

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 2017

Meet Our Founder

TJ Barreiro was born and raised in Hanford, California. As a native to the valley, she was acutely aware of the importance of being a good steward of the land and the importance of treating others with compassion. Though only serving one year in 4-H and hardly ever having ridden a horse, she felt compelled to serve those most in need through equine therapy.

As a young girl, she recalls several memories of seeing those with disabilities struggling for help and trying to find outlets to learn and grow. As fate would have it, TJ recalls her mother reading an article in Parade Magazine about a disabled Vietnam veteran having returned from war who used a horse to help learn how to use his body again. The article cited NARHA, the North American Riding for the Handicapped Association, which prompted TJ to reach out to them. She learned that there were two programs in the state of California at the time that specialized in equine therapy; one was close by in Fremont. She took it upon herself to enroll at the College of Sequoias to learn to ride. She also frequented the Fremont facility and collaborated with

Continued on page 2



Early 1990's Happy Trails' rider on Spur

Roundup

Camp Sponsorship

Become a "Happy Camper"
Sponsor Today!

Happy Trails Riding Academy is hosting our 1st annual summer camp program for our riders. The seven week camp will have a unique weekly theme while incorporating our equine friends.

GET INVOLVED!

Individuals and businesses can sponsor a rider for camp. Your donation of \$100 will allow a rider to experience the fun of summer camp.

PHONE
(559) 688-8685

EMAIL
leslie@wearehappytrails.com

22nd Annual Spring Event - "Night at the Races"

Friday, May 19, 2017 at 6 p.m.

To Reserve Your Tickets or Table Please Call (559) 688-8685

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. Neal Spiro,
President
Ed Wristen,
Vice President
Laura Morrelli,
Secretary
Andre Gaston,
Treasurer
Roland Hill,
Past President
Kim Givich
Linda Nogues
Patty Rocha
Kendra Fowler
Ryan Purkiss
Jenna Seals
Erin Brooks
Steve Duerre

STAFF

Leslie Gardner,
Executive Director
Lisa Cotta-Meek,
Program Director
Amber Preheim,
Certified Instructor
Klara Bergtholdt,
Certified Instructor
Beth Sphuler,
Certified Instructor
Nicole Payne,
Certified Instructor
Kay Connley,
Exec. Assistant &
Volunteer Coordinator
Kendra Henderson,
Class & Barn Manager
Lozen Hendrix,
Class & Barn Manager
Ron Summers,
Facility Maintenance

Meet Our Founder

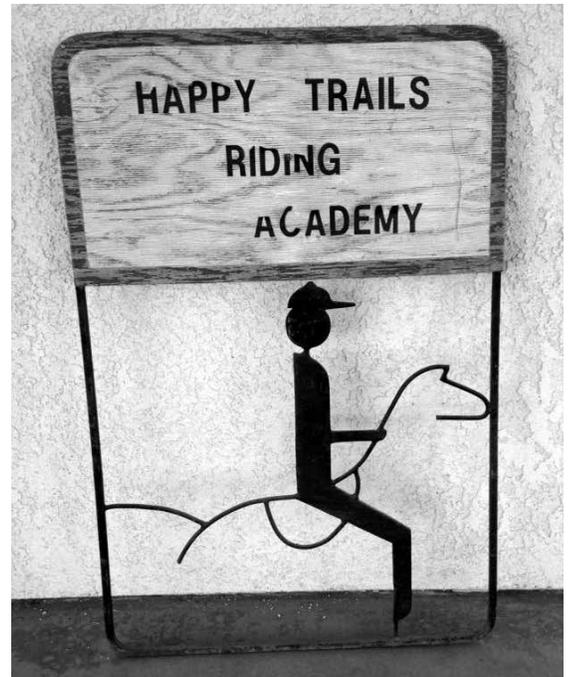
Continued from page 1

them on training to start her own program here in the valley.

Happy Trails started very small with only six riders, a pony and mustang – Coco and Candy -- who had been donated. Word of mouth spread and soon Happy Trails was growing to the point they needed a bigger location and an official board of directors. While Happy Trails bounced around a bit, they ultimately ended up at their current location in Tulare. Since their final move, Happy Trails has done nothing but thrive.

When asked where she hoped Happy Trails would be ten years from now, her confidence was that Happy Trails would continue to thrive and provide the wonderful enrichment to those most in need. Toward the

end of the interview, TJ shared that, "no matter where she goes, she always finds people who are loving and kind." The same sentiment can be said about Happy Trails; the good, kind and loyal supporters will always be here for our community.



First Happy Trails sign

Veterans Open House

You're Invited! Happy Trails is hosting a Veterans Open House on Sunday, May 7th from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00p.m. All Veterans, A Combat Veteran's Hope Warfighters and their families are invited to join us for the Open House. The event will include introduction and information about our Equine Services for Heroes Program, A Combat Veteran's Hope presentation, facility tours, kid's activities and lunch.

Therapeutic horsemanship has been proven to help warriors strengthen physically, mentally and emotionally in a positive and welcoming environment. For more information or to RSVP please contact Happy Trails at 688-8685.



Norbie Lara grooming Ridge



Mike Garza with Cash

With Your Help Happy Trails Can Thrive!



Happy Trails, with the help of Valeriy Khimyuk, has submitted a video in the *A Community Thrives* contest sponsored by USA Today and Gannett Newspapers.

Vote now and share our entry with friends and family to increase our number of votes! At the end of the voting period, the 10 entries with the most votes in each category will be reviewed by a panel of judges. Prizes of (1) \$100,000 and (2) \$50,000 grants will be awarded to the top three winning entries.

You can vote once per day until May 12 at 11:59am EST.

HOW TO VOTE:

1. Go to act.usatoday.com and click "Vote Now"
2. Find our entry in the gallery by clicking on the magnifying glass icon (you can search by title, your name, category, description, and location—Happy Trails Riding Academy)
3. Click on our entry.
4. Click the "Vote" button on our entry page and fill out the required information.
5. Then come back every day until May 12 to vote again.

SHARE OUR ENTRY:

1. Find and click on our entry in the submission gallery.
2. Click on the icons below your entry description to share our entry on Facebook, Twitter, Pinterest and through email.
3. You can also share our entry by copying and pasting our entry page's URL.

Every Vote Counts!

Sneak Peek of Night at the Races

We are excited about Happy Trail's upcoming Night at the Races event, on Friday May 19, 2017 at 6:00pm at the Visalia Convention Center. It is a fun filled night, with good food, good company, and exciting horse racing, all while benefiting Happy Trails. The evening will start with socializing while enjoying Kentucky Lemonades, then transition into dinner catered by Sue Sa. We will then begin the horse races; the first race is a practice for everyone to test their luck, followed by 6 more races – all races have really nice prize packages. The final race of the evening will be a live race featuring the V Town Derby Dames! We can't wait to see you at Night at the Races!

Ways to get involved in this year's Night at the Races:

1. Be a Sponsor – sponsorship levels start at \$250, and all sponsors get to name a race horse
2. Ladies wear your best derby hat – there will be a Derby Hat Contest with a prize for the winner
3. Bring your wagers – this year's race prizes will include a shopping spree at the Tulare Outlet Center, a backyard makeover, a gun package, and a Central Coast get away.



2016 Night at the Races



Kay Connley and Linda Nogues sporting their derby hats



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

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

NON-PROFIT ORG
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Visalia, CA
Permit# 520

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



How to Become a Volunteer

Our riders work hard to meet their goals and are supported by the combined efforts of the equine, instructor, and volunteers. We are volunteer driven and the program enjoys tremendous volunteer support. Last year, volunteers donated more than 10,000 hours to Happy Trails! Volunteers' talents are applied to a variety of tasks, but most often they work with the

therapists and instructors in direct contact with our riders and horses.

To volunteer with us you must attend our Volunteer Orientation. If you are interested in attending an orientation, contact us at info@WeAreHappyTrails.com or (559) 688-8685. Please note that you must be at least 14 years old to volunteer at Happy Trails Riding Academy.

Needs List

Shavings

Gas powered
leaf blower

Gift Certificates
to Feed Depot



Mission Oak Tennis Team