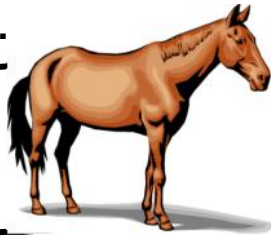


Notes from....

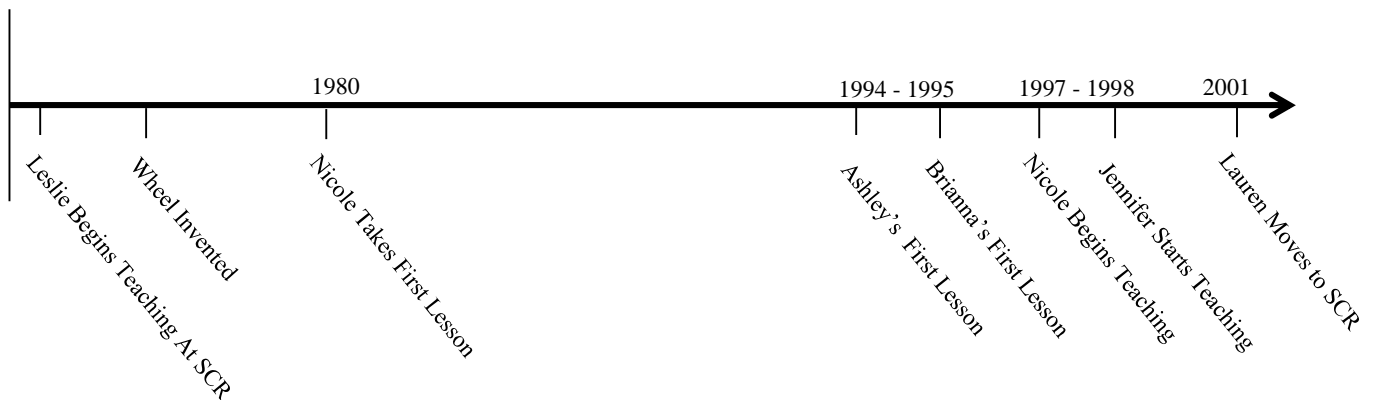


# Serrano Creek Ranch Equestrian Center

MAY 2011

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Just a mere 30 years ago a young girl named Nikki wondered onto the stable grounds enquiring about lessons. She took a few from a then new trainer that had just started by the name of Leslie Thomson. From there horses and Nikki became inseparable. Back then her last name was Mannix, today its Rivera.

Fast forward to 1997; corporate life at Taco Bell had lost its salsa, and now Nicole returns to her roots as a beginning western trainer here at SCR. Over the past 14 years Nicole has built a very successful lesson program, and has gone on to become a winning gymkhana trainer. Along the way she exposed many young and fresh riders to the joys of horses. One of her most successful students has been her daughter Taylor. In a short time Taylor has moved up the ranks of rodeo riders, most often placing at or near first.

Now with her Taylor doing so well (that means another generation) Nicole is entering into a new chapter in her life. Normally when you read "new chapter" it's a euphemism for retirement or business / career failure . In this case it really is an advancement. One of the silver linings of collapsing

real estate prices is that dreams that were until recently just dreams, now are an affordable reality. Nicole has always dreamed of having her own training facility, and living the total horse experience. With that in mind, she has purchased a beautiful 5 acre facility in Murietta. As a result, May will be her last month here at Serrano.

Nicole has always brought wonderful energy, and has taught literally hundreds the love of horses. All those years, her passion has never diminished. It remains as energetic today as when she first started.

What makes a stable is literally the people. Because of Nicole's love for horses, we are blessed with many of her students moving into ownership. These folks are some of the most caring, supportive, and generous of our little horse world. She always attracted very positive and compassionate students- just like herself. We wish her luck as she moves from trainer to stable owner. There's no doubt that she'll be just as successful in this next endeavor as she has been while here.

# Save This Date!

The old adage that “the only constant is change” is true. Just as we say goodbye to Nicole, we have another “home grown” who is making a transition. Like the 9 year old Nicole, a very young Ashley Tilton, took her first lessons seventeen years ago. Since that time Ashley has dedicated herself to her love of horses by apprenticing with three trainers, riding with other trainers outside of Serrano, as well as becoming the nutrition expert under Lisa when Lisa had the tack store. Now Ms. Martin, Ashley, is ready to strike out on her own. With such a wide experience base, it’s time for her to stand on her own. Ashley could have gone anywhere, but we’re lucky that because of her love of Serrano, she chose SCR for her professional home.

Besides her training, Ashley is host of the series of lectures in the classroom. June’s will be on lameness, and will feature farrier Rick Fleming. See below further for more details.

Her last few years of “polishing” were under the tutelage of Jennifer Reynen. With Ashley going alone, this has created an opportunity for Stephanie Smith to move into a greater role as an assistant to Jennifer. Jennifer will continue her successful program.

With Nicole’s departure, much of the beginner Western lessons will be taken over by the team Brianna Leahy (started here at age 6) and Lauren Cirignano who work under Leslie. They are also planning camps for the summer. Lauren will be doing some basic English as well. Both are very capable instructors who do well under the tutelage of Leslie.

How wonderful we are that the new crop of trainers feel that Serrano remains their home. That’s a real testament to the caliber of all the folks that make up Serrano, both past and present.

The second in the A. Martin Equine Science Series will feature “A Farrier’s Perspective on Hoof Anatomy, Lameness, and Corrective Shoeing”. Here’s your chance to get a good grounding on the role a farrier plays in keeping your horse healthy and active. An extended question and answer period will follow to allow for in depth discussions.

A Couple of items . . .

- To date we’ve received only 2 inquiries for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The entry is due shortly, so we need to know if there’s going to be enough, (at least 6-8 total) to submit. If you’re sitting on the fence, please decide.
- Next tack sale has been scheduled for June 25th. See Susie in the office for more information. Get all your stuff ready.
- Summer is fast approaching so get in the habit of checking your horse’s waterer. We try to watch them, but extra eyes are all the better.
- The best defense is a strong offense. With all the concern about the viruses, be sure that your horse’s immune system is at its best. Check with your vet for any precautions that you might take. The store carries vitamin C as well as Equisano, both of which are wonderful products for the immune system.