



LETTER FROM JOYCE



Dear Riders, Parents, Volunteers, and Friends,

Before I dive into the schedule of upcoming events, let me inform you of a few items that pertain to the ranch and the riding program. ***First off, Julie asks that you bring recyclable bottles and cans (WITH CALIFORNIA REDEMPTION VALUE,) to the ranch.*** We will set out an appropriate receptacle for these items and Nancy will use the money we collect to purchase a high weed mower (approximate cost \$700) to keep the thistles down and the ranch looking spiffy!

Second, we need to remind parents that they must supervise any children they bring to the ranch. Halleck creek staff and volunteers are far too busy running and supervising the riding program to look after your children. Please be conscientious about this, and bring someone to supervise them if you must accompany your child on the trail ride.

Parents or caregivers may walk along on trail rides if they have a job (i.e. leading a horse or side walking their rider,) AND if they are enrolled in 4H. It is dangerous and inappropriate for them to invite friends along for the walk, to bring siblings along on the trail, or for anyone to wander away from the trail ride. Safety is paramount on the rides, and extraneous folks tagging along can present problems. Parents and caregivers, we suggest you fill out the paperwork to volunteer at Halleck Creek. That way you can fully participate in any and all riding and special activities, (like the campouts, parade, or river trip,) or give a hand if we are short volunteers.

The obvious, please leave all pets at home! A dog confrontation could injure a child, and animals can trip up compromised walkers. Animals shut up in cars in the heat is inhuman and thus not allowed.

We tried a fourth ride on Saturdays and it did not work out. Volunteers were exhausted and had commitments on Saturday afternoons, and it allowed no time for us to train volunteers. ***To replace this ride, we have initiated a Sunday ride.*** It has the same format as our Saturday program, but we will need riders to bring along their own ENROLLED volunteer to lead until we can recruit other volunteers for this new day. Sunday sessions begin at 9:30am, and we will add more rides as needed. As with Saturdays, please sign up with Julie in advance. Our old friend Melissa LeCount, once a long time volunteer with Halleck Creek, will lead all of the arena activities, and Victor and Teresa will lead the trail ride. ***Welcome back Melissa!***

Now, on to the calendar of events:

- 1.) The second Saturday of every month is ***New Volunteer Orientation.*** Times vary, and please sign up in advance with Julie.
- 2.) The fourth Saturday of the month is ***New Rider Orientation.*** Again, times vary, and please sign up in advance with Julie.
- 3.) ***September 17 Horse Show/Volunteer Appreciation Day*** (please bring goodies for our hardworking volunteers). This is an opportunity for you to show off your riding skills and win stunning ribbons and gleaming trophies. Tell your parents and aides to bring their cameras! These shows are judged by "Danish method" where each rider is judged on his/her own riding skills, and not against anyone else in the arena, so you can all shine! There will be live music to add to the fun and celebration. Let's show our volunteers how special they are and how much we appreciate the love and dedication they show us every week.

HALLECK CREEK EVENTS CALENDAR—SUMMER/FALL 2005

LETTER FROM JOYCE CONTINUED . .

4.) *October 29th, Halloween party* with live music and everyone wearing costumes. Volunteers and riders, be creative and decorate your favorite horse. Look through thrift shops or your closet and create a wonderful photo op! (Please be aware that things that dangle or make noise can spook the horses, so try to avoid these things.)

7.) November 9th is an opportunity to meet a the world famous horse trainer, John Lyons. *Our friends Raye and Sharon Lochert, of Raye Lochert Horsemanship (www.RayeLochert.com) , are hosting a benefit dinner for Halleck Creek with John Lyons* as the guest of honor. Mr. Lyons is one of the preeminent trainers in the country, has written numerous books on horse training and has his own television show, and this is a unique opportunity to meet him. Look for more details as they become available.

8.) *November 26/27 No riding for Thanksgiving Holiday*

9.) *December 17th, Holiday Party*—Potluck at the ranch. Please bring your favorite holiday dish to share. We have word that Santa will be there with something for everyone! We will have arena riding only or a shorter trail ride this day so we have more time to celebrate the end of the year together.

Hope you can join us for all of the above. Days pass so quickly, we need to fill every one with as much joy as we can muster! *We had such a wonderful spring and summer with the Human Race fundraiser (we made over \$6,000 a new record!), the Spring Horse Show, Western Weekend Parade, Cow Flop Drop fundraiser, Novato Horseman's Picnic, and Halleck Creek's 28th birthday party*, and all those glorious lazy summer days of leaving crutches and wheelchairs behind, and with four good legs beneath us, heading off on the trail ride, to enjoy the beauties of this wilderness ranch. How wonderful (and that means wonder filled), to be receiving horseback riding therapy, astride a gentle friend, while having a great time!

Call Julie well ahead and sign up for the Saturday (or Sunday!) session in which you would like to participate. Remember, if your favorite time slot is filled, you can usually ride another session, or fill a cancellation. Then too, there is the Sunday session, so if you are seriously interested, you can ride.

As I write this, my living room is covered with boxes and bags in preparation for the upcoming river rafting trip. The folks in Oregon keep calling me with

new and exciting tidbits, and making me more and more eager for the bus to pack us all off to the Rogue River! Some of you I'll see on the bus. Hopefully, in the cooler Fall weather I can come out and help at the ranch a bit and get to see all of you. Stay well, keep riding and enjoying one another and the ranch.



Two and four-legged friends enjoying a trail ride at Halleck Creek together.

My love is always with you,

Joyce

New Volunteer Training Course At Halleck Creek

By Avery Brown, Volunteer Training Coordinator

I hope last Saturday goes in the Halleck Creek history books. Despite relentless heat and creeping exhaustion, after our last ride of the day, Halleck Creek volunteers gathered around the ramps for a lesson in “mounting and dismounting,” the first segment of a new volunteer training program. In a focused half-hour, we worked through the intricacies of mounting and dismounting riders “the Halleck Creek way”. We read. We demonstrated. We simulated. And we learned a lot from each other.

As part of an ongoing effort to promote safety and excellence of Halleck Creek volunteers, we are pleased to announce the beginning of this new program in volunteer training. While much Halleck Creek ‘volunteer training’ has always occurred in the informal instructional mentorships that form on the job, in past years many volunteers have articulated the need for a more systematic and comprehensive volunteer training program to ensure all volunteers more equal access to instruction. To that end, the Halleck Creek team has launched a new training program to both equip all volunteers with appropriate Halleck Creek horsemanship skills and foster an increased sense of camaraderie in the volunteer community.

Much of the content for this new volunteer training program came directly from suggestions from Halleck Creek volunteers themselves. Over the past month, this content developed into a concise articulation of what we know as “The Halleck Creek Way” to work responsibly with horses and people. We then divided the program into eight lessons on topics including “leading,” “rider relations,” and “dealing with emergencies.” On a rotating schedule, each Saturday features a team of “volunteer trainers” who teach one of the component lessons to all the members of the Halleck Creek community. Experienced Halleck Creek volunteers become “volunteer trainers” through a preparation process in which they demonstrate mastery of Halleck Creek horsemanship skills and enthusiasm for teaching them to others. Each lesson includes both written and experiential elements: a volunteer manual accompanies extensive demonstrations, simulations and opportunities for community participation and feedback.

Through structured learning opportunities in a group setting, we hope to cement skills that will enhance volunteer performance and foster an increasingly strong team ethic among the diverse volunteer community. Please join us! The next time you catch a free moment at the ranch, check out our new volunteer board to find out more about volunteer training and the ever-evolving Halleck Creek Way. Halleck Creek history, here we come.

This summer Halleck Creek was fortunate to hire Avery as a Volunteer Training Coordinator while she was on break from her studies at Stanford. Avery, a long time volunteer at Halleck Creek, spent 8 weeks working with other senior volunteers and Halleck Creek staff to create an ongoing training course for new volunteers. As she mentions in her article, we hope to forge “the Halleck Creek Way” of performing duties, leading to more consistency and proficiency among all of our volunteers in handling horses and helping riders. Sadly, we will lose Avery on August 19th as she sets sail for new adventures during her semester at sea. Bon voyage Avery! And thanks for your help in setting the new Halleck Creek training program on its present course! We will miss you and look forward to your return with many stories of your travels.

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Halleck Creek is a Marin County 4H Club

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HALLECK CREEK 4H RIDING CLUB

SUMMER/FALL 2005

NON PROFIT
BULK RATE
US POSTAGE
PAID
PT REYES STA. CA
PERMIT NO. 5

Halleck Creek Wish List

Can you donate any of these items?

- Your photos of Halleck Creek Events
 - Photo albums and scrapbooks
 - Small coffee maker
 - Gas BBQ
 - Gas powered weed whacker
 - 8' fiberglass stepladder
 - 3 step ladder
- Large and small plastic bins with lids
 - New tack shed
- 2'X4' boards to complete arena fence
- Small table with 2 chairs for office

Special Volunteer Opportunities

- ◆ Interior painting of ranch buildings
- ◆ Coordinator for Horse Show/Volunteer Day
 - ◆ Coordinator for Halloween Party
 - ◆ Coordinator for Holiday Party
 - ◆ 2006 Human Race assistants
 - ◆ 2006 Cow Flop Drop assistants

Please talk to Julie if you have any interest in these or any other volunteer opportunities. If you have a special skill to share, we can use your help. Volunteers are making things happen at Halleck Creek by donating over 6,000 hours of their time each year.

Come join us!