



# The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

August 2019

Official Newsletter for Saddle Light Riders, Volunteers & Supporters

## The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship

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Executive Director  
Licensed Physical Therapist  
PATH Int. Registered Therapist in  
Hippotherapy  
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Certified Therapeutic  
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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.



## EquestFest 2019

A Rootin' Tootin' Day of Family Fun!

Sunday, Oct. 6, 2019 • 2:00-6:00 p.m.

### Rio Cibolo Ranch

I-10 East to Zuehl Rd, Exit 595 (7 miles from 1604/I-10 intersection), Right on Zuehl 1.5 miles, Left on Gin to Ulrich, Right on Ulrich. The entrance to Rio Cibolo Ranch is on the left. Printable map [www.riociboloranch.com](http://www.riociboloranch.com)

COME OUT  
& HORSE  
AROUND!



- Pony Rides/Petting Zoo • Games
- **TWO TONS OF STEEL BAND**
- Hay Wagon & Story Teller • Mule Team
- Face Painting • Air Bounce •
- Food • Silent Auction • Trick Roper
- Performance by:

The San Antonio Charro Association



### Tickets

Advance: Adults- \$8; Children (ages 5-12) -\$5  
At the Gate: Adult- \$10; Children (ages 5-12) -\$7  
Activities \$1 ea & Pony Rides \$3 ea

To purchase in advance go to: [www.thesaddlelightcenter.com](http://www.thesaddlelightcenter.com)



EquestFest is our annual festival benefitting The Saddle Light Center for Therapeutic Horsemanship. The funds raised support our horses and equestrian programs.



**We are still seeking sponsors and silent auction items for EquestFest!** 2019 has been a challenging year for us. We have faced increased facility rent, decreased donations and an increase in the cost of hay. We have not increased the cost of our services to cover these expenses, therefore we need to make up those losses through EquestFest. We hope you will consider helping! How can you help? **We need new or gently used silent auction items as well as corporate or individual sponsorship.**

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**Sponsorship levels** are at \$250, \$500, \$1,000, \$2,500, \$5,000 and \$10,000. We are also seeking items for our silent auction gift baskets. Some of our basket themes that we need items for include: Movie night, Coffee/ Tea Basket, Spa Day, Exercise, Wine Basket, Music, Games for Kids/Family, Cooking, Art Basket, Pet Care, Hunting/Fishing/Mechanical. Please share your basket idea – Contact **Alison at 210-273-7497**. If you are interested in sponsoring, please contact the office at [slcdirector@sbcglobal.net](mailto:slcdirector@sbcglobal.net).

## *What's going on around the barn?*

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

In April 2019 the walls in the covered riding arena were demolished and replaced with cinder block walls. We also had (2) BIG ASS FANS<sup>®</sup> installed in the covered riding arena during this time. We are grateful to **Valero<sup>®</sup>** for providing a grant to partially cover the cost of the fans, as well as materials and installation. Our horses, riders, therapists, instructors and volunteers are much more comfortable in the summer heat.



On Tuesday April 23 **PTA students from St. Phillips College** came out to observe Hippotherapy sessions from 4-7 p.m. with Kerstin explaining how the horse's movement influences the rider and how that can be used as a treatment strategy for individuals with a disability to work on balance, strength, sensory processing, coordination and righting reactions.

We had a big volunteer group on Saturday, May 4th from the **Travis Manion Foundation**. All saddles and bridles were cleaned. The alfalfa room was emptied of all items and swept out. All the items were cleaned and put back in their proper places. With the disapproval of the cats, they weeded both of the plant beds in the back of the barn. They were fast and efficient and this gave them time to do a hike around the property. They are a great group with a great message. Check them out at

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





**Steven and Eny Faultersack**, Wednesday volunteers and Nike's family, sponsored the labor to replace the old, worn plywood on the mounting ramp outside of our barn with sturdy 2x6s. **CJ Magna**, Tuesday volunteer, sponsored the lumber for the project. We started using this ramp in June when temperatures started rising. Many thanks to all; our riders will benefit greatly!

**Shelly Coker**, a Monday and Thursday volunteer, sponsored two months of Cinnamon's Cushings medication. Thank you!



We had a wonderful group from the **South TX Chapter of the American College of Healthcare Executives** come out Saturday, June 29th. They were only a group of nine but they busted out the work!!! They removed the corner feeders, then cleaned the area underneath and scrubbed the corner feeders themselves. They emptied, scrubbed and refilled both the water troughs in the paddocks. They removed the weeds from all three paddocks that had those annoying little burrs that stuck to everything! Thanks & great job!

Welcome to our newest board member **Hacene Benchikha**! Hacene is an accomplished dressage rider who has kept a horse at Retama for many years. An employee of Valero, Hacene has been a longtime friend to our organization. His professional experience and horse knowledge will make him an asset to the SLC Board —thank you for your time and welcome!

***Next Volunteer training: August 24th, 2019, 10 a.m. to 1p.m.***  
***Next Horse Handler training: Sept. 24th, 2019, 3 p.m.***

Just a reminder that our **Summer Session** will end on August 16th and the **Fall Session** will start on September 9th. 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!

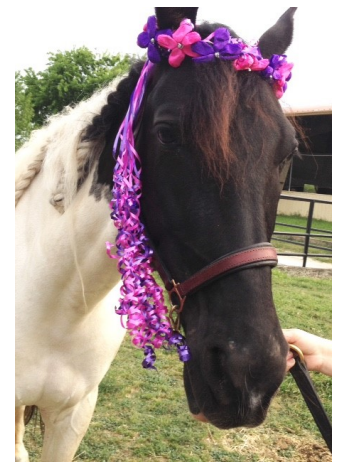


***Sonny D says stay cool and hydrated!***

Don't forget to support us when you use Amazon by shopping on **Amazon Smile!** If you go to **smile.Amazon.com** and choose to support the Saddle Light Center, a portion of your spending will go to SLC. Every penny counts!







**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 p.m. to 9 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—(210) 651-9574 or [volcoor@sbcglobal.net](mailto: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**