

# Square Peg Ranch Newsletter

Summer 2008 has come and gone with memories to share.

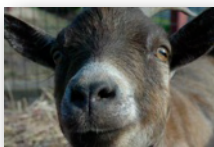
photo by allison ward

Issue #7 Fall 2008  
A Call to Action

**Open House Sunday  
October 12**

Join us at the ranch for Open House. Everybody's favorite event!

Page 2



**Looking Forward &  
Looking Back**

Square Peg Ranch pays tribute to some new friends, some old friends and some that we will never see again.

Page 3

**Polo Clinic at CTETA**

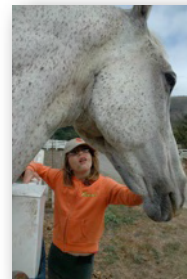
The Polo Training Foundation and the HorsePark at Woodside have teamed up to help us with one of the most fun events yet! Don't miss it - October 25 and 26.

Page 4

**Wish List**

Check and see if you can donate items to keep our programs working.

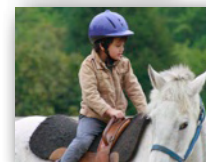
Page 5



**Guest  
Column**

A Safe and Sane Haven. By our own Meghan Halverson

Page 6



Square Peg needs your help in order to continue this work. [Please donate](#) or volunteer.

SQUARE PEG RANCH 2399 PURISIMA CREEK ROAD, HALF MOON BAY, CA 94019 [WWW.EVERYONEFITS.ORG](http://WWW.EVERYONEFITS.ORG)

## Ranch reflections....

Another magical summer has come and gone.

This summer was big for me. I turned 40, travelled to Europe for the first time, sat at the dinner table with a hero of mine, Ms. Billy Jean King. I mean - Wow! I learned a lot.

Once again, I was reminded that learning and growth are things that happen when you least expect them.

The horses and the students learn patience, not when I nag them to wait, but rather when they observe patience and the rewards that it reaps. They learn new skills when their minds and bodies are quiet enough to explore new territory and take risks. I continue to learn compassion and bravery from the people and animals that grace our little farm.

The humility that is learned when the instructor listens rather than lectures is a gift that I receive whenever I am quiet - and those of you who know me, realize that I am hardly ever quiet...

This year saw the closing of historic Bay Meadows Racetrack. This is an important part of my past where I



**QUOTE:** *"The difference between what we do and what we are capable of doing would suffice to solve most of the world's problems" -Gandhi*

spent many years learning how fragile and magnificent race horses are.

As a result of the closing, we have never had to turn down so many horses as we have this last year. And I fear it's going to get even worse; the economic downturn in the country, the changes to local public

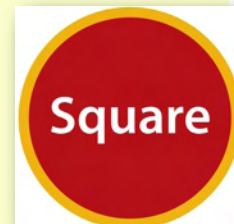
lands that create uncertainty about placement of hundreds of horses on the coast, the possible closing of the Cow Palace. All these things and more have created a sense of worry in the local horse community. Often, I have to remind myself that the best way to address the need for homes for all these unwanted horses is to provide the best home that we can for the horses in our care.

I welcome your help in this venture.

As we move into autumn, I will bring with me the lessons of summer and the memories of carefree afternoons with the horses and the kids in the redwoods.

Please join us for Open House on Sunday October 12 and for our first ever collaboration with the Polo Training Foundation and the HorsePark at Woodside (and a bit of extra help from our friends at the Stanford Polo Club) for our Polo Clinic on October 25 and 26!

In deepest gratitude,  
joell





# Open House Sunday, Oct. 12

*It's the perfect time of year for us to get together with our neighbors, friends and the community to show you what Square Peg Ranch is all about. We'll have cookies and cider and a costume parade with the kids and horses. It's FREE so bring some friends and join us for a magical afternoon at the ranch.*

*E-mail us if you have any questions or want to help out with the event.*



## The Details

**\*WHAT:** Fresh local cider, homemade cookies, a costume parade of kids and horses.

**\*WHY:** To raise community awareness of Square Peg Ranch, our work and volunteer opportunities.

To meet and greet other students and volunteers, and to show off our horses to all our friends!

**\*WHEN:** Sunday, October 12 from 2pm to 6pm.

**\*WHERE:** Square Peg Ranch  
2399 Purisima Creek Road, Half Moon Bay  
(3.2 miles east of Hwy 1) .

**\*COST:** IT'S FREE! SO BRING FRIENDS

[www.everyonefits.org](http://www.everyonefits.org)

*Using a variety of rescued and donated horses, Square Pegs offers an adaptive horsemanship program based on the needs and abilities of each individual student. Please join us in our mission:*

*To turn "I wish" into "I can!"*



by joell

**Goodbye to Buddy**

Buddy was beset by colic suddenly on August 6. When it was clear that he was suffering terribly, our dear friend Ruthie Palmer made the heavy decision to end her best friend's pain. Buddy will always be remembered as a perky soul with an adventurous heart and impeccable manners. We grieve with Ruthie in losing Buddy.



**Hello to Hurricane Fran**

Some horses, like good friends, reappear in your life time and again. Ten years ago, when I was retraining racehorses out of Park Pacifica Stables, I had the pleasure of knowing a young and feisty brown Thoroughbred named Fran and his owner, Kelly Engle, who rode him bravely and loved him fiercely. Several years later, when Kelly was off to school at UC Berkeley, Kelly asked me if I could use Fran in our riding school. Kelly had done such a lovely job of training Fran and he was now a solid, dependable horse with a fantastic jump. I was thrilled and Fran worked in the school helping many of my students learn to ride. Fast forward to 2008 and Kelly has donated her noble equine friend to Square Pegs to teach yet another generation of riders the joy of riding. Last week, when Fran arrived, I was blown away when he seemed to recognize his one-time girlfriend Gigi from across the farm. Both Kelly and I knew then that Fran was "home." Please join me in welcoming a fantastic horse to our program and our family.

**Hello to Trots and Sox!** This gentle pony has earned oodles of ribbons and trophies over a varied and busy show career. Our pal Heidi Gaian, of [Villa Rosa Dressage](#) has generously offered us the opportunity to allow this lovely fella into our Square Peg Family. He's already made a lot of friends around here and we hope that you will join us in welcoming him to the ranch.



**Hello to "House Music" aka Theo.** Instructor Sigourney Jellins, who is always up for a challenge, decided to take on another OTTB project (because carrying a full load of classes at UC Berkeley, teaching at Square Pegs and training her other young Tb prospect "Poppy" wasn't quite enough). Enter House Music, a beautiful black Tb gelding from the barn of Jeanne Shand and Dennis Ward. "Theo" as we call him around the barn, is already a wonderful trail horse and a promising jumper. We hope to see him make his polo debut at our Polo Clinic on October 25 and 26.



**Goodbye to Susan "Susie" Zielinski:** Susie was a student and a friend who we lost to a long battle with cancer this last month. We will never forget her smile and her laughter. You can read Susie's husband's blog about their battle [here](#). As a tribute, our friend Serena DeVito composed this letter from Susie's equine buddy Jag:

Dear Susie,  
 This is your friend Jag - I miss you and our rides together. The Boss said that you were very sick and couldn't come to ride anymore, and then said that you had passed away and that you were running with the red fox. I don't know what this means but it sounds fun - I am very good at running and together we can run very fast (much faster than a fox).  
 I miss seeing your face light up when you come to Square Peg - and the way that you laugh when I'm naughty and hug me when I'm good. You are the nicest, smiliest person I've ever met. Hopefully one day we can run through the woods together again (and I promise not to let you fall off).  
 Missing You,  
 Jag  
 PS - everyone else misses you as well - even the silly goats.

**Hello to "Will Daisy Do!"** Daisy arrived from Brian Koriner's barn at Santa Anita with a cracked tibia and a face that we instantly fell in love with. Daisy has healed well and has begun retraining with Greg. She's already been on her first trail rides and we look forward to watching this sweet young filly bloom. Daisy's arrival coincided with the tragedy at the Kentucky Derby. You can read more of the story [here](#) as it was published in the San Francisco Chronicle.

**Best of Luck to Broadway.** Kim McBride, Katherine and Julia Walker sent lovely Broadway to our friends at the [Red Rock Hunt](#). Broadway is making a smash hit with the gals at Red Rock and is loving his new job!

# LEARN TO PLAY POLO

# A TWO-DAY CLINIC OCT. 25 & 26



### THE DETAILS:

**WHEN:** Saturday classes at 8am, 10am, noon and 4pm  
 Sunday Tournament starts at 10am

**WHERE:** THE HORSE PARK POLO CLUB ARENA  
 3674 SAND HILL ROAD, WOODSIDE ,CALIFORNIA

**SPACE IS LIMITED**

**REGISTER EARLY VIA [EMAIL](#) TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT**

**KIDS (AGE 10 AND OLDER) AND ADULTS ARE BOTH WELCOME**

### Clinic Includes:

- Professional instruction from Wilbur O’Ferrall of the Polo Training Foundation.
- Introducing you and your horse to the game, the mallet and the rules.
- “Chalk Talk” discussion on rules, penalties and strategies of the game.
- Time in the HPPC Hitting Cage to learn how to manage the mallet and get the most out of your swing.
- The opportunity to watch the Stanford Polo Club practice. Meet the players!
- Mallets and balls

### You provide:

- a sense of humor and eagerness to learn!
- helmet and eye protection for you
- leg protection for your horse
- an English-style saddle
- \* The horsepark has a limited number of stalls available for overnight stabling. Contact [Joell@squarepegfoundation.org](mailto:Joell@squarepegfoundation.org) for reservations.

\*



## You and Your Horse Can Learn POLO!

Square Peg Foundation has teamed up with the Horse Park Polo Club and the Polo Training Foundation to bring you an opportunity that can't be missed!

Saturday's classes will be split into 4 groups of similar experience and ability.

Sunday we will make teams and have a real polo tournament. Spectators are welcomed and encouraged!

## October 25 and 26, 2008

**COST: This is a fundraiser for Square Peg Foundation. A \$150 donation is suggested.**



# Wish List

*The support of the local community is essential for Square Pegs to do the work we do. Please browse this list and see if there is anything you are able to contribute.*

**Square** Apples and Pears! It's that time of year again and we just want to reiterate that we will take your bruised fruit from your trees! The horses love the apples and pears that your family can't use!

**Square** Parts for our ranch truck (Ford F250). Contact [Greg](#) if you can help get "Brown Stallion" back on the road.

**Square** Assistance in rewiring and repairing the brakes on our horse trailer.

**Square** Digital Camera (ours has gone missing).

**Square** Tack (in good condition)

**Square** Building supplies; lumber, decomposed granite, sand, gravel

**Square** Tack trunks & storage bins

**Square** Grass/flower/vegetable seed

**Square** Equine wall charts

**Square** Eco-friendly laundry, bathroom and cleaning products

**Square** Art supplies

**Square** Horse books and videos

**Square** BBQ Grill

**Square** Computers (Mac OS)

**Square** Horse clippers

**Square** Solar-powered outdoor lights

**Square** Paving tiles for the barn aisle

**Square** Planter boxes and flowers

**Square** Horse Blanket Repair

**Square** Adjustable fit helmets

**Square** Hay and Feed Cart

**Square** Shovels, pitchforks, wheelbarrows

**Square** Jumps

**Square** Polo equipment

**Square** Carrots!

**Square** Cat food

**Square** All-natural fly sprays such as Larry's or Eqyss Marigold Spray

**Square** Wood chips

**Square** Automatic Waterers

**Square** Equine Senior Feed

**Square** Shredded Beet Pulp

*The Square Peg Foundation is a registered 501(c)(3) corporation.*

*All donations are tax-deductible as allowable by law.*

S Q U A R E P E G R A N C H 6 5 0 . 2 8 4 . 5 0 6 4



## GUEST COLUMN

### A Safe and Sane Haven

By Meghan Halverson

When I first returned from England to once again live in the Bay Area, I searched for a place where my daughters could be around horses and possibly ride a bit too. I read about the "Square Peg Foundation" and said to myself, "This is definitely the place for us!!!!!!" That was back in the winter of last year and it actually took me quite awhile to actually get there and become a part of it all this summer! My pace had slowed while overseas and it took me longer to set things in motion, much to the chagrin of my youngest daughter, Sarah. The busyness of life was evident in my life and I was forever trying to slow things down, but how? I guess I found my answer by getting involved myself and becoming a part of what is so present here at the ranch. Now I can say, it was so worth the wait and patience is what Square Peg is all about!

Joell Dunlap is the picture of patience and grace and we have been so blessed by her spirit! She mirrors the wisdom of her herd and her language goes beyond words to the deeper core of the heart of learning. Horses respond, goats respond, children respond and it is beautiful to watch it all unfold. Her son, Greg, has been a joy to get to know as well. He has re-directed Sarah and got her attention and his ability to get everyone working is brilliant. Sigourney is a breath of fresh air and I am so grateful for her kindness.

My daughters have had their challenges and I watch them grow and change just by "being" in this beautiful place. They have had to work harder than ever and for the most part have done it with a smile. It has given them a greater sense of purpose and belonging and the conversations and questions have been



incredible. Sarah has found "her place" and is realizing that she can succeed if she tries a bit harder. She is dreamy and in love with ALL that the ranch has to offer. Sometimes she can be found leaning against Gigi or Willa in her own little world full of horse happiness! Today she decided that she is ready to canter again and was planted in the middle of the ring during lessons to carefully study WHO was best to try this with. Her decision came and it was Fran, a new gelding that had arrived this week, that she had her eye on. She was very quick to let Joell know that this was her wish! I am not sure if she will be on Fran or Willa or someone else, but I am sure that she is determined to do it!

Rachel has come to be efficient and knowledgeable and has really enjoyed her lessons. She has said that she doesn't mind the work TOO much because it lets her "BE" with the horses and that is a gift in itself.

I have come to look forward to the chatter on the way home over the hill and the never-ending questions that I often cannot answer because there is still so much I have to learn. I am humbled by it all. I have enjoyed the times when my thoughts were clearer and the "aha" moments have hit me like a ton of bricks just by being in the presence of these amazing animals and the people who tend to them. I have learned more about myself, my girls, the horses and my own animals by paying more attention and staying in the NOW every moment I am on the land. There is a spirit of community and love that goes beyond the everyday chores.

Soon we will leave northern California once again to move to Australia. It is an adventure that we embrace as a family but we will never forget what Square Peg has brought into our lives. If Sarah gets her wish, we will explore starting our own Square Peg in the land "Down Under". With a lot of work, the will, and patience and grace, perhaps it is not too far to reach. If we risk a little, we may gain a lot. We certainly gained here in a community that lives in my heart forever. What do we have to lose?

## Square Peg On the Internet

GreatNonprofits is a new website that does public reviews of non-profits. It's like Yelp! but for non-profits. It's a great tool if you are looking for an organization to get involved with as a donor or volunteer. We have received some glowing reviews from parents, volunteers and the students themselves. Please take a minute to view the site, and if you are so inclined, please write a review and give us your honest opinion! Simply go to <http://www.greatnonprofits.org/reviews/square-peg-foundation>.

Your review will raise our visibility, allowing others to hear from a real person about their experience. It will also give us helpful feedback on what you like about Square Pegs and what may need improvement. Thank you for your participation and giving voice to all that we do!

NEW!!! [Check out our YouTube Channel here](#) and don't forget to check the [Square Peg blog](#) too!

