

Happy Trails Riding Academy

A publication of Happy Trails Riding Academy, a nonprofit organization of therapeutic horsemanship for people who have cognitive, physical or emotional disabilities.

Spring 2020

Roundup

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Dear Friends,

We hope this newsletter finds you and your family members healthy. Happy Trails' dedication to our riders, volunteers and community continues. We have currently ceased all program activities and have extended our spring break. We have an absolute obligation to ensure the welfare of our horses and are committed to keep our amazing staff employed on their regular schedule. Care for the horses, maintaining our 25 acres, creating our Facebook Live programs for riders and volunteers and developing live webinar classes have kept us busy. Happy Trails has built a great human and equine team and will continue to provide the highest of quality to our programs.



Along with the extension of our spring break we also had to cancel our signature event, Night at the Races, on May 15. This event alone provides critical revenue of over \$100,000 to sustain our program through the Fall. For 35 years, we have challenged ourselves and others to step up and stand in the gap for families in need. We have successfully weathered many economic storms and are confident that Happy Trails will emerge from this health event a stronger organization.

The scope of the COVID-19 pandemic is enormous and will be multiplied across the non-profit sector. It is our goal to get through this as intact as possible and hit the ground running when this emergency has passed. Your support of each other, local non-profits and business and Happy Trails could not be more important.

We have a unique and fun way you can help, "Party in Place Opportunity Drawing." Please see details on the following page. Also included are some fun activities for our younger readers. Thank you for your support, stay safe and healthy!

Ed Wristen
Board President

Leslie Gardner
Executive Director

Happy Trails Party in Place Event

Join us May 15 for this virtual experience

See Details Inside

~~Night at the Races~~ **SCRATCHED**

The Annual Night at the Races originally planned for May 15 at the Visalia Convention Center has been scratched. The recent prohibition of large events and concern for the health of our community members requires us to change our plans. Happy Trails depends on the revenues generated at this event to fuel our mission across all our programs. This year, place your bets on the "Party in Place Opportunity Drawing." Happy Trails has assembled an outstanding list of items for the prize purse. The drawing will take place on **May 15 at 6pm on Facebook Live.**

Ladies are invited to enter the Annual Derby Hat contest. Take a picture wearing your best hat and send it to info@wearehappytrails.com prior to the event May 15. First, second and third place prizes will be awarded to our favorite entries.

Your gift to Happy Trails supports our therapeutic riding programs and operations. We have been responding to the needs of people with disabilities for almost four decades. The demand for our therapy services and the opportunity to serve our community continues to grow each year. Happy Trails' ability to fulfill its mission, meet the growing demand for our services, and expand our outreach into the community is dependent on raising charitable gifts of all sizes. We need your help!

Here's how it works:

1. Fill out the stub on the enclosed drawing ticket
2. Send the \$100 cost per ticket with the stub to
Happy Trails in the envelope provided before May 15
3. Tune in May 15 to Facebook Live to watch the drawing



1st Prize Valued at \$15,000

Prizes:

- 1st Prize: 2016 Ford Focus donated by HR Mobile Services
- 2nd Prize: Yamaha Zuma Scooter donated by GA Motorsports
- 3rd Prize: 12 - \$100 gift cards to Local Restaurants donated by Happy Trails Board of Directors
- 4th Prize: Henry .30-30 Rifle donated by Ed & Judy Wristen and Smokin' Barrel Firearms
- 5th Prize: Dell Inspiron 15 3000 Laptop donated by Phil & Cindy Brown

Want Additional Tickets?

No problem.... Call the Happy Trails office at 688-8685 or email Leslie@wearehappytrails.com and we will get tickets to you. There is no limit on how many you may purchase.

Thank you to our dedicated sponsors of Night at the Races who are gladly supporting the Happy Trails Party in Place Event.

Winner's Circle

Sence Foundation
Beneto Foundation

Triple Crown

Carpenter Family Children's
Foundation
Lance & Jamie Mouw
Cow Camp Caridades

Kentucky Derby

Law Office of Andre P. Gaston
HR Mobile Services Inc.
Roland & Linda Hill
The Equity Group
Enterprise Holdings, Inc.
Visalia Sunset Rotary

Jacque & Maria Gaston

NSE Insurance Agencies, Inc.

Farm Credit West

Mike Fistolera, Inc.

Kaweah Delta Health Care District

Blue Sky Property Management

Dan Freitas Electric, Inc.

EM Tharpe, Inc.

Mary's Vineyard Shopping Center

Capitol Real Estate Group, Inc.

Kiwanis Club of Tipton

Springville VFW Post 9499

Dias Law Firm, Inc.

Pierre & Kay Gaston

Ultratech Industrial Systems

Assemblyman Devon Mathis

Will Tiesiera Ford

Sierra Range Construction

Tulare County Board of Supervisors

Mike & Sharon DeGroot

Roche Oil, Inc.

S.P.D.E.S.

Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel

Krase, Bailey & Reed-Krase

Tulare County Cabrillo Civic Club #12

Sequoia Cattle Company

Pipkin Detective Agency

Thomas Simonian Mediation

Serving Those Who Served for Us

The Happy Trails Riding Academy Equine Services for Heroes (ESH) program has assisted military veterans and active service members since 2013 by providing leadership and guidance through equine assisted activities and therapies. To date, over 50 veterans have participated in the ESH program.

The purpose behind providing ESH is to offer hope and encourage physical, cognitive, social and emotional growth through the power of the equine. This program aims to create confident, consistent, dependable, quiet horsemen and women who are developing a trusting relationship with a horse and, hopefully, taking and applying these lessons to their everyday lives.

An informational flyer shared by a co-worker brought Herb Schneider to Happy Trails in June 2019. He found an instant connection with Cash in his first class. "It was an awesome experience, one that I've never felt with anyone or anything." He continues, "I think I relate so well with Cash because I've seen him startle easily and recover from clumsy situations like I often do."

When describing a class experience Lead instructor, Cathy Fitzpatrick says, "I feel like my job as an instructor is more of a 'facilitator'. I let the horses do most of the work." She continues, "sometimes the bond between the veteran and horse is especially strong as Herb has indicated. His horse Cash actually chose him as his partner."

Jayne Inman referred herself after seeing Happy Trails while driving back and forth to the Tulare VA clinic. She knew it was the right program for her when at the last class of her session she was allowed to trot Whiskey for the first time, "it was the first time since deployment I've felt pure joy and happiness."

The success of therapeutic horsemanship is largely due to the nature of the animals with which the veteran is interacting. Therapy horses are nonjudgmental and do not



Herb Schneider & Cash

He served two tours in the U.S. Army, 1988-96, and reenlisted after the attacks on 9/11, serving 2001-09 active duty and 2009-14 with the National Guard.



Jayne Inman & Whiskey

She comes from a multigenerational military family with relatives who served in WWI, WWII (British Army), & the U.S. Airforce. Jayne served our country in the U.S. Army Nurse Corps, 12 years as a reservist and in 2014 a one-year tour active duty in Afghanistan.

have expectations or motives toward the people with whom they connect. They have a keen ability to understand the attitudes and behaviors of the humans they meet.

Horseback riding or equine-assisted activities and therapies has been successful in helping veterans show marked improvements in the following areas:

- Assertiveness
- Emotional awareness
- Empathy
- Stress tolerance
- Flexibility
- Impulse control
- Problem-solving skills
- Self-actualization
- Independence
- Self-regard
- Social responsibility
- Interpersonal relationships
- Post-traumatic stress

The partnership between horses and the military has been apparent for centuries. Happy Trails is proud to continue this tradition by giving veterans an opportunity to learn from these amazing animals.

Taking Happy Trails Live!

The COVID-19 pandemic may have closed schools and businesses leaving many sheltered in home, it hasn't completely shut down Happy Trails. While classes are canceled temporarily we are still engaging with our riders, volunteers and supporters by streaming live on Facebook every Wednesday and Friday at 2:00 pm (PDT). The entire staff and members of the Happy Trails herd have been involved in front of and behind the camera producing 15-minute short programs on topics including--parts of the horse, story time with Abigail and preparing feed for 19 horses. Our first story garnered nearly 1000 views with comments coming in from states throughout the country; Nebraska, Wyoming and Maryland to name a few. Shows will continue until we are back to our normal class schedule.





*An investment from your heart...
Riding builds strong wills*

Happy Trails Riding Academy
2773 E. Oakdale Ave.
Tulare, CA 93274

Mailing address
P.O. Box 572
Visalia, CA 93279

Phone: (559) 688-8685
Fax: (559) 688-6786
www.WeAreHappyTrails.com

Sign Up For Our E-Newsletter! Email info@wearehappytrails.com.
You can now follow Happy Trails on Twitter & Instagram @ HTRidingAcademy



Find us on
Facebook



Horse of the Year

Happy Trails is proud to announce its very own Therapy Horse, Rootin' Tootin' Ridge D'Lite, has been awarded the **2020 PATH International Region 11 Equine of the Year**. At 19 years of age, he is an interesting and very cute combination of Norwegian Fjord, Haflinger, and Quarter Horse. Ridge's small, cute size combined with his big, sweet personality motivates students to walk tall and carry a big attitude.



**More than ever:
Please be safe. Our riders need us.
We need you. Thank you for your support.**