

Spring Down Low Down

Spring 2023

WELCOME

It has been a very wet winter in California with record rainfall that is finally putting us out of this drought! It's been hard to complain with the wet weather when we have our outdoor arena with amazing footing that we've been able to use every single day. Of course we also have our covered arena which we can ride in year round, no matter what Mother Nature has in store. We are looking forward to the spring flowers and dry summer days that lay ahead. We are so grateful for our Spring Down community and we hope to see everyone at some of our upcoming events.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

Spring Break Camp: April 3-7 and April 10-14

Mommy & Me Series: May 3, 10 and 17th

Horse Show: June 4th

Summer Camp: weekly starting June 12 - August 18

Nick Clinic: July 3, 4, & 5th

Sign up at the office for our events!

Drill Teams

Spring Down has two wonderful Drill Teams that practice at 8am on Saturday and Sundays. Saturdays at 8am is led by Carol & Camden and is our more advanced drill team with a faster pace and more intricate moves. Sundays at 8am are led by Carol & Demetria and this team is best for riders who are passionate about bettering their riding and learning new skills to help them succeed in drill and regular lessons. Space is open on the Sunday team, inquire at the office if you are interested!

Horse Show Updates:

Spring Down hosts 3 schooling shows each year which are primarily designed to give the folks at Spring Down the opportunity to participate in horse shows, however we do welcome outside riders and horses to come show too! Our shows are in March, June and December of each year and the reason we offer these shows is because other shows require you to own your horse or lease a well-seasoned show horse and these shows are at the rated level which easily cost \$3000 or more and we have always wanted to offer a more affordable option for our riders. We are hoping for more community support with our future shows as the turnout for our show in March was very, very small and putting on these shows is very costly and we would hate to have to scale back the shows. Please talk with your instructor about your riding progress to see if you are able to ride in the next show, June 4th!



Camp Updates:

Spring Down offers Horsemanship riding camps throughout the year and we recently added an extended camp option for those campers who just can't get enough horse time! Campers have the option to register for camp in person or online. Campers can enroll for camp from 9-1pm which includes a daily riding lesson, hands on horsemanship lectures, arts & crafts, AND campers can now extend their camp day from 1-3pm for an additional cost where they receive a second horse riding lesson and more hands on horse time as this group tends to be smaller. Spring Down has Mini Camps which are single day camps for 4 hours and great for new riders to try it out! We also have week-long camps during Presidents week in February as well as Spring Break in April, Thanksgiving camp in November, Holiday camp in December and Summer Camp's running all summer long! Camp Helpers & Instructors

Are you at least 12 years old and interested in earning money to offset your lesson cost and ride more?! If so, you are able to work at our camps and special events as a helper. If you are at least 16 years old then you can be an instructor and teach young kids the basics about riding horses! SDEC is always looking for more help with our camps and special events, please visit the bulletin board in the barn to sign up to work!

Tack Up Lessons:



Spring Down will continue to offer private and group tack up lessons for those riders who are over the age of 12. Our tack up lessons are a requirement for all riders to do, because we teach comprehensive horsemanship, not just horseback riding. A very important component of horsemanship is understanding the equipment you are using on any given horse: both how it is put on and how and why it works. Any ill fitting equipment or the wrong equipment could be disastrous which is why it is imperative all riders learn the Spring Down Way to tack up.

Tack up lessons teach you how to care for your horse and spending time with them before (and after) your lesson is a great way to bond with them and learn their horse-n-ality. Some things you will learn in a tack up lesson are: - How our tack room is organized and how to find the correct saddle, bridle and grooming supplies for the horse you are riding that day - How to correctly tie a horse with a quick release knot to the twine in their stall - How to put on a german martingale and how to get the curb chain to lay flat and why - You will also learn correct saddle placement and much more!

Please speak with the office to enroll yourself in an existing group tack up lesson or an individual one, after you complete your tack up lesson you will be responsible for tacking and untacking your horse each lesson or pay a \$10 charge.



We get letters!



“Carol, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for bringing Milagro and I together. You believed in a green pair when most wouldn’t have. You helped us grow and gave us such a solid foundation in true horsemanship. Some of my fondest memories with Milagro were at Spring Down. I grew such a bigger appreciation for you after leaving SD...

Thank you Carol. For all you did and for all you stand for. You truly are an exceptional horsewoman and I’m honored we had an amazing chapter in your presence. ”

Amanda B.

Past Client and Boarder

Horse Updates:

We are incredibly saddened by the loss of two of our amazing lesson horses, Skyler and Belvedere. The chances are you've walked past their stall, heard their knickers and even ridden on them in a lesson or two- these two horses are immensely missed by everyone here.

Skyler was a gorgeous Chestnut Thoroughbred who stood at 16.1 hands and was born in 1991. In 1996 Carol purchased Skyler for herself as a fancy 5 year old after a deal fell through with a client. I'm not sure Carol ever expected Skyler to be one of the greatest lesson horses, but he really was fantastic. Before his life as a lesson horse, Skyler was Carol's show mount- together they took home many top ribbons at shows all over the Bay Area in the Hunter ring. Skyler had the sweetest personality and was the best for teaching riders to canter on the lunge line. Skyler was sometimes quirky in his younger years which is why he had a paddock all to himself with no neighbors, he liked to play a little too much. We hope Skyler is looking over us while galloping free on Heavens Green Pastures and whining when he passes over SDEC, he had a very loud whiny. Skyler passed away due to old age on 12/26/2023.

Belvedere was a handsome Draft Cross who stood at 17.1 hands and he was born in 1998. Belvedere came to SDEC in 2002 knowing only how to pull a wagon for the Amish. Carol got to work training Belvedere for the lesson program and he quickly became a favorite for our bigger riders. He had fun lead changes, a cute jump, and a will that was unmatched. Belvedere had a lot of heart, he always put his best hoof forward and tried his best for each and every lesson. People loved braiding his forelock so it wouldn't get in his line of sight while in the lessons, he loved all the pampering! Belvedere passed away in the morning hours of 1/03/2023 from a case of Colic.

BOTH OF THESE HORSES HAVE THEIR TRADING CARDS IN THE OFFICE, PLEASE COME AND GET ONE AS WAY TO REMEMBER THESE HORSES FOREVER. 2 CARDS FOR \$5

We want to give a warm welcome to two new horses that we have the opportunity to use for lessons. **Susie & Sparkles!**

Susie is a 15 yo 15 hand registered Quarter Horse who is owned by Jean Kumer. Susie is a cute little mare who has been in walk and trot lessons for the past couple of months! **Sparkles** is a 13 yo 15 hand Gypsy Vanner owned by the Peterson Family. Sparkles is still in training but will be lessons very soon. She has very smooth gaits and lots of hair, which isn't typical for our lesson horses but it is standard for her breed.