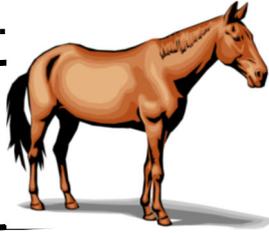


Notes from....



Serrano Creek Ranch Equestrian Center

DECEMBER 2018

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Well, well. . . . it seems that another year is drawing to a close. Looking back these 12 months, it was an excellent year for the stables.

We have really made

some pretty substantial improvements.

We continued on our multi-year lighting upgrade project. Prominent on this list was the lighting of the central area pipe stalls. This year's installation is a testament to the fantastic new LED products that have recently come on the market. Before their arrival, our only alternative (that was economical) was to hit the area with big floodlights. However, because of the shelters, much of the stalls would have been in the shadows. Until just recently, this central area was the black hole of the stable for the last 30+ years. Now the light of the LED strings bathes the horses with a friendly, even glow making evenings a really pleasant experience.

We are also continuing with the arena lighting conversion from the orangy sodium lights, to the much whiter LED's. The changeover has allowed us also to increase the number of lumens (meaning brighter light) the arenas receive. We have received the lights to finish the back arena, but our busy schedule has kept us from installing them. We plan to have the back arena changed out by the end of January. From there, we will head towards the front arena and bull pen. Lastly, we added nice LED lighting in the front patio area as part of this area's repairs.

All these lighting projects make the stable a more enjoyable and accessible facility for those who wish to enjoy their horses in the evening. With all this increased lighting, one would expect our electric bill to soar. However, because we are using more and more LED fixtures over outdated fixtures, our actual usage has decreased by 15%.

This effort will portend to be a great benefit in the years to come. That's because historically the Southland's highest demand (and highest priced) electricity is during the hot summer days. However, the stable's highest need for electricity is the opposite because most of our usage is for evening outdoor lighting. So, our high demand was countercyclical (longer winter evenings), which meant the rates we paid were off-peak (i.e., cheaper).

With a large number of solar panels being installed at a rapid pace, the historical peak demand for those hot daytime hours is being ameliorated by the additional electricity produced from all those rooftop systems. This also means that when the sun goes down, less electricity is produced. Hence evening off-peak rates will be less cheaper than as was previously the case. By having the most energy efficient night lighting available, SCR will be more insulated from the coming nighttime rate increases.

We made every effort to save our white tractor that had a blown engine. Because of its age, we searched for months to find replacement parts. Unfortunately, they were either too expensive or impossible to find. Sadly, we had to say goodbye to a loyal member of the SCR family for the past 16



years. In October, we took delivery of a new Kubota tractor. The advantage is that we now have a more fuel-efficient, modern piece of equipment. Also noteworthy is that we now can use our various implements on two tractors rather than one. Lastly, having a working second tractor allows our staff to be much more efficient by permitting two work efforts rather than one.

Another big project was our video camera installation. Like the LED lighting, significant advances in camera technology has resulted in considerable cost reductions. Using many great YouTube videos, your dedicated SCR team was able to install the system at a fraction of the cost of using an outside vendor. While no camera system is perfect, we are now able to see the main areas of the stable.

During office hours, our staff can easily see the activities without having to walk around. When the office is closed, we are still able to log in to the system and observe what's going on from anywhere in the world. An unexpected benefit is that we can now solve many he said/she said arguments with the ability to review the recorded video footage.

On December 7th, we paid a mixed farewell to Lauren, her staff, and clients, as they returned to their home. It was sad to see her and her clients leave with all their positivity. However, we all understood the desire to return home after being gone away for so long. Who would have thought that Peacock would have to overcome so many natural and human obstacles to rebuild their stable? Congratulations for all that have endured such trials. Over the 14 months that Cheval was here, they had nothing but praise for their treatment while at SCR. It made me proud that when "duty" calls, we all pitched in without an iota of hesitation or complaint.

Looking forward to 2019, we'll see some investment in our landscaping. We will be adding new ash trees in spots (being careful not to put them where they will become chew toys) that will provide shade for those hot months.

Also during this year, we've been fabricating and testing our new arena vacuum that will suck up dust from the footing. Once in use, it will reduce the amount of water that is required for dust mitigation. Next year it will be ready for use. Our goal is to achieve at least a 15% reduction in the amount of water. In 2018 we achieved a similar 15% reduction as a result of improvements to our cloud-based irrigation controller. Combining this and next



year's efficiencies, we hope to see an annual savings of 400,000 gallons!

While all the above are technical improvements, in the end, it is enthusiasm and positivity of our little community that makes Serrano such a unique place. Just look at the efforts that Lois, Jan, and Megan have done over the years to solicit donations to give in honor of the hard work of the SCR staff at year's end. Their multiple Saturday morning coffee and baked goods events are much appreciated by both boarders and ultimately the staff. This year they raised \$4,290, or \$390 for each employee here at the stable. A Job well done!

When I meet folks outside the stable and tell them what I do, inevitably the reaction is "how lucky you are." Seeing their response, it is always a good reminder of how right they are! Having the opportunity for all of us to work and play on these 7 acres in the heart of Orange County is quite a gift. Here's to another great year!



The executive fundraising team of Lois, Jan, and Megan, taking a well deserved break!