Carol Crowther Joins The B.O.K.

Carol Crowther started in June of this year as our assistant instructor. She is also helping out with horse shows. Carol has had many years experience as a rider and owner. She has been a certified CIA Camp Horsemanship Association member since 1990; taught at several youth camps including Therapon Association group homes in Marin county where she was assistant manager of adolescent homes for the developmentally disabled. She holds a BA in psychology from Colby-Sawyer in New Hampshire.

Over the past six months Carol began the process of taking duties over from Heidi Eckert. She's excited about B.O.K. “The kids really rise to the challenge. I’m looking forward to setting goals for each student and watching them progress.” Already Carol has spearheaded “Playday” and has attended the NARHA Therapeutic Riding Workshop in Kentucky. The B.O.K. students are not missing a step under Carol’s direction!

When Carol is not working at the B.O.K., she fills in her time at Golden Gate Park Stables. She has a personal goal to be certified through NARHA.

Carol Crowther

Student/Volunteer Playdays ‘93

By Carol Crowther

It is amazing what ideas a box of horse show ribbons will generate. Thanks to Fly’Inn J.D. Ranch who donated lots of left over ribbons, Heidi and I decided to create an end of the session Playday. On August 28th, students, volunteers, family and friends all came out to Hidden Villa to partake in the Playday games and activities. Despite the heat, which was close to 100°F, there was a terrific turn out of students and volunteers. Approximately 50 people participated. Each participant was assigned a number and at least two events. Some events included egg and spoon races, an obstacle course with a jump, and the most popular - flag relay. Heidi will probably never forget having to hop across the arena in a burp sack holding a flag.

August 28th was also a day for good-byes and thank yous to Heidi. Heidi was surprised with a "Farewell and Good Luck cake" and a gift certificate to Olson Nolte tack shop. Hugs and best wishes to Heidi in her new endeavors.

Special thanks to Heidi’s parents, Mr. and Mrs. Eckert, who handled the food details. James Macdon and Valerie Chalasnis, the volunteer judges; JoAnne Folliot our volunteer coordinator who became announcer for the day; and Hidden Villa’s property maintenance crew, especially Michael Quinn, for tilling the arena for the event.

Because Summer Playday was such a success, on November 20th, we marked the end of the Fall session with another Playday. Most of the Fall session volunteers and about 15 students participated. This was an opportunity for parents, siblings, friends and perspective volunteers and students to come together and see what makes B.O.K. ranch such a special place. Events of the day were based on the holiday theme. Games included, 'Go Fishing', 'Turkey Feather Hunt', 'Pumpkin Obstacle Course', and 'Bobbing for Apples'. I think our hairy friends, Zeke, PJ and Shane enjoyed the last class the best which was performed in hand with a halter and lead rope. The students demonstrated how to properly lead the horses in the keyhole pattern and upon completion the horses were allowed to Bob for an apple. Needless to say it was quite entertaining for all.
Good Bye and Best Wishes Heidi

We are sorry to say that Heidi Eckert has resigned her position at the B.O.K. in order to pursue her life and new opportunities in Southern California. She will be continuing her work by starting up a new therapeutic riding organization bringing her talents and energy to the area. She has had her well to many a thankful and loving children that have enjoyed her bright enthusiasm and energy. Heidi was instrumental in making the B.O.K. program what it is today. She has not only a strong technical riding skills but she had a rare ability in being able to relate to children. The spirit of the English style she taught has become a B.O.K. tradition that Carol Croxher now continues. Heidi brought out the best in each pupil and then some. She also made it her business to help raise funds and create learning challenges. Many of you will remember Heidi running all day long between arena and pre-datory area at riding demonstrations and competitions. Under her tutelage, the students of the B.O.K. received more riding awards and accommodations that can be remembered in the history of the Ranch. But most of all, her greatest legacy must be that of the children who she helped gain courage, strength and a feeling of self worth through their riding abilities. Our love and best wishes follow Heidi on to her new challenges.

A Note From The Editor

John Mori

We at the B.O.K. would all like to thank all of you for your wonderful support that you have given us in 1993 which has enabled us to extend this program to more children and adults than ever before. From all of us to all of you, a happy, safe and peaceful holidays and bright and pleasant New Year.

Volunteer Connection

We would like to extend welcome and appreciation to you new volunteers. Helping us this Spring and Summer session are Darlene, Julie, Mary, Janette, Melinda P., Melinda W., Barbara, Sandra, Sabina, Brooke and Kristina.

And once again to our veteran volunteers: many heartfelt thanks. Here's to you Fred, Jim, Fidelia, Judy, Shannon, Lauren, Vivan, Carol and Carolyn. Those dedicated people have contributed more than 500 hours to the past winter session alone.

We are always looking for volunteers. It is only through the volunteer efforts that this program is possible. So, if you can or know someone else who might be interested in a rewarding opportunity to help, please call Justine Pelah, the Volunteer Coordinator at (415) 325-6113.

Calendar of Events

William P. Kyne HKP
at Bay Meadows
Jan. 8, 1994

Night at the Races
at Bay Meadows
Jan. 14, 1994

El Camino Real Derby Club
Tickets available thru the Derby Club
Jan. 22, 1994

Equipment Work Day
(Tentative)
Feb. 12, 1994

I saw a child riding in the arena last year, her pudgy face was filled with determination and her gangly, pencil-necked horse was uncoordinated but willing.

Under her instructors’ watchful eye she practiced relentlessly day after day.

Now, a year later, a taller, thinner but still very determined young lady rides a nicely muscled well schooled equine.

So to all of you parents who patiently wait, spending hours in the dust and rain, swatting flies, please keep this in mind: Your children are blossoming into responsible young ladies and gentlemen.

Thank You,
Heidi Ann Eckert
Kids Corner

By Celeste Molina

I had a great Day
I was up at wood side I was up at wood side
I was up at wood side

I had a great Day
I was up at wood side I was very one worked to

other.

By Shannon Meir

We went to the barn
On a sunny and clear Day.
There

drove.

The B.O.K. was pleased to be invited to the 1993 Barn Tours Luncheon. Our many thanks to the Los Altos Hounds who played a major role in our invitation and to our own Justine Felahi who was the chairperson and chief organizer for the B.O.K. This tour is an annual event that allows patrons to tour some of the most exclusive private stables in the Woodside area while supporting charitable organizations in the process. The B.O.K. was very fortunate to be invited to participate in the event. During the day riding demonstrations were performed and information about the B.O.K. was distributed to the many interested observers. Over 250 lunches were made and served by the B.O.K. volunteers in a peaceful pool side and country setting. In the processes over $1300 was raised for the organization. To the many volunteers and guests who made this event an outstanding success the B.O.K. Ranch extends its many thanks. This is a wonderful way to complete a splendid year.

Donations

Thank you to the following for their generous donations:

Mr. and Mrs. David Piccardo,
Kathleen Kalab,
Mr. and Mrs. Leland Kolb,
Linda Harvey,
Nada's for Paws,
Jane Pharr,
Lisa Montalvo

Commentary on Barn Tour Day by Shannon Meir and Celeste Molina.
A heartfelt thank you to the volunteers that make B.O.K. Ranch a successful program.

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We would like to add our special thanks to the above volunteers who have provided many behind the scenes efforts to make the B.O.K. program successful.

Did you know that behind the scenes:

- Beverly Aiello provides for the R&R for the ponies when they're not at Hidden Villa?
- Allison Aiello does all the accounting for the B.O.K.
- Libby Machado is farrier (shoes the ponies)
- Valrie Massey provides the photography
- Justine Felahai seeks and coordinates the many volunteers for the riding program
- Sharon Ondry provides the office work
- Steve Ondry maintains all special equipment.

- Vince Lepore and Don Maier at Pacific Printing design and print our newsletters.
- Carol Crowther, our GREAT Therapeutic Riding instructor puts in many, many hours of volunteer time beyond her part-time salary for program planning, individual student evaluation, maintenance of equipment, and on and on.

And finally, Ann Kulchin, the life blood behind the B.O.K. who attends everything, fills in whenever needed, represents the B.O.K. for support, works to develop programs and oversees all aspects of the operation. Ann is also the inventor of the 25 hour day.

B.O.K. Ranch
1815 Cordilleras Road
Redwood City, CA 94062

YES! I can help the B.O.K. Ranch!

Please contact me regarding:

- Volunteer some time with students
- Volunteer time in the evenings to help out
- Equestrian and/or office equipment you can contribute
- Horse sponsorship program

Donations of any amount are always welcome at the B.O.K. Ranch. You may make checks payable to B.O.K. Ranch. They may be earmarked for any of the following areas:

Riding Sessions  Special Events (e.g. Playday)
Volunteer Training  Equipment
General Expenses  Educational Clinics

Please find enclosed my check for ____________________________ to be used for ____________________________

The B.O.K. Ranch is a non-profit corporation. EIN # 94-2947960.