



HANDI-RIDERS

Volume 3, Issue 1 January 2011

HANDI-RIDERS of NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

P.O. Box 1885
Chico, Ca 95927
Phone & Fax: (530) 533-5333
www.handiRiders.org
handiriders@foothill.net

STAFF

Danny Cuneo
Executive Director, Instructor
Suzanne Bernard
Asst. Executive Director
Sid McBride
Program Coordinator
Chris Latouche
Horse Manager & Instructor
Catherine Brazil
Instructor & OTR/L
Kara Curry
Instructor
Michelle Jacobs
Instructor
Katy Evans
Volunteer Coordinator

BOARD OFFICERS

Arturo Coupe
Bob Baylor
Sue Kuukka
Roxanna Hodges

BOARD MEMBERS

Sid McBride
Yves Latouche
Angela Allen
Katherine Thomas
Laura Bruns
Roger Pavlic
Leah Janowski

Penny: Our Shining Star

Many Handi-Riders horses, past and present, have demonstrated their capability to be exceptional equine partners. These horses have proven to have qualities above the norm and become true therapeutic riding horses. One horse that presently demonstrates exceptional qualities is Penny. Penny is a pretty, 25 years old, 14 hh chestnut Quarter Horse mare. True to her name, Penny shines like a new copper penny when bathed and shimmers in the brilliant sun.



Penny came to Handi-Riders in 2005 from a local horsewoman named Tanis Larsen. Penny had been mainly a trail horse but settled quickly into her new diversified job. Her smooth gaits and sure-footedness make her a favorite mount among the instructors, and her kind and willing nature inspires trust from her most fearful riders.

Penny went through a period when retirement was a definite consideration. She was showing signs of burn out and discomfort. A simple chiropractic tail pulling method brought Penny back to work with even greater enthusiasm. Daily pulls on her tail releases the creaks, and stretches her back muscles so Penny is able to remain the steady and confident mount we have come to love and trust.

What makes Penny so special is her ability to accommodate a variety of riders. She is extremely patient with our more cautious riders and responsive with the more independent students. Penny does many trail rides with the private lesson students, including the ones that 'rock and roll'. Her tolerance of balance challenges and constant movement is truly exemplary.

Penny is the true epitome of a Handi-Riders horse. As the horse manager, I so appreciate her honest and calm nature, and will continue to pamper her so she can continue to do the job she loves...taking care of our riders with special needs.

— Chris Latouche

Handi-Riders Presents: The First Annual Freedom in Motion Dinner & Auction

Handi-Riders Therapeutic Horseback Riding Center invites you to join them for the Freedom in Motion Benefit Dinner and Auction to be held on February 11, 2011 at the BMU, Auditorium on the CSU, Chico campus. It will be an exciting evening of multi-cultural foods plus live and silent auctions. Tickets are \$30/person, \$50/couple or \$200/table of eight.

You can also support Handi-Riders by sponsoring a table for \$200 which would include a table sign with your name or your organization's name. Please advise the number of people attending. We are also accepting donations of items for auction. For more information and for tickets e-mail: handi.riders@yahoo.com., or contact Angela at the Handi-Riders office: (530) 533-5333.

Pleasure & Learning: Not just for our riders

We recently asked some of our volunteers to reflect on their experience here at Handi-Riders. Here's what two of our volunteers had to say.

I have volunteered at other places prior to Handi-Riders, and I must say how much I enjoyed the experience comparatively. I love horses and children and wanted more experience working with both, so Handi-Riders seemed the perfect fit for me. Little did I know just how much I would get from being a volunteer. I really can not say enough good things about this program. I signed up for every Saturday at nine, and there were some days upon awakening that I wanted to stay in bed! But once I got in my car to head home from the class I could not have imagined a better way to start my day, and was always so grateful that I had a commitment to the riders and the program to show up. No matter what was going on in my life, after showing up for the class I always had such a wonderful day after. Ill never forget the day I wore a hat, one of the students realized it was me halfway into the class and told me he had not recognized me with the hat on, and thought I had missed the class. This showed me how important it was not only for myself to keep the commitment I set out to do, but also for the riders to be consistent was very important. When his

“When his face lit up, and he let me know he was glad I was there, it made my day.”

face lit up, and he let me know he was glad I was there, it made my day.

The teachers of the class were always kind to me and the students, while we were all learning new techniques. Sometimes the riders had more experience with the program than myself, and they got to inform me of the proper way to work with them. The other volunteers were fabulous as well, always willing to take the time to show me how everything, specifically how to tie the horse to stay in one place...every single week! I am happy to say though, that after about a month of being shown how, I finally was able to keep the horse in one place by myself! This program really is doing amazing things for all involved, the benefits are beyond words. I have been spreading the word of the program to any I think might benefit as I have. It has been a privilege and a joy to watch the riders improve and amaze me with the beauty of riding and directing their horses, thank you for the opportunity ; horses, volunteers, parents, riders and teachers.

— Tanya Zeitler



Persistence and Pleasure

My love for horses and children led me to a volunteer position at Handi-Riders as a leader or side walker. Although I have had some experience riding horses, I have not handled them on the ground much, so I was a bit nervous but excited at the same time. I felt much better when I realized that the instructors and returning volunteers were more than willing to share their knowledge and experience with me by answering all of my many questions. The horses were extremely patient with me as I learned how to “dress” them (which sometimes took more than one try!), lead them, and help them work with their student riders.



I was so impressed by how careful the instructors were so that horses, students, and volunteers, were safe during every aspect of the lesson. Each lesson was carefully planned out and modified according to the students' abilities. The activities were as fun for me as they were for the students, but we also felt the challenge of developing new skills. It was so rewarding to see the students becoming partners with their horses as they came back each week to ride. I truly enjoyed my time with Handi-Riders learning more about horses and the gift they offer to their special student riders.

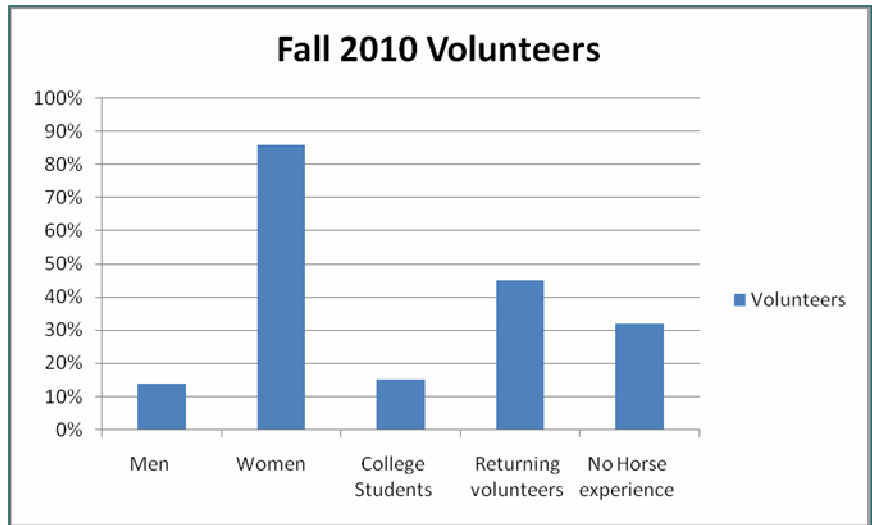
— Joan Michael

Volunteering: Who are our volunteers?

Handi-Riders would not run without our volunteers. They are the link that allows our instructors to provide our students a wonderful horse experience. It is important for volunteers to be alert, responsive, and able to listen and follow instructions. It is important that volunteers follow all safety rules; thereby ensuring a safe environment for the rider, the horse, and everyone in the class.

We get many of our volunteers from the local colleges, but many come because they have a special person in their life that is challenged in some way. Volunteers love to come and see the smiles and progress our students make. Part of the reason our students are able to progress so far is because of the dedicated vol-

unteers that show up rain or shine and give their student "all they can". We are truly grateful for all of our volunteers.



Come Join Us!

Handi-Riders is looking for volunteers to assist with our new Winter Session. We welcome new and returning volunteers to join us for this four-week mini-session, spanning January 31 through February 26. Class times have changed; Monday through Friday we are offering 2:30 and 4:00 PM classes only; Saturday's class schedule remains the same. No prior horse experience required. Volunteer training will be held January 29th. For more information, or details about our next volunteer training, please contact Katy at (530) 533-5333.

Enhanced Ability to Make Increased Gifts to Handi-Riders for 2010 and 2011

In December Congress re-enacted the IRA charitable rollover which allows taxpayers starting at age 70 1/2 to direct up to \$100,000 per year from their IRA to eligible charities without counting the distributions as income for tax purposes.

You can again directly roll over your IRA funds - tax free - as a gift to Hand-Riders (EIN 94-2882262). And this law allows individuals to make IRA rollover donations during January 2011 and treat them as made during 2010.

We urge you to contact your tax/financial advisor if you have questions regarding this new law. And "thank you" as always for thinking of Handi-Riders.



SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, January 29, 2011

Volunteer Training: 9:00-1:00

Monday, January 31, 2011

Winter Session starts

Friday, February 11, 2011

Benefit Dinner & Auction

Saturday, February 26, 2011

Winter Session ends

Saturday, March 5, 2011

Volunteer Training

Monday, March 21, 2011

Spring Session starts

Call for details: (530) 533-5333