



## Serrano Creek Ranch **Equestrian Center**

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Our staff of ace reporters, photographers and editors have compile this special issue for your summer reading pleasure. Relax, put the feet up and enjoy!

Stable management in it's infinite wisdom (wait that's redundant!), has some alternatives that you may consider for your stall bedding.

Compost: This is the same material that has passed through the composting process. material has been pasteurized for 4-5 days above 150 degrees, and 7-8 days above 135 degrees. One cart of compost is equivalent to two bags of shavings. This is because the compost is twice as dense as shavings (which have a significant amount of air space in a bag). At \$1.83 per cart as compared to \$19.90 for 2 bags, compost is 1/10 the cost.

Reclaimed Rock: In the normal daily cleaning of the stalls; small amounts of gravel is picked up. This material then must be screened out of the compost before it can be sold to the public. What we get is a mixture of bird's eye gravel and the larger wood chip from the shavings. This make a great hole filler for stalls, and yet stays soft for the summer. The reclaimed rock sells for \$5.05 per cart. This is 1/3 the cost of new rock (bird's eye) that we put in for the winterization process. This is an excellent way to keep your stall level through the summer, and greatly reducing the amount of rock needed for winterization.

Shavings Bags: Effective June 1st, the stable as well as the tack store will sell shavings.

The stable will bring the shavings to your stall and

empty the bags (if you wish). For the sake of efficiency, we'll be making a single daily delivery. The exact time will be determined after a few months of activity. If you need shavings this minute, remember that the tack store is there to meet your shavings needs as well..

Each of your devoted stable employees has an order form on their carts. If you fill it out and hand it to them, they'll bring your order to you on the shavings / compost/ gravel round. Of course you may also call, email, or visit the office, and we'll fill out the order form for you. Price per bag \$9.95 plus tax. As a gentle reminder, now that the stable selling shavings, please don't let the gravitational forces of the black hole that is the shavings storage area draw you in. There have been a few who have ventured too close to the shavings event horizon, and have never been seen again! Please no helping yourself.

"The road to hell is paved with adverbs"

-Stephen King

Over the years, trucks have destroyed a large section of road that leads from the compost area, along the back arena, and then ending at the creek. In the last few years, we've filled the holes with gravel, but this last winter it was more holes than asphalt. The mess of mud and ruts that form with each rain has become intolerable.

To correct this problem we'll be installing a paving system that is made up of small concrete blocks. This will provide a hard surface to allow trucks to move in all weather conditions. Also because there are many joints, it provides a rougher surface than asphalt. The idea being that if a horse's slips, it will slide until it hits a grout line.

Because the process is a "one piece at a time", we can do exact grading. This will allow us to reduce the angles of the ramps that leads into the gate of the back arena, and stalls #150-160. The work will be done as time allows, (taking from now through the summer months). There will be days that the "loop" will be closed, but at night it will always be open. If you are planning to "loop", look for a sign by the front gate to see if the road is closed.

The fly population has really jump early this year. Even though we're doing everything the same as years past, the fly population is not being held in check. To keep any end-of-the world prophesies from coming true, we are instituting additional control efforts. Beside the our normal fly eating wasps we release, we've installed fly traps throughout the stable. Predator. These traps work on similar principle as raves. The hot, louder, and nastier these get, the more the youth flies are attracted. Think of the traps as a fly Coachella Festival.

Secondly we are covering the manure / compost piles with a breathable fabric. This will block access to the hotels rooms manure pile that

facilitates an environment for flies to do their conjugal thing

With flies there seem to be a tipping point where populations can get out of hand. Just a slight increase in control methods and reverse this trend with great results. We started these changes in late May, and we should see significant improvement by mid June

You may have notices that there is a grey trash dumpster by the bags of compost. This is in fact a recycling bin that allows recycled materials the stable generates to be keep out of the land fill. If you have bottles, paper, or metal your welcomed to put them in this bin. Unlike the green dumpster that we pay for, the grey bin is emptied free of charge. It's important that this bin not be used for trash, as we don't want to loose this benefit.

A couple issues we'd like to remind you of. The first is speeding in the stable. We've clocked (and would like to clock) some folk doing AT LEAST 30 MPH! It is universally accepted that kids, horses, and racing cars aren't a good mix.

Second is a reminder of the late pay policy. The reason most businesses fail is that they carry high debt. The stable has worked hard over the years to put itself on very safe ground financially. Going into this recession, SCR has no debt, and is able to meet all its bills and payroll in a timely manner. We are also able to continue to make the stable a better facility such as the current paving project and ongoing fire prevention program.

To make this work, it is imperative that the stable not become a bank. The only TARPs we want are to cover the hay. Going forward we are re affirming out payment policy as:

1st of month board due.
11th of month board is late
20th of month late notice is mailed
If no communication has taken place with the office, the horse is locked beginning the first of the second month1st day of next month horse is locked