

The Equestrian Club at Cordillera Ranch

by Cassandra Leachman & Shane Reynolds

Close your eyes and imagine a chance to see the vast beauty of Cordillera Ranch while enjoying the sounds, smells, and the little details that often escape us in our busy lifestyles. Imagine taking a slower pace, leaving the crowds and cities behind for a while and getting to exist with nature. Imagine being eye to eye with a doe and her fawn, or watch a flock of wild turkeys busily scratch for food. Now, add the smell of fresh hay, the sounds of horses nickering and the sheer joy on a child's face as they ready themselves to ride their favorite horse. These tidbits are just a few of the things that make the Equestrian Club at Cordillera Ranch a hidden, yet most beautiful jewel on the crown that is Cordillera Ranch.

The Equestrian Club is nestled in the far Northwest corner of Cordillera Ranch just inside the west gate. It resides on 90 acres of rolling landscape complete with live oak trees, abundant native grasses and beautiful wildflowers in springtime. The focal point of the facility is the rustic King Ranch style barn that features roomy 12x12 stalls with attached 12x40 runs which houses member horses as well as club owned horses. An indoor wash rack with hot and cold water, members only tack room and kitchenette with sink and refrigerator are also available in the barn. In addition to the stable, there is an outdoor arena suitable for many types of riding, a covered round pen, and plenty of pasture for outdoor boarding and turnout. Adjacent to the outdoor arena is the Club Lounge and viewing area. Here members can relax after a trail ride, enjoy cold or hot beverages, or watch their favorite student take a riding lesson.

There are many different boarding options to choose from for those members that have their own horse. Board only, board with maintenance and board plus full training. There is also pasture

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boarding available for horses that prefer to live outdoors. All of the above options include feeding twice a day, stall cleaning, turnout for the stalled horses, and blanket and un-blanket in the winter. Along with the board comes full use of the facility including both arenas and the miles of trails that cover Cordillera Ranch from end to end.

For those horse lovers that do not yet own a horse, we have several club owned horses to



enjoy. These horses are educated and diversified enough to teach a young child or beginner adult to ride, offer challenge to an experienced rider, or take out on the trail. Our youth and adult lesson program is building bigger all the time. We offer group as well as private lessons. The disciplines offered are, Western, English, basic Dressage and Hunter/Jumper. On most afternoons the EQC is filled with laughter and the sounds of kids enjoying horses. There is something truly magical about a child bonding with a horse, and we firmly believe in perpetuating that relationship. We put together a spring and summer youth horse camp that can only be described as AWESOME! For an entire week in the months of March and July the kids take over the EQC for four hours a day. They groom the horses, they ride, rope, laugh, meet new friends and keep

the instructors hoppin! On the last day of camp the families and friends of the campers are invited for an exhibition where the kids can “show off” what they learned throughout the week. Spring Break Camp will be held March 10-14, and summer camp is scheduled for July 21-25.

We offer trail rides throughout the entire year, as the weather permits. We enjoy trails within the gates of the EQC and all through the ranch. Most of the trail rides initiate at the EQC and cover the west end of the ranch up to Spring Creek. We are also able to trailer the horses over to the east side of the ranch to enjoy the beautiful Swede Creek park and Guadalupe River park areas. For those that have a lot of ambition and a few hours to kill, we can tour the entire ranch via horseback. Trail riding through the community is a great way to see the ranch from a different perspective.

We are here to enable the members of Cordillera Ranch to experience the wonderful things that horses have to offer. Whether your desire is the occasional trail ride, for your child to become an accomplished rider, or just to come out and feed some carrots, we will do what it takes to meet your needs. If you are interested in any of the activities offered at the Equestrian Club please contact [Kassandra Leachman](mailto:kleachman@cordilleraranch.com) by email at kleachman@cordilleraranch.com or by phone at (210) 249-8116 ☎

