



Spring 2009

Inside this issue:	
Ranch News & Notes	2
Top 9 List Of Ways to Help Halleck Creek	3
Is a One-Eyed Horse Safe to Ride?	3
Calendar of Events	4

Wish List:

Office supply:

1 box ball point pens

1 set colored Sharpie markers

1 packet colored paper for printing on laser printer

1 box 9 X 12 mailing envelopes

Rolls of paper towels

Plastic spoons and forks

Ink cartridge for HP 1200 Series Laserjet printer

Post it notes

#2 Pencils

A Day To Remember

Calling all donors! Halleck Creek is inviting you to our 4th annual Open House and Spring Horse Show! The event will be held on Saturday, May 16th, from 11-3.

The Horse Show is an unforgettable experience. Come join the rest of the Halleck Creek community for a day of fun and entertainment at Halleck Creek Ranch. You can enjoy several activities during your visit, including: a **tour of the facility** with **updates about current and future ranch developments**, a **carriage ride** provided by Gary Sello and Indian Valley Carriages, and sit down to a **BBQ lunch**.

The highlight of the day will be your opportunity to **see Halleck Creek riders participating in the Spring Horse Show**. This event is as inspirational as it is enjoyable. These riders work so hard every week, and the horse show is Halleck Creek's special way of rewarding them for their work. The joy that is on each rider's face as they receive their shiny ribbon and gleaming trophy will show you the true meaning of your investment in Halleck Creek. The delight on the parents' faces as they watch their child receive the awards is just as inspiring.

In case this newsletter reaches you after the event, you are more than welcome to schedule a visit to the ranch on another day. While there may not be a special event happening, your experience will be just as memorable.

To sign up for the Open House, or to schedule a visit on another day, please RSVP to: Julie Cassel at 415-662-2488 or jcassel@halleckcreekranch.org.



Photo by Earl McCowen

News and Notes

◆ A Few New Additions to our Happy Herd

We have recently become proud new owners of a few new horses! Generously donated by their owners, we're hoping these fresh new legs can help replace those that have worked long and hard, and have earned their retirement. Here's a little history on each new horse:

Dually: Named for the shape of his extra-round rear, Dually came to us from a private owner who lives locally in Nicasio. Previously used as a kid's pony, Dually seems to be taking things in stride, and has found himself a special place in the program alongside Poppy.

Biscotti: "What happened to that horse's mane!?" you might ask. Biscotti is a Norwegian Fjord pony, and it is very common for this type of pony to have their manes "roached," or shaved off, to accentuate the crest in their necks. A perfect pony to fill Tawny's shoes, Biscotti has become our up and coming side-walking pony, tough enough to carry some weight, but short enough to be side-walked.

Trigger and Shadow: Graciously donated by a local horse-woman, Trigger and Shadow were both owned by the same

woman, and have been on the trail together many times before. Trigger is a tri-colored American Spotted Saddlebred, and Shadow is a black Tennessee Walker.

Dixie: Donated by a woman at nearby Edgewood Farm, Dixie is our new, beautiful paint Welsh Cross pony. Much like Biscotti, Dixie is well-built, and strong enough to hold a good-sized rider, but short enough to easily be side-walked. Ironically enough, she too is missing her vision in one eye (her left), which seems to have very little effect on her ability to be a wonderful little therapy horse.

Minnie: Minnie is our newest arrival! Standing at over 16 hands (that's tall!), Minnie was trained as a Western Pleasure horse. Being that she is so tall and strong, we're hoping that she can help carry some of the riders that Nell is currently carrying, allowing us to give Nell the time off that she so deserves.

◆ The 3 Little Pigs and 2 Goats

Some of you may have noticed two little goats head-butting each other in the pig pen. We've recently decided to name them Chewy and Sola, and they are male Nigerian Dwarf goats, donated by Christine's friend Catherine.

If you get the chance to

Attention! The residents on the road to Halleck Creek ask that you observe the 15 mph speed limit to increase safety. Thank you!

meet these two, you'll be delighted at their antics! They love to climb up your legs (they're tiny little things), chew on your clothes, and rear in the air to head-butt each other

◆ The Ramps are Nearly Complete!!!

Thanks to the efforts of the **West Marin Lion's and Rotary clubs**, the materials needed for the construction of our second set of ramps was delivered. With the knowledge and support of one of our new Ranch Managers, Matt was able to construct the ramps in a matter of days. All that's left are a few finishing touches, and they'll be in business.

Because of all of their hard work, we can get into the saddle and out on the trail in a much timelier fashion, and will be able to ride closer to the majestic redwood grove in the heart of the valley.

Now we just need to find a few replacements for some of our older horses, as they tend to be more arthritic and have a harder time going so far along the trail. We're hoping that Trigger and Minnie are just the ticket!

“Is a one-eyed horse still safe to ride??”

Halleck Creek was recently the lucky recipients of two very gentle new horses named Biscotti and Dixie. Biscotti is a Quarter Horse/Fjord cross mare, who is an experienced trail horse donated by Megan Neill. Dixie lived just down the road at Edgewood Stables before she came to live at Halleck Creek.

Ironically enough, each one of them is blind in one eye. People often ask us if these horses are still safe to ride or lead. The answer is a resounding, Yes! Horses have very complex and sensitive eyes, and because of this, are more apt to lose their vision from seemingly minor injuries to their eyes. For this reason, any injury or irritation to a horse’s eye is typically considered a veterinary emergency.

The cornea is the clear covering at the front of the eye ball, and is very susceptible to injury, bacterial infection, and fungal infection. In

Biscotti's case, her eye appears to have a light blue or white milky cloud in it; this is likely due to damage caused by a corneal ulcer. Dixie was implanted with a fake eyeball, which is a yellow, cloudy color.

While we're unsure as to whether their damaged eyes are completely blind or not, it is obvious that both of the horses get along just fine with one eye. Their sense of smell and hearing have likely become much more acute to make up for their disability, helping them to stay aware of their surroundings.

When working with these horses, call to them gently as you come near. Keep a hand on them as you move around them so they know exactly where you are at all times. Even horses can become disabled, and it doesn't mean that they cannot make a significant contribution to the program.



9 More Ways To Help Halleck Creek Ranch:

1. **Participate in the Marin Human Race** by walking, running, or rolling. Help us raise much-needed funds by finding sponsors, if not for yourself, then for one of us!
2. **Buy new 2-way radios** for use on the trail rides. Midland model GXT600 preferable.
3. **Donate** toward the cost of a new draft horse (about \$2,000) so we can retire Nell, who has earned her retirement!
4. **Donate** toward the cost of a manure spreader (\$1100) so we can reduce our compost pile.
5. **Save your recycling** and bring it to the ranch. Volunteers raised over \$5,500 last year on recycling!
6. **Rate your experience** at the program on websites such as craigslist.com, cvnl.org , volunteermatch.org , or idealist.org.
7. **Ask a grandparent or other family member to match your donation to Halleck Creek Ranch.**
8. **Sign up at escrip.com** so that your routine shopping generates funds for our programs (Group name is Halleck Creek Institute and group # is 500003005).
9. **Host a house party** of your friends and family, and get them to support Halleck Creek along with you. Julie can help you with your presentation.

Horse Statistics:

- ◆ #of horses in the herd: **27**
- ◆ # of retired horses: **6**
- ◆ Cost of feed for the horses for one year: **\$30,000**
- ◆ Cost to shoe the horses for one year: **\$14,000**
- ◆ Number of weeks between each trim: **7**
- ◆ Cost to shoe one horse: **\$115**
- ◆ Cost to trim and shoe Cotton: **\$250**
- ◆ Cost for veterinary care for the horses for one year: **\$6,000**

Thank You Halleck Creek Ranch Supporters!

P.O. Box 159
Nicasio CA 94946
Phone: 415-662-2488
Fax: 415-662-2421
E-mail: jcassel@halleckcreekranch.org
Www.halleckcreekranch.org



Non Profit
US Postage Paid
Point Reyes Station CA
Permit #5

Calendar of Events

Halleck Creek calendars, cards, and T-shirts make great gifts!

April 11: Easter Egg Hunt

Come help with the hunt! Riders, search on horseback for hanging Easter eggs full of candy!

May 9: MARIN HUMAN RACE

No ranch riding; We'll all be participating as walkers, runners, or rollers in the Marin Human Race! Come join in the fun and help represent Halleck Creek. Join us afterwards for a BBQ nearby!

May 16: Spring Horse Show, Open House, and BBQ

Join us for the most popular event of the year! We'll have guest judges for you to show off for, as well as ribbons and trophies for riders to take home. Come see the smiles for yourself– this is by far the most rewarding day of the year, for riders and volunteers alike!

June 7: Pt. Reyes Western Days Parade and Cow Flop Drop Fundraiser

Come represent Halleck Creek in the parade, and help us sell our infamous Cow Flop Drop tickets around town. Or, buy one yourself– you never know when you might get lucky and win \$500!

Can't make it to the Race?

Help support us by making a donation in sponsorship of a Halleck Creek participant! Donations can be made even AFTER race day!

