

# Sunnyside Stock Farm, LLC (SSF) Newsletter for Fall – Winter 2014

## Sunnyside Stock Farm; Established in 1964

Hello and welcome to the 3rd edition of the Sunnyside Stock Farm quarterly newsletter. Our goal is to bring you ranch news, updates and stories or articles of interest affecting the Bonita Valley. We welcome all story ideas or news, which you would like to share. So tighten your cinch, get aboard, and let's get this ride going.

**New Boarders:** We are pleased to welcome new boarders to Sunnyside Stock Farm. If you walk into the block barn a beautiful bay head will emerge from the left rear stall. You are looking at *Amaya*, an Andalusian owned by Monika Horvat. We also welcome Dana Leviel and her Curly Foxtrotter *Silver* coming cross-country from Florida. At the north end of the ranch you will find a new Palomino mare, *Norma Jean*, and while welcoming her give a howdy to her human half, Barry Rice. Nick & Kim Mitchell have come to Sunnyside, from Utah, with their three horses *Ranger*, *Rockette* and her foal. Our newest boarders are Kathleen & Athena Doherty with *Bunny*, *Lucy* and *Mia*. Please welcome our newcomers as you happen to see them about the farm.

**Capital Improvements:** After four years the capital construction projects are completed. We will still have on-going maintenance projects, landscaping and upgrades of facilities infrastructure but the era of piles of old wood, concrete and such are past. Thank you for your patience over the years as we sought to make the ranch a first-class facility, again.

**Ranch Contacts:** Reminding you to contact Jennifer Dawson, our Book Keeper and Office Manager, Monday through Wednesday's from 9:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M. if you have questions regarding billing or change of services. Changes to services should be confirmed by filling out a Services Request Form, found on the clip boards located on Alan Seacord's tack room, on the south side of the block barn. If you forget to fill out a form, just call the office Mondays – Fridays at telephone 619-434-3812 or email at [descanso1@reagan.com](mailto:descanso1@reagan.com) or [davidphair@msn.com](mailto:davidphair@msn.com). During the weekends contact Felipe or John, direct, and they will see that the change is ordered and implemented for your horse.

**Reminder of Electronic Invoicing & Payment Services:** Sunnyside Stock Farm offers electronic invoicing and payment options or you can continue payment via check, cash or money-orders. If you desire the electronic invoicing and automatic payment options then contact Jennifer Dawson at [davidphair@msn.com](mailto:davidphair@msn.com) or the office telephone, 619- 434-3812.

**Reminder to Keep Emergency Contact Information Up to Date:** If your contact information or address has changed or if there is a change to your attending veterinarian please notify the office immediately. The office email contact is [davidphair@msn.com](mailto:davidphair@msn.com) or by telephone, 619-434-3812.

## Horse Tales: The legend of Scarlett Aphroditii & Dave Wisniewski



Meet Scarlett Aphroditii & Dave, Scarlett is a 7 year old Arabian mare. You have probably seen Scarlett & Dave (he's the one with the funny looking outfit) on the ranch or on the trail. They've been boarders for 1.5 years and love the trails and the ranch. Quoting Dave "Jon & Felipi are what make this place awesome, they are 2 hard working guys."

Scarlett used to be boarded in Lakeside, Dave would trailer her to Bonita 3 times a week to use the trail system. He heard about Sunnyside, checked us out and the rest is history.

Dave first met Scalett when she was 3 months old. He took her home when she was 7 months; she was only halter broke at that time. He's done the majority of the training, with a little help along the way from friends.

Scarlett's farrier does Endurance riding and shared many stories that piqued Dave's interest. When Scarlett was 4 yrs old they did their first 25 mile endurance ride. They ride the Southern California & circuit, and average 7 rides a year. There are 3 categories of rides 25, 50 & 100 mile distances. They have competed in some 50 mile events, no future plans for any 100 mile events. Dave's favorite endurance ride is Vail Lake in Temecula. He likes the trails, views and the people. The average event has 100 riders, it's a very social activity, you have people, horses, camping & trails. Not a bad way to spend a weekend! Endurance riders feel every horse that completes the ride is a winner. They do give awards and Dave & Scarlett have received awards for Fastest Time & Best Condition.



I asked Dave about the tack used for Endurance. He showed me his lightweight saddle; there are pads under the saddle along the tree that can be adjusted using Velcro. There is foam padding on the stirrups. This saddle is designed for ultimate comfort for both horse & rider.

Dave rides several times a week to keep both horse & rider fit. On the weekend his wife joins in, she rides her bike, Scarlett enjoys the female company.



Scarlett Aphroditii is well known in the endurance world, she even has her own Face book page. Dave has several "doctored" photos on the site. He's got her sitting in first class on a plane heading for France (see below) and on the cover of Time Magazine. She has the honor of being the "Spokes Model" for the US Endurance Team. They are calling her "Special Advisor to Chef'd Equipe,

Emment Ross." The US Endurance Team is on their way to France for the World Equestrian Games.

Give them a shout out next time you see them whizzing by you on the trail.

**Good Bye:** Kathy Eble is leaving Sunnyside Stock Farm and returning to her home town, in Michigan. Kathy has lived at the farm for over 22 years and for the last eight months has been our eyes and ears during the weekends. Kathy will be leaving the ranch on/about September 10<sup>th</sup>. We are sorry to see her go, but wish her *God Speed and Smooth Sailing* in her new life.

**Riding Trails Update & Action:** The trail system in Bonita and much of the county is in jeopardy due to the bureaucratic acts of the United States Fish & Wild Life Service. The agency makes the argument that many species indigenous to Southern California cannot thrive under current management practices. Their answer is to close off vast areas of long utilized open-spaces, which trails pass through. The premise is at best flawed.

The greatest impact to species is reduced open space due to urbanization. San Diego County is built out; there exists virtually no large tracts of private lands to be developed in high density housing. Species stabilization will occur as pressure on those species is reduced from elimination of construction crews, etc.

Further, the U.S. Fish & Wild Life Service forgets who their employer is. They serve the tax-payer, both environmentalist and outdoorsmen. The greatest safe guard to our back country and open space is regular oversight by both the management staff of Fish & Wild Life but also the private citizen, who utilizes the terrain for bicycle riding, hiking, hunting and horseback riding. Write your congressman, write the Fish & Game and express your opinion that a common-sense approach to open space management and species protection must be implemented. Not just vast terrain closures.

**From the Desk of David Phair:** A poem entitled “The Easy Way” was one of Dave’s favorites. It reads

“To love or to be loved, which is the greater?

For me to love is necessary to others; for me to be loved is necessary to me.

So, who comes first? Me? You?

If I come first, I must find someone to love me. If others come first, I must find someone to love.

It is easier to find someone to love than to find someone to love me.

And if I take the easy way, to love the next person I meet, Lo and behold!

The love I seek finds me!”

**Sunnyside Stock Farm, LLC**

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