

Cash for Cans and Bottles; It's Magic!

How do you turn aluminum cans and plastic water bottles into curry combs and horse cookies? Support the Halleck Creek Ranch recycling program!

Three years ago, volunteers (and sisters) Nancy Brookshire and Jane McKechnie, had an idea: collecting aluminum cans and plastic and glass bottles to recycle for cash. They used the cash to buy supplies for the facility and horses at Halleck Creek Ranch. Soon their family, friends, and neighbors were saving their bottles and cans, and the program took off.

Now there are dozens of people and businesses, including our neighbors on Old Rancheria Road, who are saving their recycling to support the programs at Halleck Creek Ranch. One of those businesses is Vladimir's Restaurant located in the town of Inverness. Now run by Vladimir Nevl's daughter, Vladia, Vladimir's restaurant is an important partner in this successful program.

So far in 2009, Nancy and Jane have collected over \$3690 in funds from the recycling program. They have : bought a new horse shelter, replaced gutters on the hay barn, bought dewormer and fly control for the horses, purchased parts for the ATV, and bought a new lawn mower. **The recycling program is on pace to collect over \$7,300 in funds for Ranch Supplies this year.**

You can help, and keep valuable resources out of the landfill. To qualify for this program, all bottles and cans must display the words CA CASH REFUND or CA CRV. You can bring them to the ranch, or contact us for pick up. Ask your family, friends, and neighbors to collect for Halleck Creek Ranch too. **Create magic as your aluminum can turns into cash!**

◆ **Human Race Update:**

- ◆ *It was the best year ever for Halleck Creek Ranch in the Marin Human Race!*
- ◆ *We made over \$14,000 this year, which almost covers our hay bill for 2009.*
- ◆ *Plus, Halleck Creek Ranch won the coveted "Best Booth" award!*

Thank you to our chairman, Bob Reyff, and to all of our Human Race walkers, volunteers, and sponsors for your amazing efforts. We couldn't have been this successful without you. Make sure to join us next year!



Nancy Brookshire and Jane McKechnie apply a coat of stain to the new tack room. The sisters purchased the materials through their recycling program. A grant from the Zabit Family Foundation provided funds for the new structure.

Photo by Judy McBride.

News and Notes

◆ Horsing Around at Halleck Creek Ranch . . .

We have another addition to the herd! "Bella", an Andalusian mare donated by Becky Bernardo, is a beauty with a flowing mane and tail, who looks like she walked straight out of a storybook. Our riders will feel like princes and princesses while riding her, not just because of her good looks, but because of her exceptionally smooth gaits. She is trained to fourth level dressage, and is extraordinarily calm, so she will make a great mount for our riders who are riding independently off of the lead line.

A hearty "Thanks pardner!" to our good friend, who wishes to remain anonymous, who quietly donated \$2,000, and to Lynne and Tom Young for donating another \$100 to help Halleck Creek Ranch purchase a new draft horse. Christine is actively trying out potential horses, and volunteers are sending leads her way. Thank you friends!

Meanwhile, both Dixie and Trigger were quite sick over the past few months. We are happy to pronounce them both well, and Dixie has started taking riders again. *Our new veterinarian team of James Kerr, DVM and Artaurus Vet*

Clinic are helping us by significantly reducing their fees for services. We really appreciate their support.

◆ Halleck Creek Ranch at the Marin County Fair . . .

This year marked a first for the riders at Halleck Creek Ranch. They were invited to participate in the "Cavalcade of Horses" at the Marin County Fair. The Cavalcade of Horses is a show of the different people and activities that use horses throughout the county. We were invited by the organizer of the event, Pat Duffy. Riders and their parents rode in a Conestoga type wagon driven by our good friend Gary Sello of Indian Valley Carriages, while executive director, Julie Cassel, introduced them to the crowd. The wagon was festively decorated with red, white, and blue bunting, and was pulled by Gary's beautiful team of dapple gray horses. Our riders were so excited by the event, and even more excited by the fact that they are invited to ride in the show next year! **So mark your calendars for the first week of July 2010, when riders from Halleck Creek Ranch will demonstrate a therapy session during the Cavalcade, and participate in classes during the horse show. Stay tuned for more information in the spring of 2010, when we will have the date set.**

◆Tack Room Update . . .

Thanks to Michele Zabit and the Zabit Family Foundation, Halleck Creek Ranch is the proud owner of a new tack room! Co-Ranch Manager, Matt McBride, is just about finished with the building, and we are furnishing the inside with saddle racks, shelving, and other storage items. Not only will it protect our tack and grooming supplies, we can move in and out of the tack room much easier. We will remove the old shipping containers to open access to the hay barn.

◆Please remember to slow to 15 mph on Old Rancheria Road. Thank you!♥

Our new website is almost ready to launch! **This project is made possible by: Hane Chow, the company who created the new site and greatly reduced their fees, a grant from the Lucasfilm Foundation, and a donation from Roger Peters and Stephanie Moulton.** Our preliminary launch date is mid-September. Stay tuned!

◆Help us save paper by signing up for our e-newsletter at halleckcreekranch.org

Halleck Creek Ranch Calendar

Special Events:

- ♥ Saturday, September 12 Fall Horse Show and Volunteer Appreciation Party! Food, music by Bread and Roses volunteers, and prizes!
- ♥ October 3rd, Novato Horsemen BBQ Great food from the NHI folks, and lots of horse fun!
- ♥ October 31st-Halloween Party Costumes optional and music by a Bread & Roses group!
- ♥ December 5th-Holiday Party Potluck food to share, and a visit by our friend from the North Pole!

Reenrollment:

♥ All volunteers and riders must reenroll in 4H. There is a \$25 fee for individuals or a \$50 fee for families. These fees cover our 4H dues which cost us over \$4,000/year.

Riding session dates for 2009:

In September of 2009 we are changing the riding schedule. We will create 8 riding sessions instead of signing up monthly. Sign ups will begin 2 weeks prior to the start of each session.

♥ September 28-November 7—Session 7 ; **sign ups begin 9/14** (6 week session.)

♥ November 9—December 19—Session 8; **sign ups begin 10/26** (5 week session, no riding the week of 11/23—11/28.) Happy Holidays!

♥ December 21– Jan. 1, 2010 there is no riding. Happy Holidays!

First Session Dates for 2010:

♥ Jan. 4-Feb 13, 2010—Session 1; **Sign ups begin 12/21/09** (6 week session.)



◆ Oona Ziegler, long time Halleck Creek Ranch volunteer, has graduated from high school and is heading back east for college. While we are sad to see her go, we are so proud of her accomplishments, both at the ranch and beyond. Oona has been a great source of enthusiasm, wisdom, and perspective for many of us over the years, and we will miss her. You rock Oona!

10 New Ways To Help Halleck Creek Ranch:

1. **Collect recyclable cans and bottles! (See page 1 story.)**
2. **Volunteer to pick up recycling from neighbors or local businesses. (See page 1 story.)**
3. **Donate \$2,500 to build a round pen.**
4. **Donate \$2,000 for a new manure spreader.**
5. **“Adopt” one of the Halleck Creek Ranch horses by helping pay for their feed and care.**
6. **Be a sponsor for our Fall Horse Show/Volunteer Appreciation Party , Halloween or Holiday Party.**
7. **Tell everyone you know about your experiences at Halleck Creek Ranch, and ask for their support. Be an ambassador!**
8. **Ask a friend or family member to make a donation to Halleck Creek Ranch instead of giving you gifts this year.**
9. **Sponsor A Rider! Give a rider a full or partial scholarship for a riding session.**
10. **Create a fundraiser! Have a real event like a garage sale, or host a virtual event online using your social networking site. Invite your friends to help and have fun!**

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Wish List:

Office:

◆ 1 box dark colored white board markers

◆ Paper cups for hot drinks

◆ Ink cartridge for HP 1200 Series Laserjet printer

◆ Facility:

◆ Pipe panels to extend the arena

◆ New sand for the arena

Return Service Requested

Halleck Creek Ranch
P.O. Box 159 Nicasio CA 94946
Phone: 415-662-2488
Fax: 415-662-2421
www.halleckcreek ranch.org



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Results From Rider/Volunteer Survey:

With thanks to volunteer Marty McCowan for tabulating the results

Rider Survey:

- ◆95% reported they are not satisfied with the amount of physical and outdoor recreational opportunities available to children with special needs in Marin County
- ◆99% reported that therapeutic riding at Halleck Creek improves their child's physical and mental health
- ◆99% have noticed a change in their child's abilities since beginning the program at Halleck Creek Ranch
- ◆95% of parents felt the volunteers were teaching their children valuable social skills

Volunteer survey:

- ◆94% feel they are enhancing their communities through their work at Halleck Creek Ranch
- ◆98% feel they are more comfortable with people with disabilities, and better understand the issues facing this population
- ◆99% believe the program improves each rider's physical and mental health
- ◆100% believe their experiences at Halleck Creek Ranch teach them valuable skills to use in the larger community
- ◆60% report that Halleck Creek Ranch provides the only way for them to have access to horses

