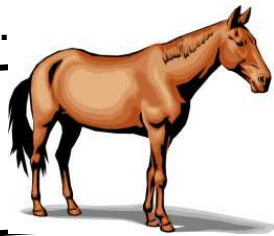


Notes from....



## Serrano Creek Ranch Equestrian Center

APRIL 2007

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SCR is now slowly entering the 21<sup>st</sup> century with this newsletter. Beginning with this edition we will be sending it to our e-mail list. Now you'll be able to actually see what those blurred black photocopied pictures really are! As a select member of the Serrano Creek Ranch email community, you'll receive news AS IT HAPPENS. Until we get a majority of the boarders on e-mail, we'll publish an abridged paper version that will still go out with the billing. But remember that you'll be first in the know. While others are spinning wild theories with utterly no basis in reality, you can sit back and wait for them to make a complete fool of themselves. Then when you are ready, you can cut them into shreds by having inside information, thanks to your recent email newsletter.

Afraid that you may be a victim? Smart money makes sure that they're in the know by being sure that they are receiving each and every e-newsletter. Go home tonight and secretly send your email address to us. We promise that we'll never tell

Ok, enough of this electronic blustering, I've done everything to fill up this space. So let's all pull up a warm monitor and enjoy this magnificent time in history.

Happy Reading,

Matt Ray  
Publisher- In-Chief

*All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.*



Back in 1995 when we were doing horse shows, a neighbor showed up and asked if there were any opportunities to volunteer. Always short for workers for these events, the normal application procedure (mirror fogging) was set aside. She was given a walkie-talkie and clipboard. As an enticement to get her to come back, we quickly created the title (unbeknownst to her) *Gate Meister* and proudly knighted her with said honor.

Towards the end of that season, she asked about the then shuttered tack store. We spoke for a while. A week later she returned with a thorough business plan with very modest goals. Given that store space was empty, any offer looked good, so we agreed and off she went.

Now in a blink of an eye, 12 years have sped by, and the *Gate Meister* a.k.a. Lisa Evans, now prepares to move to new challenges. A few months ago she casually mentioned that she was entering her 12<sup>th</sup> year running the store. I was dumbfounded that so much time had elapsed. Then 45 days ago it became clear to her that it was time for a new chapter in her life.

So effortlessly (at least to us outsiders) did the tack store naturally blossom, the modest goals have been surpassed by orders of magnitude. She did what no one previously did by making the tack store a successful and positive

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environment. Things happen for a reason, and when Lisa put the word out that she was thinking about selling her store, she was overwhelmed with interest. This is a real complement for what she created.

The extended SCR family is wide and deep. From the occasional lesson taker to, trainers and employees, to boarders who have become more like residents, the collective accumulation of experiences is incalculable. Beyond the saddles, rakes, bags of feed, there is the mystical plane of SCR. Each day, hundreds of people come here to experience the magic of the horses, as well as each other. Each day immeasurable experiences take place that spread across these 7+ acres. While I might "own" the stable, in truth SCR has a life of its own. Lisa's arrival was quite unplanned, and yet it seems inconceivable of what these last 12 years would have been without her. She has literally played an invaluable role in the thousands of people that have crossed the front gates of SCR. And with that same self directed life that is SCR, it is time for her to continue her journey outside the gates of the stable.

Who are these new owners of the tack store? Like you I know very little about Michiko and Wade Wright. What will they be like? Will they fit into Serrano? There is one thing that is true, that each year Serrano becomes a better place, because of the actions of all those who have come earlier. And to that end, the right people are attracted at the right time. Just like how Lisa was attracted to the stable, a fleeting 12 years ago.



We would like to take a few minutes of your time to review the alcohol and drug policy of the stable.

Safety is always paramount. And to that end, having split second reactions in response dangerous conditions is paramount. Even with minor consumption, the central nervous system is significantly slowed down. Everyone who has been around horses for any length of time has at least one story about how they just missed getting injured badly.

When you are at the stable, your actions not only affect you, but it is inevitable that there is another horse close by. Intoxication on any level not only impairs your reactions, but the ability to make sound judgments is diminished. Your actions have tremendous effects on others.

Alcohol and drugs have no place around horses. As each one of us comes to the stable, we have the right to spend the next few hours in the safest possible environment. If you have enjoyed "a cool one" in the past, now is the time to change that habit. Going forward we ask you refrain from drinking when at the stable. If this proves difficult for you, the coarsest truth is that you will be promptly asked to leave the stable should it be learned that you are drinking or providing to others alcohol / drugs. Safety is just too important!

Over the years it seems, (well not seems, is true), that the number and size of trailers has exploded. At one time there were only a few of the Queen Mary's docked at Serrano, now we look like the port of Long Beach. Arriving in the early morning I expect to see, stevedores warming there hands over fires built in barrels.

This all results in a parking congestion that would make any cardiac surgeon get excited. If the trailers were parked in an organized manner, much more space would be opened up for car parking.

As a remedy we will be trying an experiment placing fiberglass stakes to delineate each parking space. The stakes are normally used along the sides of roadways, and are designed to give, and even bend over if hit hard enough. The first trial will be with the trailers that are across from the 24' x 24's. The old rotted ground posts will be removed and stakes will be put in place. If this looks acceptable, we'll then move to the front to do the same.



Some initial trailer parking concepts were later abandoned after a detailed cost / benefit analysis was completed.