

N E W S L E T T E R

A Message from Cory

We just had our 77th Mill Creek Horse Show, which means we've been doing this for almost 40 years now! I was very moved by this show in particular, because when I looked around, I saw that so many people who were helping to put on the show started riding at Mill Creek when they were children. Grace Chuchla, our wonderful judge for the day and who is now a grown woman, started riding at Mill Creek when she was nine. Karene Cohen and Courtney Leonard, who were working the show ring gate started when they were 9 and 8 years old respectively. Kate Poulos ran Tack Sale and Amy DiNoble, now Dr. DiNoble, helped out in the School Horse area.

It's been a lot of hard work over the years and occasional problems, of course, but seeing my Mill Creek kids come back to be a part of Mill Creek as adults makes it all worthwhile. Thank you all for your continued support—it means so much to me.

Cory Watkey



Tommy Greengard on Marcus at the Spring Mill Creek show.



Hmm...what is Elena telling Joe at the Spring Horse Show?

Why are hay prices going up?

As those of you who are boarders are aware, the price of hay has recently skyrocketed. We had to raise the price of board for now to make up for this and we are trying not to raise the price of lessons for school horses.



The reason for this price increase is directly related to the loss of land to development. Each day, we're losing 6,000 acres of agricultural, forest and other open land to development. The USDA calculates that we need 36 million acres to provide adequate feed for the 9.2 million U.S. horses. At the current rate of development, in a little more than 16 years, that amount of land will be gone—forever!

MC Mill Creek Equestrian Center

Goodbye, Dear Friends...



Dave

Judy & Peter Whiting, who bred horses for the racetrack, had a very nice 3 yr. old who started to have leg issues in race training. They thought Cory would like him as a show horse and they offered to sell him for \$5,000 to her. When Cory saw him, she figured it was too much money because of his developing tendon problems and he was barely broke, so she passed. About a year later, they sold the farm and horses and moved to Canada. Shortly thereafter, a man Cory knows named Dave called her to say that he had bought the Whiting's farm, which came with a 4 yr. old Thoroughbred gelding, and would she be interested in buying him for \$1,000? Cory bought him at that better price. She said, "never knowing what to name my horses, I named him Dave after his owner."

One of Cory's older students trained Dave for his first year and taught him what he needed to know for the school. Dave went to many shows and was very successful. He was the top school horse for many years and as he grew older, he moved gracefully down the levels. Cory says, "I miss Dave, but he had one of the nicest lives of any horse I can remember. He lived at Mill Creek most of his life and was never asked to do anything outside his comfort level. We always gave him our best and gave us his." Dave was 26 when we lost him.



Bruno

Most of you will remember Bruno who retired a couple of years ago to live with Glory in Topanga. Sadly, he was put down at the end of April due to cancer.

Cory purchased Bruno from an auction in Bakersfield. At each auction, there may be two or three horses worth buying; you don't get to ride them or anything. When Cory saw Bruno, she thought everything was right about him: perfect confirmation, great legs and feet. He was a correct horse. Cory thinks he was about five then and he came with a manila folder full of papers. Cory opened up the folder and found that, "By God, I'd bought myself an actual Mustang!"

Bruno had been brought in and started in a prison program. Cory had seen shows on TV where prisoners work with dogs, but she never knew there was a similar program for horses. Cory feels this is a win-win situation for prisoners and horses.

Stephanie Hodges started Bruno, trained him and took him to his first few shows. Cory says, "I can't begin to tell you how many people asked what his breeding was. They were blown away when they found out he was a Mustang."



Upcoming Shows

EVENTS/HORSE TRIALS

- ◆ Shepherd Ranch SYVPC Horse Trials I
- ◆ Shepherd Ranch SYVPC Horse Trials II*

SHOW DATE

June 24 - 26
August 26 - 28

ENTRY DUE

June 7
August 9

DRESSAGE SHOWS

- ◆ Cool August Nights Dressage Show (LAEC)

SHOW DATE

August 25 - 28

ENTRY DUE

TBD

NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

- ◆ USEF Festival of Champions and Pan American Games Selection Trials (Gladstone, NJ)
- ◆ USEA American Eventing Championships (Fairburn, GA)

SHOW DATE

September 8 - 11
September 8 - 11

ENTRY DUE

TBD
TBD

*Cory says to plan on using the August Shepherd Ranch Show as your end of summer progress report.

MC Mill Creek Equestrian Center



Mill Creek Times



JUNE 15, 2011

MILLCREEKEQUESTRIANCENTER.COM

EST. 1973

Summer Heat...

Summer is just about here and most of us know just how hot it can get in Topanga. Here are a few tips for staying cool and safe during the summer months:

- ◆ Bring water bottles. A good tip is to put your plastic water bottle in the freezer the night before and then it will stay icy cold longer;
- ◆ Coolmedics.com makes an evaporative, cooling riding vest;

- ◆ Before your lesson, try wetting a washcloth and putting it under your helmet;



- ◆ Use a hose! You can put it down the front or back of your shirt or use it to wet down your Tipperary jumping vest.

Most of all, remember to stay hydrated!

Check the Bulletin Board!

Remember to check the bulletin board at the end of the L-Barn. In addition to posting horse show sign-ups there, we would like to plan some evening potlucks this summer and you will also find information and sign-up sheets for these once the dates are set.

Schooling & Competing Off-Site

If you plan to go schooling or competing off-site, you must have medical arm bands and vests, in addition to your helmets. Bit of Britain is a good source for both: bitofbritain.com.

Monday Rules:

As you know, Mill Creek is closed on Mondays; however, the barn is open for a short time to boarders only from 2:30pm—5:15pm. If you visit on Mondays, you MUST observe the following rules:

1. NO ONE UNDER 18 is allowed without a parent!
2. Boots must be worn! No tennis shoes, flip flops, etc.
3. No longeing in halters; you must use bridles;
4. You must leave promptly at 5:15pm. The people opening Mill Creek for you are volunteers; please be respectful of their time.

Failure to observe these rules could jeopardize Monday privileges for everyone.



Slow Down, Please!

Cory Walkey reports seeing cars going too fast on the Mill Creek driveways. She adds, "Remember, we have children and horses and children with horses walking in a driveway! Driving too fast presents a real safety issue for everyone at Mill Creek. Please be mindful of your speed."

Slumber Party!!

Vivian will be hosting a sleepover night at Mill Creek on August 13. Look for the sign-up sheet around August 1st. Mill Creek will be providing dinner, breakfast and games. Bring your sleeping bag and your toothbrush!



Jalan Jalan Imports at Owl Falls

Cory recommends paying a visit to Topanga's newest business, Jalan Jalan, which you may have noticed on Topanga near Fernwood. The owner, Brian, has wonderful furniture and things from Indonesia, Bali and the Far East. Cory says: "He has a good eye and it's a fun place to visit. There is a nice place to sit by the waterfall. Tell Brian you are from Mill Creek for extra special attention!"

525 S. Topanga Cyn Blvd.
310-455-BALI
Thurs.-Sun. 10am-6pm

MC Mill Creek Equestrian Center

Mill Creek Spring 2011 Horse Show Photo Gallery



Second Levelers compare ribbons.



First Leveler Bianca Baguio on Brady.




Congratulations Veronica West on her new pony, Apollo.



Haley Berman on Kooper.

Visit the Mill Creek Website for complete Spring Horse Show Results and MANY more photos!

Sign up for the email newsletter!
 Look for this box on our website:
 Sign up for our Email Newsletter 

Privacy by  SafeSubscribeSM

Submit poems, stories or photos for future newsletters by emailing web@millcreekequestriancenter.com or by bringing them to the office.

Congratulations to Brittany Clark...
 on her new horse, Porter! He's a gray Thoroughbred gelding from Virginia and he has competed at the Novice level. Brittany will show him at Shepherd Ranch at the end of June.