The B.O.K. Briefing

Real Summer 2001

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Western Day Review

This year's Western Day was a great success. Over 400 people came to celebrate B.O.K.'s 16th anniversary. The event netted over $12,000. Laurel Burch created a beautiful design for the event and she spent the day with us! Laurel's support is much appreciated.

New additions this year were photographer Eric Klatt, Petunia the Clown, who thrilled the children with balloon animals, and Sue Bragato and the Eaton Hills 4-H planned the children's games. Once again, Andy Anderson and Nicki demonstrated sheep-herding, Canyon Inn provided a great barbecue lunch, The Redwood City Fire Department brought a fire truck and handed out Jr. Fireman badges and Dale Pryor and the Hayfever Band played some great western music.

Carol, Regina, and the students did a wonderful demonstration and the horses were in rare form. We thank the Circle K volunteers, Meeting for Good, Bragato Paving, Degnan Printers, and Safeway Stores.

As always, we thank our great volunteers for their dedication, B.O.K. Advisory Board for planning the day for the fourth year!

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A Special Thank-You Goes Out To:

Circle-K ~ Fred Gaedeke ~ Gianotti Inc./Vela Corp. ~ Laurel Burch

Thank You Donors!

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Mr. & Mrs. Bill Schmidt
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Deanne Shute
Mr. & Mrs. Slomovitz
Rachel Slotnick
Joyce Timpson

The Midpeninsula Special Riders Show at Westwind Barn
By Carol Studer

This year the show took place May 20th. The B.O.K. Ranch would like to thank the Westwind Riding Institute, WRI, and the National Center for Equine Facilitated Therapy, NCEFT, for putting together another great show with B.O.K. Ranch.

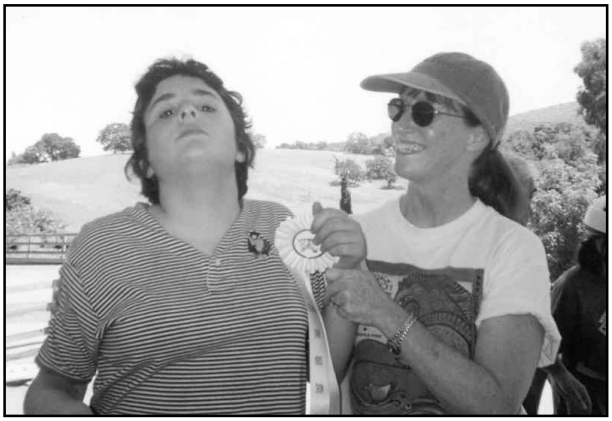
Gil Merrick, The judge, was wonderful and so generous.

Susie Holic was the fabulous announcer.

Circle K Club donated their time to put together the lunch. Thanks to Beata for organizing that.

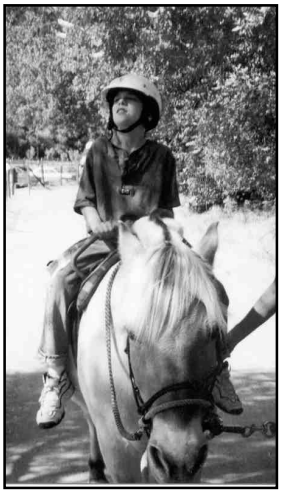
Our B.O.K. Ranch riders and winners were Kyle, Xenia, Jessie, Cassie, Danielle, Thomas, Neel-Ann, Krysten, Carl, Brian, Jonathan, David, Elizabeth, Max, Ezra, Cheng-Hua, Katie, and Betsy. Carol and Regina would especially like the thank all the volunteers who helped make the possible, especially Corrie, Mimi, Linda, Rachel, Angie, Yulia, Miguel, Rig, Brooke, and the volunteers from Circle K.

Some of Our Riders Show Off Their Ribbons



Introducing Mark Wittman
By Vern Wittman

Mark Wittman is an engaging 20 year-old who rides in B.O.K.'s Saturday morning session.

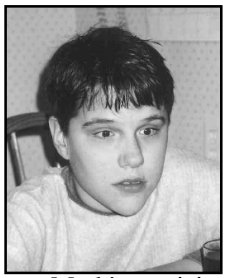


Mark lives in Belmont at a group home that was started by his parents along with the parents of five other children who also have severe multiple disabilities. He attends Morgan Center, a private school for young people who need intensive teaching and therapy. On the weekends, Mark is usually at his family home where he visits with his parents, grandmother, younger brother, and family friends.

Shortly after his birth in 1981, Mark was diagnosed with microcephaly, bilateral cataracts, cerebral palsy, and possible mental retardation. Those first years were difficult as Mark and his parents struggled with multiple eye surgeries, physical therapy, and countless appointments with medical specialists. No specific syndrome or disease has been diagnosed, and the cause of his disabilities remains unknown.

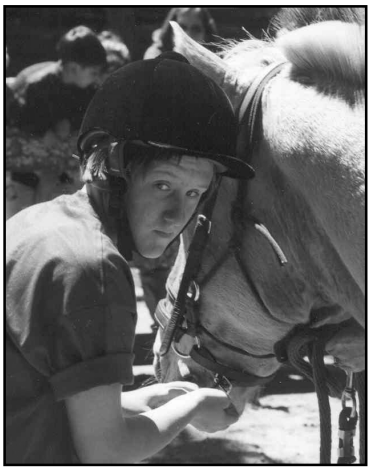
Today, Mark is in good health and he actively participates in school, social, and family activities. He is able to walk with assistance from another person, or independently with a walker. He cannot speak, but he is able to use gestures and some signing to communicate his needs and wants. He loves listening to music (KOIT 96.5 is his current favorite), playing computer games, and watching TV. His very favorite activity, though, is riding in the therapeutic program at BOK.

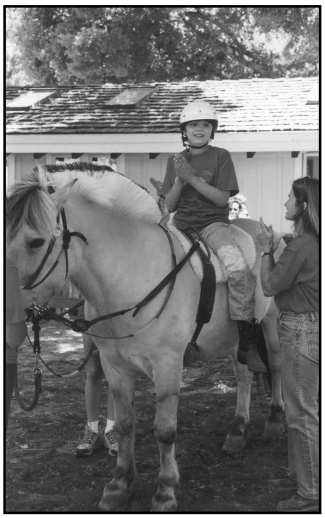
Mark started riding six years ago. On that first Saturday, he was really frightened when he approached his pony, Shale. His parents were concerned that they had made a mistake in selecting riding as a therapeutic sport. However, Mark's father encouraged him and assured him that often people feel scared when they start a new activity or sport. He persuaded him to mount the horse and to participate in the session. By the end of that first hour, Mark was squealing with delight. He had found an activity that was very challenging for him, but also exhilarating.



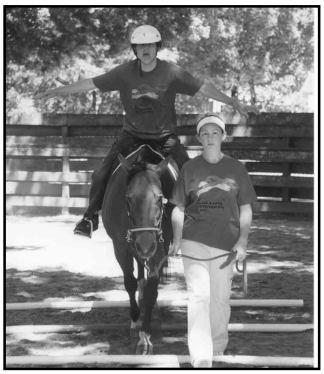
Mark's participation in the program these past six years has improved his coordination and balance. But most importantly, BOK has provided him with many hours of joy.

BOK Congratulates Rebecca Day, Volunteer of the Year 1995, who received her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English and Political Science from the University of California at Davis. Way to go Becca!





More From Western Day

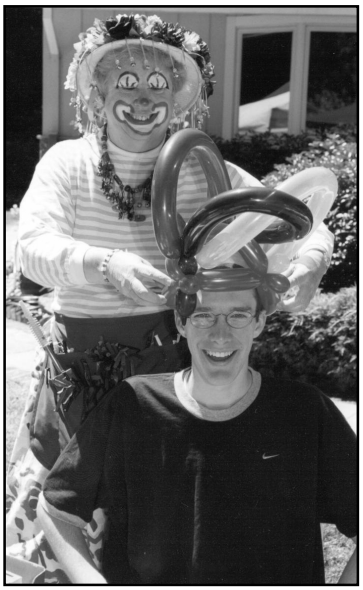


Calendar

Volunteer Training
TBA

Fall Session Starts
September 11th

For calendar updates please visit the website at:
www.BOKRanch.com



Yes! I am interested in the B.O.K. Ranch!

Please contact me regarding:

☐ Volunteer Opportunities

☐ Program Participation

☐ Contributions

Name:_____

Address:_____

Phone:_____

(Please make checks payable to B.O.K. Ranch, Inc.)
Contributions are tax deductible for federal tax purposes.

B.O.K. Ranch is a Non-Profit Corporation EIN# 94-2947980

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Address Correction Requested