes National Seashore; Horse Hill; VOCAL /Tamalpais State Park; and Mounted Horse Patrol/GGNRA.



Barbara received a **Lifetime Achievement Award** at the California Trails and Greenways Conference in 2006. A 2006 *Ridge Lines Newsletter* notes, "The award recognizes an individual who has volunteered a significant amount of personal time over the past 25 or more years on behalf of trails, and whose leadership has had a statewide impact on trails.... Her leadership, focus, and perseverance have brought hikers, equestrians, and bicyclists together to resolve trail-user conflicts."

The Bay Area Ridge Trail Council also recognized Barbara for her leadership in land preservation and trail advocacy with a special award in 2006. "Barbara has shared her leadership skills, technical expertise, and organizational abilities as a Council volunteer since 1989, helping create more than 60 miles of multi-use trail in Marin County. With dignity, tenacity, and thoughtfulness, she brings trail users together for productive advocacy."

Barbara was honored for her work at the 2010 Dias Ridge Trail Celebration, a project she had worked on for over 20 years! Maureen Pinto {continued on page 7}

Top: 14 year old Barbara with Firecracker on the streets of Mill Valley (c. 1948).

Middle: Barbara and "Shahbee" at the event she pioneered – Ride for the Ridge (c.1990).

Bottom: Barbara being honored at the 2010 Dias Ridge Trail celebration.

## AT THE BARN

recalls, "Barbara received well deserved recognition for her efforts that started in 1989 to get this trail in place."

Maureen emphasizes the importance of Barbara's support of environmental education regarding equestrian land management. "All of us at Ocean Riders are missing the extraordinary Barbara Weitz, who has been so supportive of our mission over these past 14 years, matching funds for progressive manure management ideas and program development. It was a thrill to help host the opening of the 2010 Dias Ridge Trail celebration where Barbara was honored for her work preserving both barns and trails. She continued to the end to be a strong advocate for the Dias Phase II "safety" trail to get all users off of Highway One in Muir Beach. She had a wonderful attitude about life, and I'll forever remember her by the sparkle in her blue eyes. We hope the BABTT mission to preserve trails and all things equestrian can continue in Barbara's honor."

This May, the Ridge Trail honored her legacy by dedicating the 2012 *Ridge to Bridge* to Barbara. Barbara pioneered the precursor event: *Ride for the Ridge* in 1989, and successfully raised thousands of dollars for Marin County trail projects. The April 2012 Ridge Trail e-news notes, "Countless miles of Ridge Trail in Marin and beyond are preserved, thanks to her lifelong passion and dedicated service."

Those of us who knew her hope some day a trail will be dedicated to Barbara Weitz—a most fitting tribute. But the legacy she would wish for is that YOU show up, speak up, and be a good ambassador for horses and trails.

- Karen Johnson, with gratitude to Bay Area Ridge Trail Council for supplied portions.  
For more info about Bay Area Barns and Trails: [www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org](http://www.bayareabarnsandtrails.org)

## Luna's Story

They're here again, feeding the neighboring horses. I walk slowly down the hill toward them, hoping, maybe this time, they will feed me also. A woman I have not seen before with blond hair comes over and feeds me handfuls of grass. My yearling foal peeks around from behind me. My foal should be weaned, but we have so little food. It's because I am still nursing that my condition is so much worse than my herd mates. I am a champagne colored, 15.2 hand Tennessee Walker. I am underweight, my yellow coat is coarse and dirty and I am covered with lice. My feet are long and chipped and I have rubbed off patches of my mane. The women talk about me; the blond woman is really upset. When they leave, I plod away searching for a missed blade of grass.

A week later, I am caught, led to a stall and given some hay. I don't worry about my foal calling for me, I am too busy eating. I am too tired. That night the blond woman, who's name is Kristin, returns with her teenage daughter, Kally. They lead me out of the stall to a horse trailer. They let me take my time. It is getting dark and I am nervous, but I walk inside on the first try. There is a full yellow moon as we leave the pasture and they tell me later they have named me Luna in honor of that moon.

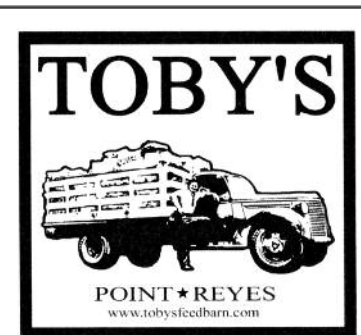
I am taken to Dickson Ranch in Woodacre. During the next week I am fed small amounts of hay four times a day. I wait anxiously for each feeding. The vet comes and treats my lice and takes blood and manure samples. I get a bath, I am brushed and combed and pampered. I am treated again and again for the lice over the next month, and given worming paste repeatedly (yuck). My feet are trimmed and I can walk better.

Eventually, I start getting servings of grain twice a day! I can hardly wait while Kristin adds water to the mix. I reach around her gently, smacking my lips and trying to snatch a little. I am gaining weight and feeling hopeful. {continued page 8}

## Louise Schaezlein Boyd

At nearly 90, Louise Schaezlein Boyd of San Rafael died Saturday, May 12. Growing up she was an enthusiastic sports fan and rode her horse Concho on Golden Gate Park trails. She graduated from UC Berkeley with a degree in physical education. Pursuing her interest in horses, she attended UC Davis classes in animal genetics, where she met veterinary student Henry P. Boyd. They were married and returned to the veterinarian's native Mill Valley to begin his practice. They bred and trained many Morgan horses and rode trails together throughout Northern California. They participated in Morgan horse shows, trail rides and many other events. Dr. Boyd assisted in the establishment of the adjacent China Camp State Park. This park has wonderful trails for horseback riding and hiking. Louise was especially fond of the Stanislaus National Forest where her family had a log cabin that was built by her father. Many times they rode their Morgans on trails bordering Yosemite National Park. Louise enjoyed many activities in the beautiful outdoors. She loved her family and friends and enjoyed the many horse clubs that they participated in. She enjoyed pursuing and studying genealogical research and travel. A private family celebration of Louise's life will take place the end of this month. Donations in Louise's memory may be made to Friends of China Camp (FOCC) or the charity of your choice.

- portion from Marin Independent Journal



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# AT THE BARN

## Horse Shows & Events

### DICKSON RANCH

Contact Grace Tolson 415.488.0454

- 7/14 English/Western Schooling Show
- 8/11 English/Western Schooling Show
- 9/8 Old Fashioned Playday
- 9/15 Schooling Dressage – Western  
Riders Welcome

### KILHAM FARM

Contact Kilhamfarm.com

6/27–7/1 Summer Pony Camp

### MARIN COUNTY FAIR

Contact CBarboni@marincounty.org

- 6/30 Working Ranch Horse Class
- 7/1 Dressage, Equitation & Jumping



Luna, January 2012 when first adopted. Luna May 2012.

I think I like people. They scratch my itchy spots and I lean into them and close my eyes and blow contentedly through my nose to let them know I like it. Best of all they give me carrots. Unfortunately, the lice have damaged my hair follicles and I go bald in large patches all over my face and lose my winter coat too early. This stops some of my human visitors from touching me for fear I have a contagious disease.

The vet comes again and again, to give me shots, to check my legs for lameness, to float my teeth. He tells Kristin I am 12 years old. I gain more weight.

2nd Edition!

## MARIN COUNTY EQUESTRIAN TRAIL GUIDE

Updated April, 2009

This Equestrian Trail Guide covers all trails within approximately 200,000 acres located in the Point Reyes National Seashore, the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA) including the Marin Headlands, various California State Parks, the Mt. Tamalpais Watershed and lands of the Marin County Open Space District. It contains all the trail updates available as of the end of April, 2009.

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or contact Sandy Greenblat:  
(415) 307-3351  
[marintrailguide@comcast.net](mailto:marintrailguide@comcast.net)

Eventually, my hair grows back and my new coat is shiny and gold. Everyone starts telling Kristin how beautiful I have become.

Dawn Ellen, the trainer at Dickson Ranch is the first to ride me, then Kristin and Kally. I am weak and the rides are short. I begin to remember how to follow their commands. I learn to back up.

I take my first trail ride five months after I am rescued from my pasture. I am nervous at all the new things, but I keep my cool. By my third ride I have seen motorcycles, golf carts, barking dogs, busy roads, low flying vultures, and bicycles. I take it all in stride and keep moving forward.

I am getting more and more adept as I am ridden and as I go more places. Kristin, meanwhile, loves me as much as I love her, and is trying to find a sponsor or sponsors so she can afford to keep me at Dickson, and I can stay with my horse and human friends. (If you know any super, loving people who want to work with a sweet horse, call Kristin at 415-283-5528!!!)

When Kristin found out that I was writing this, she asked me to make sure I gave HERS and MY thanks to those who helped us when I first came to Dickson Ranch. She was amazed and grateful by the support she received, both personal and monetary, when I arrived so unexpectedly.

**Thank you:** Grace Tolson, Lisa Capaldini, Margaret Slemmer, Dan McCoy, Siri Humber, Diane Hutton, Carol Coukos, Kay Newman, Dan Watson, and to everyone else who visited me and gave me love and carrots, it was great.

- Luna, the Horse



## Where Do You Fit In?

Show stable, training stable, hobby stable, where do you fit in? Naturally some aspects of each always exist within them, but in general; there is a big difference. When it comes to my choice, it will always be a training stable. I would like to think it's the middle fork of the highway, where hobby horses and show horses are discovered, developed and ultimately find their place; a place where both horse and human discovery happen.

Whatever your goals are and whatever your talents are, if you are into horses, they will tend to take you in the direction you want to go...well, sometimes in the wrong direction, at the worst moment...but that also leads you to a new place, in your riding ability or maybe a resolution..."I'll never try that again"! Being blessed with the ability to ride and the opportunity to share with others has culminated in a very unique and awesome fellowship, a clique that is very inclusive. Outsiders of the equestrian world are somewhat bewildered by the commitment to our horses and often it's futile to address it.

If you are a show rider, I know there is a thrill, a queasy gut when you walk through the in gate of your class....It is the moment to shine or maybe eat dirt (or crow)! For the trail rider, parking your truck and trailer in some remote, far away place, you step out into the crisp air and you reach for the trailer door...it's a new adventure. For the beginning rider, as you pull into the farm, your heart is light and head high in the possibilities...dreams are reality and you cannot wait to see the horses and be "in the barn"! If you are a trainer, slipping that leg over the saddle for that first ride is never a dull moment... "are we going to be good or is all he\*\* going to break loose?" Hopefully your ground work has laid the foundation for an easy start...but, there are no guarantees!

I can say, I know all this well and being able to share it with many brings me to a fine place, with good people and good horses. My place, I call it a training barn, because what we do here is explore all those possibilities and develop each of our riders and horses. I really love to bring them together, make a team. I have often had troubled horses and riders rediscover themselves and go on to fruition, or at least find peace in the relationship. I suppose there is no greater feeling for me as a trainer, than to bring along a young horse or "fix" that relationship between human and animal. I am always so happy the day I realize my horse and I understand each other or the day the troubled horse shows trust regained. That to me is worth it all. As a riding coach, it is nearly the same as each student finds a new ability and as they "connect" with the horse, I am thrilled to see it in their faces. What a great thing to work with a horse and be a "partner," a "team."

After a time, some riders are off to the show barns, others find their way to the less stressful hobby barn, but each still has the opportunity to learn (which I hope they do) that there is always more for the horse to teach us. Wherever you start and ultimately end up, I wish you well on the journey. Check your cinch, it's a long ride!

- Clay Jackson

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# AT THE BARN

## Circle Oak's 2nd Annual Health Fair

Over 400 people attended Circle Oak Equine's 2nd Annual Equine Health Fair on Saturday, May 5th. This day of free educational presentations and demonstrations has become Circle Oak's signature community event. The Fair showcased 25 presenters from four different universities and many local organizations, who ranged from world-renowned professors to our own local equine specialists. There were learning opportunities in four separate venues & all-day vendor exhibition. The fair concluded with a wine & cheese reception and live-streamed Kentucky Derby! Platinum Performance, Boehringer-Ingelheim, Merial and Vet-Imaging provided sponsorship that allowed Circle Oak to offer a considerably expanded fair this year that was still free to the public. Many others donated fabulous raffle prizes or volunteered their time to help out on Fair day. The Petaluma Riding and Driving Club raised money for their arena repairs by selling delicious lunches.

In the demo corner, veterinarians, farriers and equine body workers shared their knowledge and their passion, covering topics ranging from stomach ulcers to the biomechanics of the lower leg. A video tour of the horse's mouth and stomach gave attendees a first hand look at what can go wrong in their own horses. A thermography demonstration opened up the horse's body from a hot/cold perspective and a master saddle fitter took the crowd through a detailed demonstration of what she does and why it's worth it.

In the anatomy corner, educational posters and desiccated and fresh lower leg and hoof specimens were on display. Farriers and veterinarians from UC Davis, Peninsula Equine and a number of local practices walked people through the intricate bones and soft tissue structures in the lower leg. The Painted Horse returned with a focus on the skeleton and how it moves. Not only was the anatomy highlighted in living color, a biomechanics expert from Michigan State University talked the crowd through the muscular & skeletal movements in hand and under saddle.

The round arena was the setting for a series of demonstrations about balance, beginning with a demonstration by a local western dressage trainer that defined a 'balanced rider' and then provided some exercises to help achieve balance in the saddle. Examples of laterality in several horses were then highlighted with some exciting new ways to help them overcome it and become more balanced. Classically trained dressage trainer Erika Jansson highlighted cavalletti training for the average horse.

The lecture hall began with NCEPT's 20 years of equine physical therapy and ended with a panel of doctors answering questions about regenerative medicine. In between, a series of lectures about conditioning, genetics, radiographic findings, nutrition and stem cells highlighted some of the latest developments in sporthorse medicine. All in all, an information-packed fun day for local equine enthusiasts! - Sara Malone



Circle Oak's 2nd Annual Health Fair.



Kathie Rothkop

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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** 6/12

# 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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