

THE SILVER FIDDLE GAZETTE

Volume I, Issue I

For the Love of the Horse

Summer 2007

Silver Fiddle Ranch provides your horse with a stress-free environment in which they can socialize and freely move as horses are meant to do. We have spent the last five years transforming our ranch into a safe and supportive environment for the horses who live here and for their owners who visit. Our goal has been to provide for healthy mental and physical well-being for all horses at the ranch and for a safe and fun haven for both horse and owner.

SILVER FIDDLE RANCH



For the Love of the Horse

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A HORSEWOMAN'S JOURNEY

This last winter/spring has been quite educational for me and my filly Briosa (she turned four April 29). In March, I hauled her down to Salome, Arizona to ride for a week with Harry Whitney. What a trooper that little mare was with the trailering. She traveled like a pro – no sweat, no fuss, no worry... just very tired by the time we reached Harry's ranch. We made some major breakthroughs during our week with Harry – getting her focus, directing her thoughts, following the feel of the rein, balancing her body for correct movement by helping her move from her hind quarters. I was so thrilled after my return that I worked on what I had learned in anticipation of Ross Jacobs' and Michele Jedlicka's upcoming visit in April.

Ross and Michele's Good Horsemanship clinic April 27–29 was a resounding success. We had a great turnout, with enough horses and participants to keep us going for four very full days of learning, exploring, trying new ideas and getting our horses to learn softness and feel.

Through this clinic (and the four additional days I spent with them here and at Shea's) I was able to continue advancing Briosa's learning and my own learning by starting to fine tune the feel of the rein, directing her thought to keep her present with me, focusing on cadence and helping her to not rush, balancing my seat to help her learn my feel, picking up the rein and getting a soft response through the hind quarters, forehead, and lateral movements. We also worked on moving forward at different gaits including walk, trot, gait and canter.

Following Ross's clinic, Shea Stewart came by our ranch for a couple days of private training for me with Briosa, Milagra and our new mustang Gracy. I'm finding that as I learn new methods and concepts, I have even more refinement that I can explore. It's never ending, which makes this horsemanship and training ever so much fun! Each horse presents differently; they are such individuals. Yet, if we are consistent in how we handle and ride them, they can all come around as willing partners and operate consistently for us. Shea and I continued where I left off with Ross and Michele. She showed me a critical element of how I can help Briosa get balanced to help her stop pac-



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WHAT'S NEW

2007 Clinics

We are really excited about our clinic line-up for 2007. And to encourage participation from boarders, we offer boarders a 15% discount for each clinic attended. Here is the current schedule, though I'm hoping to add a few more on other aspects of horsemanship (bodywork, nutrition, more hoof care).

Ross Jacobs and Michele Jedlicka Good Horsemanship Clinic: This four-day clinic is offered yearly in April/May and is a wonderful way to get ready for the summer riding season. Ross and Michele can help you get more in sync with your horse, learn how to direct them better through the reins, and develop more skill in becoming a true partner with your horse. This clinic was held April 27–30. Don't miss it next year!

Shea Stewart Horsemanship Clinics: Shea is a regular visitor to Silver Fiddle Ranch, providing us with ongoing training and education in her very special style of good horsemanship. Shea can help you learn to read the expressions and body language of your horse and to get in touch with their changing emotions. She can help you strengthen your relationship with your horse through communication rather than force. Shea comes four times during our clinic season with additional individual lesson visits as requested. Clinics scheduled for May 25–27; Jun 22–24; Aug 24–26; Sept 28–30.



about fitting a saddle to you and your horse, but about history, style, riding methods, and – most importantly – about how we can best accommodate the nature of the horse. Clinic scheduled for July 22.

Debbie Dutra's Whole Horse Workshop: Debbie specializes in balanced trimming and natural whole horse keeping. Clinic scheduled for August 4.

David Genadek's About the Horse Saddle Fitting Clinic:

David is a saddle maker who promotes excellence in horsemanship through knowledge. David's clinic are always exciting and full of information, not only



OTHER UPCOMING CLINICS (WATCH FOR THE DATES!)

Mark Jeldness and Roger Budden – Barefoot horse practitioners who excel in keeping our horses feet strong and natural for riding in our varied mountain trails.

Karly Delano DVM – Our new traveling vet is wonderful! I'm asking her to plan to give a clinic on general health and nutrition and some areas where she has a special interest.

Kendra King – Kendra runs a successful sports massage practice and has helped me and my boarders with their horses' well being.

Lessons & Training Programs

I'm happy to announce that I am once again starting up my training and lesson program. I will be providing lessons and training for horses boarded at Silver Fiddle Ranch and will also take in a few training horses and give lessons on my own horses for the public. So spread the word, if you know of anyone who wants to learn about horses and riding, getting the softness in both themselves and their horses, or has a horse they would like me to help them work with and train, please refer them to me.

Barefoot Trims

My horses have always been barefoot, but not always sound. The solution I found was through a relatively new movement that incorporates a wild horse model trim with proper nutrition and environment to keep your horses sound and balanced. With the help of two professional and talented barefoot trim practitioners, Mark Jeldness and Roger Budden, I've developed my skills to be the primary trimmer for my horses and a few clients who have graciously allowed me to build my skills using their horses. I'm now expanding my education in this field and I am ready to take new clients who are anxious to keep their horses' feet healthy and functional in a natural barefoot state. Give me a call to learn about my services and set up an appointment.

OUR FACILITY

Our facility includes:

- Three 24 X 50 paddocks with covers
- Two pastures with lots of room to roam in varied terrain (approximately three acres)
- Five 12 X 24 pipe corrals with covers (we reserve these for newcomers, clinics and overnight stays)
- Miles of groomed mountain trails and logging roads on and off the property
- Groomed, all weather footing arena (120 X 60) and round pen (50 foot)
- Tying and wash area
- Community tack room and feed room
- Shaded picnic areas

Basic charges: \$250/month, includes:

- High quality grass hay for breakfast and dinner
- Daily paddock and pasture cleaning
- Clean water checked daily
- Plain salt mineral blocks in all paddocks and pastures

Required supplements:

- Psyllium is given each month on the 1st – 7th. This supplement is required for all horses at \$15/month if ranch provides and feeds.

Additional services per owner request:

- Ranch-provided daily supplements: \$40/month, includes feeding and cost of supplements (*Platinum Performance, Omega Fields Flax, 1 cup forage pellets, ½ cup crimped oats*)
- Owner-provided daily supplements: \$20/month for daily feeding
- Standing for vet/trimmer: \$10
- Blanketing and fly mask: \$2
- Barefoot trims: \$40; bi-monthly maintenance trims: \$15

Lessons and Training:

- Private lessons: \$35/hour. We require that boarders commit to a minimum of one lesson per month. If boarders would like to participate in more than one a month, a discount will be given of \$5 per lesson.
- Training program: In my training program, I require that the owner be present at least once a week for training sessions. As the horse progresses, lessons will be offered as part of the package. Prices start at \$275 per month which includes three days a week training of the horse, with one of those days participation by the owner.
- Exercise and grooming: \$25/session. Includes thoroughly grooming, brushing out the mane and tail, picking out hooves and checking them, fly spray if needed, and ground work with lunging.
- Participation in clinics hosted by Silver Fiddle Ranch: 15% discount on clinic prices will be passed on to boarders.



What We Ask of Our Boarders

Horses living at our ranch have access to free exercise and ranging around the pasture. We feed a high quality grass hay twice daily. Our feeding method is to spread the hay in various locations so horses are encouraged to explore, socialize and self-exercise.

Since horses are boarded in a natural herd environment, we require that the horses being boarded here are safe to handle on the ground, and to feed. If when feeding or gathering horses, we come into problems that we feel are unsafe, we will require a training program for you and your horse.

TRAINING PROGRAM: PLEASE CONTACT US ABOUT OUR TRAINING PROGRAMS WHICH ARE DESIGNED AROUND THE NEEDS OF THE HORSES AND THEIR OWNERS.

It is also important to us that each horse is handled and checked at a minimum of once per week, for their own safety and health. We also require that each horse is kept up on a grooming and hoof trimming schedule. If you are unable to be here for the trimmer, or if you are unable to come and check your horse and groom him at a minimum of one day per week, we will be happy to provide this service for you.

GROOMING AND EXERCISE: \$25.00.
INCLUDES THOROUGHLY GROOMING, BRUSHING OUT THE MANE AND TAIL, PICKING OUT HOOVES AND CHECKING THEM, FLY SPRAY IF NEEDED AND GROUND WORK WITH LUNGING.

Those who board with Silver Fiddle Ranch have a commitment to continuing education about owning, handling, caring for and riding horses. We host clinics from mid-spring through mid-fall on a variety of topics that relate to your relationship with your horse. We would like to encourage your participation in as many of these clinics as you find time for and will pass on to you a 15% discount from the price of each clinic.

New Riding Trails for Silver Fiddle Ranch

Now that summer is upon us (at least in temperature!), it is truly riding season! All of our horses need some attention and exercise to get them into shape for a fun-filled summer. We did lots of work over the winter and spring to enhance our ranch by putting in some lovely trails that meander through our forest, across creeks, around our pond and then off onto the miles of logging roads surrounding our property. Look for a few more trails to come soon taking you to the upper levels of our property where you'll ride through magnificent vistas and meadows. So if you only have a short time to ride, you'll be able to experience trail riding at it's best right on Silver Fiddle Ranch property. Come often to help your horse stay in shape by riding our beautiful trails!



Weekly Ride Days!

Once a week we take a ride from Silver Fiddle Ranch to the S. Fork of the Cosumnes River which runs down below our property. This ride is on well-maintained logging roads that run through our property and the neighboring land. The ride is about two hours long, with lots of hills, curves and straight road for training, conditioning and just plain fun! The highlight is to cool off in the river, for both horse and rider!

A HORSEWOMAN'S JOURNEY *continued from front page*

ing and get into gait. She showed me how moving off her hindquarters for forward, sideways, and back movements can help Briosa get balanced to help her move more smoothly into gait. In helping her learn to engage her hindquarters, she started to feel for that gait. Now I have lots of work to do with her and all of my horses to continue exploring that feel and finding that which works for each horse as an individual.

Shea also helped me to get started on Gracy, our little Pryor Mountain strawberry roan mustang mare who is no more than five years old and about 14 hands tall. She's lived here about a month now. She was foaled at a sanctuary after her mom was captured. At a very young age, she was accidentally bred along with some of her filly herdmates. So, along with Gracy, we have her filly, Isabella, who is a red (or bay) roan and is almost as tall as her mom, though still shaped like a baby. Niki Nickerson, our boarder who also owns Mikey and Prima – two very cute Peruvian Paso horses – adopted Gracy and Isabella at a sanctuary in northeast California when Isabella was about three months old. She did a great job gentling Gracy and giving Isabella a solid start in life. While Ross and Michele were here, we worked with Gracy on picking up her feet and starting leading. She had never been trimmed, but with her very strong mustang feet has somewhat maintained them in a reasonable state. I was very pleased that when Roger Budden came to trim, we were able to get Gracy's feet trimmed. She is such a wonderful quiet-minded animal and will be loads of fun to work with. I've been working with leading her around the pasture, but that's about it up to this point. Shea helped me get over my initial trepidation on how to get her started with line work. I was real creepy around her as to not cause a wreck. Shea, being a matter of fact kind of gal, just handled her like any other horse who doesn't know anything about how to be with people. Gracy is now ready for me to help her get used to all the things that we like to have our horses feel good about – flags, blankets, tarps, ropes, saddles, and of course moving correctly in a circle, leading, backing and all that other fun stuff that will help when she is ridden.

Well, as summer is already upon us, I hope to see everyone here at the ranch playing with their horses, having a great time, continuing their education, riding the trails and bringing picnic lunches so we can share our thoughts and insights under our cool canopy of trees.