

Square

Team Quirky Community Newsletter

Monthly Newsletter
October 2025

Happy October 3rd!

We're excited to bring you the October edition of our newsletter so you can stay connected with upcoming events, funding news, learning opportunities, and updates about our 2- and 4-legged teammates.



A \$5,000 Matching Challenge – Double Your Gift!

This month, grandma of a Square Peg learner and supporter Elizabeth Sealy has generously pledged a **\$5,000 matching grant** to help us through uncertain financial times. If our community can raise \$5,000, Elizabeth will match it dollar for dollar, turning your generosity into \$10,000 for our programs and horses.

"We decided to have my granddaughter, age 10, try out riding at Square Peg to build confidence, self-esteem, and joy. Square Peg has met all these objectives. She was afraid to get on the horse during her first visit—one month later she is riding confidently, facing backwards, sideways, lying down on her horse, and even beginning to trot. Her progress is marvelous to watch. She is rarely as happy as when she's at Square Peg."

Square Peg is a magical place... I support Square Peg and I hope you will too. Accordingly, I am matching donations up to \$5,000. Will you come aboard with me?!"
-Elizabeth Sealy

DONATE NOW

Square Peg Spotlight

In the media...

Listen to Joell and Gib Papazian in "Burlingame, Its a Small Town," Podcast. They discuss autism, Square Peg, Job training, and their personal experiences with Autism.

Listen Here



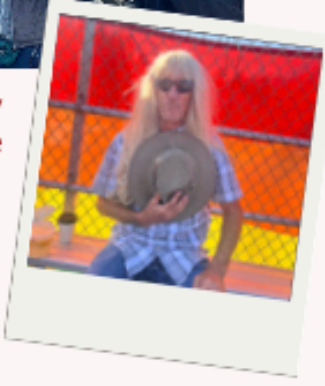
Our interns across both locations delighted in a chilly day at the **Dolphin Club** in SF hanging on the beach, tossing a waterpolo ball around in the water, and going out into the depths of Aquatic Park in a row boat. Thank you to staff Joe for organizing and to Diane of the Dolphin Club for making this special day a reality!



Several of the interns in Sonoma have been exploring working at other physical properties with Square Peg Staff. We appreciate the welcoming environment **Tianna Wells**(The Farm), **Ellie Price & Boo Geise**(Montgomery Creek Ranch), and **Brian Ness**(Vintage Dog Ranch) have provided. Our interns are thrilled to be working in different environments and learning new skills with different animals including mustangs, chickens, peacocks, zebu, and camels!



Sonoma crew enjoyed a day of fun at the Golden Gate Gay Rodeo Association.



Gratitude Corner



Many thanks to **Riding Warehouse** for helping us stretch our **Bay Area Barns and Trails** grant to purchase 9 new helmets for each of our locations. If you or your family member are in need of some riding equipment enjoy **15% OFF** at Riding Warehouse by using the Promo Code **SQUAREPEG** at check out.



We're so grateful to the **Outpour Foundation** and **Helpers Community Foundation** to help fund an exciting new project we aren't quite ready to share about yet. But it will be an exciting opportunity for the interns in our vocational training program.



We are thrilled to accept the 2025 **Thoroughbred Charities of America** grant. As a longtime Thoroughbred Aftercare Alliance accredited organization we are proud to champion retired racehorses as exceptional partners in our work.

Farewell to Hank. We are saddened to announce Hank passed away tragically from colic on September 9th. Thank you to all who loved and cared for him; and especially to Greg Costa for loving him since day one, and to Dr. Jay Reynolds for supporting him through his last moments.



Events in October

Sonoma Volunteer Training Day

Sunday, Oct. 5th
9:30am - 2pm

Our Sonoma location at Cadence Farm will host volunteer training days the first Sunday of every month! It's a great chance to learn new things, refresh your skills, and connect with the team. If you are a new OR returning volunteer and interested in joining please click the button below to sign up.

Click Here to Register

Halloween Fun
Friday, October 31st
timing tbd

Join the Montara community this spooky season for the annual Halloween trick or treating and block party. Joell's home will be base for the Square Peg community. Please email Joe at joe@squarepegfoundation.org if you are interested in participating in the fun!

After Hours at the Farm Hors(e) D'oeuvres

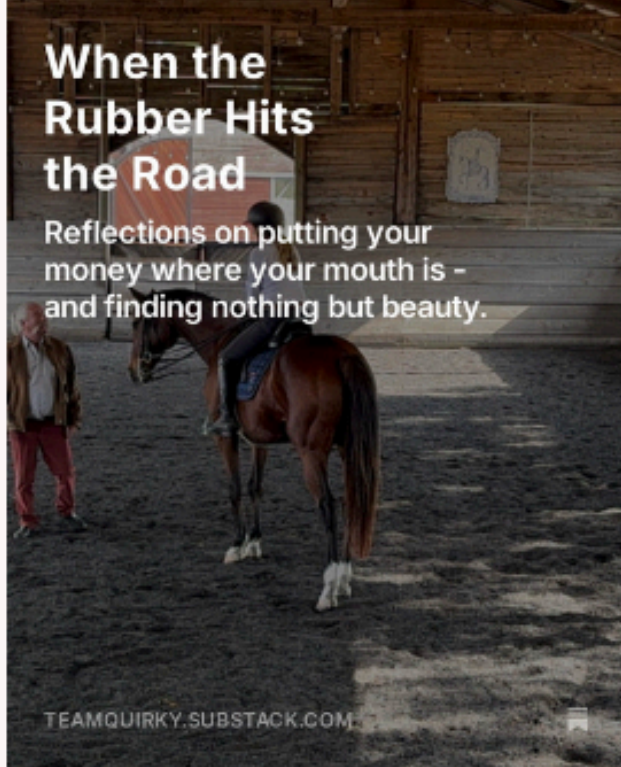
Both Montara and Sonoma had great fun at their After Hours "Hors(e) D'oeuvres" events on Thursday, September 25th. We hope to plan more in the near future, but will be changing the days/times. Keep an eye out for further updates.



Represent #TeamQuirky

The Square Peg Swag Store is now open year-round! Snag a cozy hoodie, a #TeamQuirky shirt, or a logo beanie (holiday gift idea, anyone?). Every purchase supports our programs.

Shop the Square Peg Store



The Messy Desk Emails

Sign up for our **Substack** to get **Messy Desk Emails** straight to your inbox:

<https://substack.com/@teamquirky>

Check out Joell's most recent **Messy Desk** about her reflections on the **Barber Symposium** she attended on our very own **Curtis** last weekend.

DONATE NOW

www.squarepegfoundation.org

