

A Community, Through Thick and Thin

In 2009 Halleck Creek Ranch restructured the program to create a strong organizational foundation that would sustain the program both through the current economic downturn, and into the future. With the help of our donors, riders, and volunteers, the transition has been a true success story.

Looking around Halleck Creek Ranch today it is hard to tell that our business model has changed. Dedicated volunteers are busy leading gentle horses for joyful riders, while parents watch proudly. Parents enjoy a quiet moment to themselves, or a have supportive conversations with other parents while their children ride. There are many helpful volunteers doing ranch clean up or other important tasks.

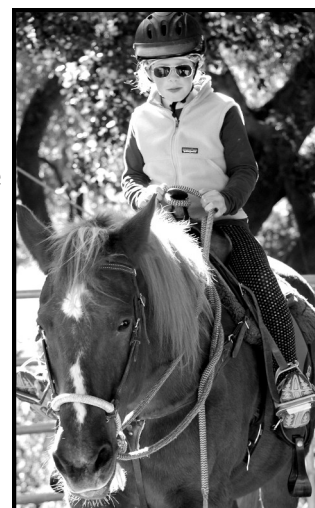
The world is a dynamic environment, and Halleck Creek Ranch is constantly adapting to these changes. In 2009 during one of the most significant economic downturns in our nation's history, and after more than 32 years of providing therapeutic riding for free to every single rider regardless of financial ability, Halleck Creek Ranch staff and board asked the riders to support the program with a small tuition for the riding sessions.

This decision was very difficult, as it meant letting go of one of the founding principles of the original mission. When it was time to decide whether to scale back the program or to ask for a small tuition, our community determined that it was more important to keep the organization fiscally viable and growing, rather than to keep the program free of charge.

The full tuition is not quite half of the actual cost of the program, so each rider is still subsidized through grants and donations. Families that need further financial support to attend the program can get additional scholarship help as needed through our new Breaking Barriers Fund. Nearly 25% of our riders receive additional scholarship help. Every family who has asked for tuition help has received it.

Change is always difficult, but the results speak for themselves. The Halleck Creek Ranch community has rallied, with over 85% of our riders riding through the transition. Thirty four new riders have joined the program, happy to be off the waiting list, and excited for the chance to benefit from this valuable form of therapy. We created a new revenue stream that will cover almost a third of our annual budget. In addition, foundation and individual donors appreciate the commitment of our participants to support the program with their own money.

In the end, we have asked families with more resources to help support those with less. In a true community, everyone pulls their fair share. Halleck Creek Ranch is such a community.



Lauren enjoying a lesson on Bandera. Lauren and her family are so enthusiastic about her lessons that they have encouraged several friends to join.

Photo by Judy McBride

Upcoming Special Events– Include Fun and Food For Everyone

Marin Human Race Walkathon, Fun Fair and BBQ Saturday, May 8th

When do you get the chance to mingle with ponies, get your daily exercise, eat a free lunch, and help out one of your favorite nonprofits at the same time?

At the 2010 Marin Human Race, that's when!

For those of you who have not participated in the past, the Marin Human Race is a walkathon fundraiser sponsored by the Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership. There is an easy walk, a humongous nonprofit fair at the finish line, and a celebratory BBQ for Halleck Creek Ranch walkers at a private home after the race.

This is a very important event for Halleck Creek Ranch, as it has become our largest fundraising event of the year. Rider tuition only covers 1/4 of our operating budget, so it is crucial that we all participate in order to raise much needed funds to support the ranch and horses.

Here is how it works: Halleck Creek Ranch riders, volunteers, and their friends and family join our team of walkers. Then, they ask their family, friends, coworkers, neighbors, business associates, etc. to support Halleck Creek Ranch by sponsoring them to walk the race. You don't have to ask for large amounts; if you ask 12 people to donate \$10, you will raise \$120. That is enough for a scholarship for a rider for a 6 week session. See how easy that is?

Our Goal: 50 walkers and \$20,000

The more people we have walking, and collecting sponsors, the more successful we will be. Last year we made nearly \$14,000, and this year we want to do even better. *Will you please help us reach our goal?*

Halleck Creek Ranch Spring Horse Show and Open House Saturday, May 29th

Spring is here, and it is time to celebrate!

Time to celebrate the progress of each rider, time to celebrate the dedication of our volunteers, time to celebrate our hard working staff, and time to celebrate all of our compassionate donors who support these inspiring efforts. What better way to celebrate than a horse show and BBQ?

At the horse show, riders will participate in 2 classes, riding a trail course and arena exercises supervised by a guest judge, who will then reward them with shiny ribbons and trophies. It is a perfect time for riders to show us their new-found skills and confidence, and for us to give them a round of applause. While the show is not competitive, riders really rise to the occasion during the horse show, sometimes trying new skills in order to impress the judge and the audience.

If you haven't been out to the ranch in awhile, this event should be on your to-do list. There will be burgers and salads for lunch, tours of the ranch, and other family friendly fun. Make sure to bring your camera, as there will be real "Kodak moments" you will want to capture. The horse show is always one of the most inspiring events of the year, so don't miss it!

Halleck Creek Ranch Calendar 2010

Important Session Dates for 2010:

Session #3 (5 weeks)

Dates: Monday, March 29 – Saturday, May 1

Sign Ups : Monday, March 15

Tuition Due: Monday, March 22

Session #4 (5 weeks)

Dates: Monday, May 10 – Saturday, June 19

Sign Ups Begin: Monday, April 26

Tuition Due By: Monday, May 3

Session #5 (6 weeks)

Dates: Monday, June 21 – Saturday, July 31

Sign Ups Begin: Monday, June 7

Tuition Due By: Monday, June 14

Session #6 (6 weeks)

Dates: Monday, August 2 – Saturday, September 11

Sign Ups Begin: Monday, July 19

Tuition Due By: Monday, July 26

Session #7 (6 weeks)

Dates: Monday, September 20 – Saturday, October 30

Sign Ups : Monday, September 6

Tuition Due: Monday, Sept. 13

Session #8 (6 weeks)

Dates: Monday, November 1 – Saturday, December 18

Sign Ups : Monday, October 18

Tuition Due: Monday, October 25

HCR Special Event Dates for 2010:

- ◆
- ◆
- ◆ **Monday, May 3 – Saturday, May 8:** NO RIDING (Get your sponsors for the Marin Human Race!!)
- ◆ **Saturday, May 8:** MARIN HUMAN RACE (No Riding)
- ◆ **Saturday, May 29:** Spring Horse Show and Open House
- ◆ **Sunday, June 6:** Pt. Reyes Western Weekend Parade and Cow Flop Drop Fundraiser
- ◆ **Monday, June 7 – Saturday, June 12:** NO RIDING
- ◆ **Saturday, July 10:** HCR 33rd Birthday Party and Volunteer Appreciation BBQ
- ◆ **Saturday, September 11:** Fall Horse Show
- ◆ **Monday, September 13 – Saturday, September 18:** NO RIDING
- ◆ **Saturday, October 30:** HCR Halloween
- ◆ **Monday, November 22 - Saturday, November 27:** NO RIDING
- ◆ **Saturday, December 4:** HCR Holiday Party
- ◆ **Monday, December 20 – Saturday, January 2:** NO RIDING



◆ *Bob Reuff supervising a new volunteer on the trail ride. Bob is a Volunteer Trainer, a board member, and the HCR chairperson of the Marin Human Race. Bob was honored by the Marin Independent Journal as a “Volunteer of the Week” in February, for his efforts. Photo by Jim Karageorge.*

Return Service Requested

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

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



Halleck Creek Ranch Online

*Halleck Creek Ranch has a new
website!*

While the web address is still the same, it is a whole new world at :

www.halleckcreekranch.org

In partnership with the team at Hane Chow, the Oakland based company who designed the new site, we have developed a brand new look! There is beautiful new photography provided pro-bono by local photographer, Jim Karageorge (www.karageorgestudio.com), who did an amazing job of capturing the emotion on film. The site was funded by a personal donation from board member Roger Peters and his wife Stephanie Moulton, and a matching grant from Lucasfilm.

Located on the site is a link to sign up for our e-newsletter. The e-newsletter will soon be going out monthly, while our print version will only be mailed quarterly, so make sure to keep up with current events by signing up. You can also connect to our virtual community online by becoming a “friend” of Halleck Creek Ranch on Facebook. There is a link to our Facebook page on our website homepage.

There are more features in development, including individual biographies of each horse, an online sign up tool for riders, and rider and volunteer videos. If you have any ideas or content you would like to see on the site, or pictures or video you would like to share, please let us know. We are always looking for better ways to showcase the program, answer questions, and connect with you.

