



Reflections on '06 & Projections for '07

Joell Dunlap, Executive Director

Our Mission Statement was designed to be simple:
To turn "I wish" into "I can."

Our Motto is similarly brief:
EveryOne Fits.

If I can remember these two very simple statements, I can grow with Square Pegs in 2007 and beyond.

Growth is a struggle for all of us. Just when we get comfortable with a new skill or a new schedule, it's time to adapt or grow with it. It's a challenge to grow and still retain Square Peg's spirit. This is why I need to constantly go back to the core values that make Square Pegs such a special place. I invite you all to come and grow with us.

As we look forward to growing and improving what we do, it's important to stop and appreciate what we have done. 2006 will be a year to remember as a time of great change for Square Pegs. We moved to a fantas-



tic new location, we hired employees and we raised more money than in the previous two years combined. Needless to say, we learned a lot. We waved goodbye to some old friends and we made lots of new friends. 2007 has already been another year of great change with much more in store. This year will see more growth, more horses, new programs and the same joie de vivre that we have had from the beginning.

This is my personal goal for this new year: Stop and enjoy what we have built at Square Pegs and let the team of students, volunteers, staff and directors share in the magic that we have created.

Humbly, Joell

HORSE NEWS

Since the last newsletter, two of our horses have had very close calls. Both are now healing well and we cannot possibly thank our veterinary crew enough for their amazing dedication to our horse

Square Pegs 2006

1,400+ *lessons*

150 *students*

2,000 *hours volunteered*





friends - most notably Peninsula Equine Hospital and Dr. Gary Haines and our own dear Dr. Ashton Cloninger.

In October, **Dohlman** was severely kicked in a pasture accident while he was taking a break from the lesson schedule. His extensor tendon on his front leg was completely severed and the injury had invaded the fetlock joint. Joint infections in horses are often fatal and the outlook was grim.

Through the generosity of Dave Lawson and Jim Nickoff, we were able to make the immediate decision to try surgery. Even then, the road

to recovery was long for Big-D, and the kids were wonderful in helping and had a great time signing his cast. **Dohlman** continues to recover slowly and steadily and is back to his antics of entertaining the barn.

Last month, our lovely **Gigi** cut her throat on the fence in the pasture. It was a severe cut, reaching from under her jaw all the way to her throat. Once again, Dr Ashton came running and spent almost 4 hours on his feet in the freezing cold cleaning out the wound and stitching up our girl. It will be several weeks before **Gigi** can wear a halter or bridle, but she has managed to fight off infection so far. Dr. Ashton thinks there will be a nasty scar, but nothing more. Whew!

Legacy has been a cornerstone of the Square Pegs Program. This year, Legs turned 33 and we made the very difficult decision to retire him to our friend Carol Rousseau's farm in Tunitas Canyon. Legacy is thoroughly enjoying his retirement and we visit him often. Legacy will be featured in next month's Riding Magazine as horse of the month!

As for new arrivals, I hope you have the pleasure to meet **Willa**, our latest arrival. She's on loan from the Stanford Polo club and all those who have ridden her and taken care of her are already in love. Willa has a strange habit of carrying her head extremely low and seems to have some back pain. Willa is in her 20's, sports a racing tattoo (so we know she's a Thoroughbred) and is currently undergoing quite a bit of body work from the amazing Jacquie Becker of International Pony Rubs. She's as gentle as can be and is still up for a rousing chukkar of

polo.





EVENT SCHEDULE

This just in! Square Peg Event committee has decided that we will host 4 events each year

- Spring Variety Show
- Summer BBQ
- Fall Open House
- Winter Gala

Please contact us right away if you are interested in helping with any or all of these events!

Remember, we can't do it without your help!



Then there is **Tina**. We can't even say her name around here without a big smile. Tina is an Argentine polo mare (50% Thoroughbred and 50% Criollo) and has played polo all over this fine state. She's on loan to us by a local polo player and we are hoping beyond hope that **Tina** stays with us for a very long time.



Sugar and Feathers:

donated to us by Lew and Jeanee Conner of Sprague River Oregon and sponsored by the Frole family. These mares have been like family to me for a good part of my life. Those of you who knew Silky, in our lesson program (now owned and loved by the ladies of Wildfair Ranch) will recognize that **Sugar** is Silky's Mom. **Feathers** is part of the original breeding herd of Cracker Jack Ranch with a pedigree that reads like a who's who of California Quarter Horse Breeding. Both of these gals are in their 20's and both have



stepped right into the jobs of teaching beginners and more advanced students.

Buddy: This amazing horse was here at our new ranch way before we were. We have the honor of using Buddy in our program on weekends through the generosity of his owner, Ms. Ruthie Palmer. **Buddy's** spirit and vigor makes him a wonderful challenge to those hearty souls who long for a gallop in the woods. He's also learning to jump and seems to love it. Thank you Ruthie!



Finally, let's not forget **Jag**, who is owned by Melanie Barker of Belmont, Ca. **Jag** is young and handsome, and came to Square Pegs as a training project. We instantly fell in love with Jag and with his owner too! **Jag** is a super smooth trail horse and is learning quickly how to be a wonderful horse in the arena. He's the little Bart Simpson of the barn - begging for treats and kisses

and inciting every horse to play with him. Welcome to Square Pegs, Melanie and Jag.



Open House Review



The October Cookie and Cider Social was a hit in all respects. This event was COMPLETELY donor and volunteer funded and I'd like to thank everyone who helped make it a success. From the ladies in the kitchen, to the kids who worked so hard getting their horses looking so fantastic, you all did an amazing job. Special thanks to Bill and Ground Gliders for providing the Segways!

We visited with some parents that we hadn't seen for awhile, met some of our neighbors as well as some curious locals. We enjoyed showing the place to friends and donors of Square Pegs who hadn't seen the new facility. Our next event is the Variety Show on April 11 at the beautiful Mezza Luna in Princeton. See the insert story for more details.

Fundraising Report

'Tis Grant writing season and we have a fantastic team that is experienced and motivated. This year, we have very generous support from Giant Steps Foundation and several family foundations in the area. We couldn't do what we do without this kind of support. Next year we will need more if we're to build and improve our program.

The Square Peg Foundation is growing and that means new instruction staff and office help. We have big plans to expand our collaboration programs and purchase a truck and trailer so that we can start taking kids and horses on overnight trips. Facility improvements such as

lights in the arena, replacing the three-stall barn, purchasing jumps and upgrading our tack and equipment will improve the quality, scope and safety of our program.

If you are interested in joining our Grants team, don't delay! Call or email the ranch today!



Square Peg Variety Show

Coming your way April 11!

What: Variety Show a la Square Peg. World Class Music, Comedy & More!

Where: Mezza Luna Restaurant, 459 Prospect Way, Princeton By the Sea 650.728-8108

When: Wed. April 11 from 7:30 to 10:00 pm

How Much: tickets are just \$20 Space is very limited for this event, so reserve your tickets right away.

Watch your email for the official invite or check our website at

www.everyonefits.org for ticket and more information about the event.

Bring a friend!

Just a Horse

by M. Adelia Ramey

From time to time, people tell me, "Lighten up, it's just a horse", or, "That's a lot of money just for a horse".

They do not understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a horse". Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a horse".

Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a horse", but I did not once feel slighted.

"Just a horse" has brought some of my saddest moments about, and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a horse" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day.

If you, too, think it's "just a horse", then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend", "just a sunrise", or "just a promise".

"Just a horse" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy.

"Just a horse" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a horse", I will rise early, take long walks, and look longingly to the future.

So for me and folks like me, it is not "just a horse" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a horse" brings out what is good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it is not "just a horse" but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a woman".

Therefore, the next time you hear the phrase "just a horse" just smile, because they "just" do not understand.

Volunteer Spotlight

SIGOURNEY JELLINS

Many of you who have been around the barn know and love Sigourney. She came to Square Pegs from Volunteer Match in 2005. Late last year Sigourney adopted Poppy from us and the two are a fixture around here. The following is a quote from one of Sigourney's college application essays:



"At Square Peg the main objectives are for riders to find power and strength within themselves, and to feel confident and proud of what they learn in each lesson. When I began volunteering for Square Peg, I realized the value of this goal and was eager to contribute, but I did not anticipate the life changing effect it would have on me. I have spent much of my life learning how to ride and competing in three-day eventing, and hunter-jumpers. Always the fearless and determined rider, I would gallop my horse through the sprinklers in the arena bareback, jumping any obstacle in my path. However, in the cutthroat and costly world of the "A Circuit" I never found a barn where I felt at home. Although the barns where I rode or kept my horse provided excellent instruction, most trainers were concerned with how much money their clients were willing to spend on their next horse. Discouraged by the unethical side of competitive riding, I came to realize that what I truly enjoyed about horses was hanging out at the barn, taking care of them. Finding Square Peg, I discovered a group of people who loved simply being around horses as much as I do. I now have the privilege of helping others discover the activity that brings me so much joy. I have finally found my niche, a little red barn in the hills, a place where "Everyone fits"



**Square Peg Bulletin Board:
Sharing Photos and Quotes. Enjoy**

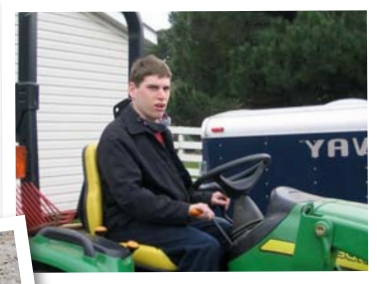
Wish List

Please search your heart and your garage and see if any of these items are something you can donate to Square Pegs. Your donations are tax deductible as allowable by law.

- Truck and Horse Trailer



- 4 ton grain silo
- tack
- tack trucks
- [Nalgene water bottles](#)
- [equine wall charts](#)
- bathroom supplies cleaning supplies
- art supplies
- [horse books and videos](#)
- BBQ
- computers (Mac OS)
- [horse clippers](#)
- [arena lights](#)
- [paving tiles](#) for the barn aisle
- planter boxes and flowers
- patio furniture
- adjustable fit [helmets](#)
- shovels, pitchforks and wheelbarrows
- [jumps](#)
- polo equipment



Quote

“The greatest gifts you can give your children are the roots of responsibility and the wings of independence.”

Denis Waitley