



The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

April 2019

Official Newsletter for Saddle Light Riders, Volunteers & Supporters

The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

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The Saddle Light Center is a non-profit corporation created in 1991 to help disabled people reach their full potential.

Our mission is to provide equestrian therapy for children, teenagers and adults with neurological, orthopedic, learning, emotional or other disabilities.

Our goal is to inspire our riders to accomplishments previously considered beyond their capabilities.

Thanks to everyone who donated and shared our status during the **Big Give!** Your generosity raised an incredible **\$7,960** that will directly benefit our horses and our programs. We are so incredibly thankful!!!

big
give

Our 2019 Rider Showcase will be on Saturday, May 18th

Come watch our riders and horses strut their stuff! The Order of Alhambra Alamo Caravan #269 will be providing barbecue plates and we will have Saddle Light merchandise for sale, such as t-shirts, hats and covered horse shoes. In the coming weeks, we will be asking for riders who would like to participate and volunteers to help in the barn, as side walkers and as horse handlers .



Morgan's Wonderland will be hosting their popular **Easter Celebration** on Saturday, April 20th, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. There will be a park-wide scavenger hunt, children's activities and special entertainment. Kerstin and Alison will be representing us at The Saddle Light Center booth. Come on out and enjoy the fun!

What's going on around the barn?



Meet our new horse Jack!

Jack is a 14-year-old Dun Quarter Horse who is generously being loaned to us. Fun fact, Jack was once at the same stable as Tanzi! Jack is extremely loving and enjoys all the attention he can get from people. We think he is going to be a fantastic addition to the program! Thanks to his owner Scarlett for entrusting us with him.

Volunteers from **Central Catholic High School** came out on Saturday, March 23rd. They helped scrape old paint off some of the paddock rails in order to get them prepared for future painting. Thanks for your help, guys!



On Wednesday, March 27th, we had a group of therapists and their clients come out from **NeuroRestorative Rehabilitation Services**. They worked together to clean all of our saddles and bridles, and made time to visit the horses. Thanks so much for your assistance, we appreciate you!

Happy retirement to King!

After many years of safely carrying riders of every size and age, King left to enjoy a well-earned retirement at his family's ranch. He has another horse friend as well as cows, goats and donkeys to keep him company. He will be missed by all of us at SLC and we wish him well in his golden years!



Just a reminder that our **End of School Break will start on May 18th** and lessons will resume on June 3rd. During this time we will still need volunteers to help with horse care and barn chores, so look for the sign-up sheet in the barn in the next few weeks!



On March 11, **students from the Regents School of Austin** removed all corner feeders, scrubbed them, and then cleaned the walls and brackets in the stalls. They also vacuumed all the stall fans, added clean shavings to all the stalls, vacuumed the overhead door, and cleaned all saddles, halters and bridles. Phew! It was a lot of work and we appreciate how much effort they gave!



On March 16th, a group from the **U.S. Navy** came out and completed two big projects for us. They thoroughly cleaned Kai and Mr. Cool's stalls, removed all clean shavings and put them aside in the yellow wagon. They then pulled the floor mats and cleaned them on both sides with Pine-Sol solution before putting them back in the stalls and covering with fresh shavings. And they weren't done there! Next they took everything out of the alfalfa/wheelbarrow room, swept the floor, vacuumed the walls and hosed off all wheelbarrows. Wow! Thanks for all the hard work and time!

Thanks to all who attended our most recent **Horse Handler Training** class on Saturday, March 9th! We had five volunteers attend our most recent training session and all successfully passed! We are always in need of additional horse handlers, so we appreciate that these volunteers took the time to add more to their skill set that will allow them to participate more in the program. The attending volunteers were Jussara (Tuesday/Thursday volunteer), Robin S. (Tuesday volunteer), Heather H. (Wednesday volunteer), Brian P. (Wednesday volunteer) and Sydney N. (Thursday volunteer). Thanks everyone!!



Next Horse Handler training will be June 15th!

Recent Grants and Donations:

We are pleased to have been awarded funds for yearly inoculations for all of our horses from the **American Association of Equine Practitioners**, due to the recommendation of **Dr. Ball at the Retama Equine Clinic**.

We also received a grant from the **Amy Shelton McNutt Trust** to cover the annual expense of all of the horses going to the **Retama Equine Hospital** for their annual teeth floating, Coggins testing, and check-ups. We greatly appreciate the generosity of both **Dr. Martin and Dr. Huffman** in ensuring the health of our horses, as well as providing us a 25% discount on the services.

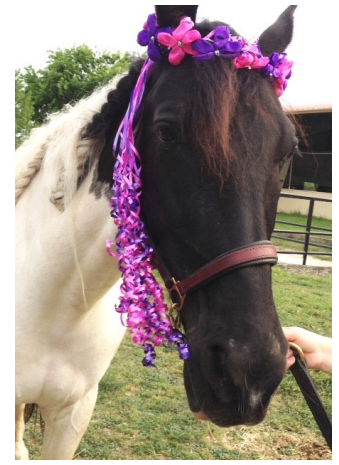


The last week in April 2019, the walls in the covered riding arena will be demolished and replaced with cinder block walls. We anticipate having (2) **BIG ASS FANS**® installed in the covered riding arena during this time. We are grateful to **Valero**® for providing a grant to cover part of the cost of the fans, materials and installation. Our horses, riders, therapists, instructors and volunteers will be much more comfortable in the summer heat.



Save the Date for EquestFest 2019—Sunday, October 6th
Rio Cibolo Ranch, 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

Please contact the office if you are interested in sponsorship opportunities!



We're looking for dedicated and committed volunteers for a not so ordinary volunteer opportunity!

...working with the Saddle Light horses and the children who benefit from equestrian therapy!

We need over 120 volunteers each week to provide chores such as rider assistance by spotting, sidewalking, or horse leading, and horse care and barn chores. We also have opportunities for groups that want to fulfill a specific service project (great for church groups, college clubs, work teams and more).

Volunteer hours are from 3:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. Most volunteers sign up for either a 3:00 to 6:00 shift or 6:00 to 9:00. We also need volunteers to assist with barn chores on Saturday and Sunday mornings and afternoons. Contact us for more info at (210) 651-9574 or volcoor@sbcglobal.net. No experience necessary! We will teach you what you need to know.



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**Free Matter
for the Blind
&
Disabled**