



# Xenophon News

Volume 2

Summer 2007

## Battle of the Barns 2007

Xenophon was once again the lucky beneficiary of an event aptly called Battle of the Barns. On July 28th nine teams came together from different barns in the area to compete against one another in a variety of games. These riders were not the only ones showing off their riding skills on this day. Xenophon student, Jonathan Carr, presided over the day as Master of Ceremony. He participated in the Grand Entry along with Executive Director, Judy Lazarus. Two more Xenophon students were there to do a demonstration for the crowd. During the lunch break, Rebecca Weston and Rebecca Shirley rode for the crowd. Rebecca Shirley was aboard Pooh and dazzled the crowd with her ability to do around-the-world, a vaulting move that requires the rider to do a full circle on the horse's back. Rebecca Weston rode her trusty steed, Bandit. She impressed the crowd with her independent riding while in an English saddle.

A BIG thank you to Martinez Horseman's Association for sponsoring this event. And another BIG thank you to our students who participated and to all the Xenophon volunteers who were there to help!



Left—Master of Ceremony, Jon Carr.

Right—The 2 Rebeccas—Rebecca Weston (left) & Rebecca Shirley (right)



### 2007 Calendar

#### September

4 Labor Day - no classes  
10-15 Break  
17 Session Three begins

#### October

27 Student Horse Show

Mark your calendars for our 2008 Gala—  
March 8, 2008

Thank you to all our donors. Your financial support and time given to this organization is greatly appreciated!

A special thank you to our vet, Mike O'Brien and our farrier, Nick Rossi, for always being there when we need them.

And, finally, a great BIG thank to all our volunteers who are there day in and day out. We could not do this without you!

## GoodSearch

You search... We give!

What if XENOPHON earned a penny every time you searched the Internet? Well, now we can! GoodSearch.com is a new search engine that donates half its revenue, about a penny per search, to the charities its users designate. You use it just as you would any search engine, and it's powered by Yahoo!, so you get great results.

Just go to [www.goodsearch.com](http://www.goodsearch.com) and be sure to enter XENOPHON as the charity you want to support. Just 500 of us searching four times a day will raise about \$7300 in a year without anyone spending a dime! And, be sure to spread the word!

Xenophon Therapeutic Riding  
Center

P.O Box 16

Orinda, CA 94563

Phone (925)377-0174

Fax (925)377-0174

Email [info@xenophontrc.org](mailto:info@xenophontrc.org)

Website: [www.xenophontrc.org](http://www.xenophontrc.org)

### Staff

Executive Director

Judy Lazarus

[xenride@aol.com](mailto:xenride@aol.com)

Program Director

Janet Alexander

[jalexander@xenophontrc.org](mailto:jalexander@xenophontrc.org)

Associate Director

Zette Thierry

[zthierry@xenophontrc.org](mailto:zthierry@xenophontrc.org)

Barn Manager

Melissa Maker

[mmaker@xenophontrc.org](mailto:mmaker@xenophontrc.org)

### Instructors

Jan Bindas

Janet Alexander

Melissa Maker

Myke Judd

Heidi Koch

Tineke Jacobsen

Karin Ohlson

### Board of Directors

Terry Murphy, President

John Fazel, Vice President

Ellen Marienthal, Secretary

Chris Legallet, Treasurer

Kris Holst

Joni Binder

## Events 2007

**Open House**—we celebrated our 15th Anniversary on a beautiful summer day. Over 100 people attended the festivities which included a BBQ, a magician, rides on Annie and our well-behaved horses. Several of our students provided riding demonstrations for the crowd. Thank you to everyone for making our first fifteen years a success!



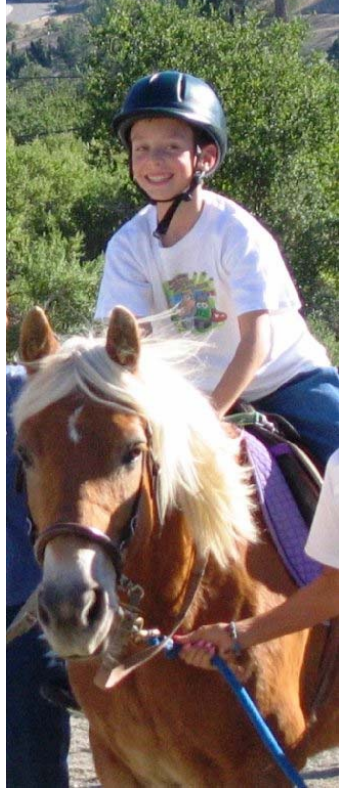
Once again the weather cooperated for our annual family BBQ. This year the event was held at San Pablo Reservoir and was attended by close to 100 people. There was lots of food and wagon rides provided by Access Adventure. Thank you to Michael Muir and his team of people and horses for providing wagon rides to everyone including those in wheelchairs. His beautiful pair of Percheron mares—Ruby & Reba—were the center of attention and behaved remarkably well.



Pictures by Jim Pire. Thank you!

## **XENOPHON MEANS EXCELLENCE!**

*By Catherine Carr*



*Our family has had the blessing of using Xenophon's wonderful program for the last 3 years. Jonathan's first year was on the wait list and it turned out to be an awesome experience. It allowed him to adjust to the routine gradually. He received instruction from multiple instructors over that year. Actually, as I look back, being on the wait list was important to me. I was able to watch different instructors with a variety of children/issues so it was a good test of the proficiency, consistency and overall caliber of the program. I found out whether Jonathan wanted to be in this program without investing a lot of time and money, needlessly. Having a child with challenges can be a daily question mark with thoughts like "will he want to do this today?, will he cooperate?, will he understand what is being asked of him?" While on the wait list we were called quite a bit, sometimes with only a few hours to rearrange the schedule, but it was well worth it.*

*What can I say about the staffing... the quality of people involved make 'me' feel cared for ...the teachers and volunteers are very courteous and were careful to make sure Jonathan did not get hurt while keeping the horses safe. I know without a shadow of doubt my son is safe and is receiving the best instruction within his abilities. The last two years Jon's teacher has been Myke... what an awesome and gifted teacher she is! From my experience, all the teachers are great with the kids and listen when concerns arise.*

*I am impressed that each child's strengths and weaknesses were incorporated into how and what they teach. Each child receives individualized instruction to work on areas a parent will specify. Jonathan, in the past, struggled with a variety of issues. Over the last two years, I have seen Jonathan's confidence on the horse blossom. I believe that incorporating this program into his schedule was instrumental in broadening Jonathan's ability to transition through changes (a major issue at one point). We try to give Jonathan a variety of experiences to help his speech/focus issues and this program is one of the continued avenues because of the teacher's consistency, his interest, and skill developed.*

*I am grateful to all the people who continue to support (through service or financially) this invaluable gift to our "special" children... you may not see all the facets of how this program works in a child's life but I know that it is immeasurable not just in their lives but in the parent's hearts as they see their child accomplishing.*

## **Notes from our Executive Director - Judy**

*Xenophon is in the midst of another amazing year. We now have 40 students riding with us. It is so rewarding to watch the growth of our students. The smiles of our children are one of the reasons Xenophon is such a joyful place to be. We are blessed with volunteers who, so willingly, give of their time and talent. Many have been with us for years, and we welcome those who are new to Xenophon.*

*Our facility looks better than ever thanks to the help of everyone who came to the workday early in the year. It really does "take a village" to keep things looking neat and well kept.*

*I would like to welcome several new members to our Board: Joni Binder, Ellen Marienthal, Kris Holst, and Chris Legallet. Our Board, and supporting committees, will be working on a new five-year-plan to determine the future direction of our program.*

*I would like to remind everyone that our fundraising efforts continue to be a very important aspect of our program. Since we have a shortfall of \$112.00 per lesson, (we give 720 lessons per year) we must raise \$96,000.00 each year to meet our financial obligations. This is a daunting amount, but with everyone's help, I'm sure we will get the job done.*

*Xenophon is up for accreditation this year. North American Riding for the Handicapped, our governing body, sponsors this process, which allows us to evaluate all aspects of our program. When we went through this procedure five years ago we received 100%. We hope to repeat our success again this year and to remain one of the best therapeutic riding centers, of our size, in the country.*

## *Xenophon's Mission*

*Xenophon's mission is to provide a high quality program of therapeutic horseback riding and related activities to disabled children. By providing a safe and stimulating environment, Xenophon seeks to enrich the lives of our students by improving their physical and mental ability, increasing their confidence, and enhancing their self esteem.*

I hope you have all had a chance to meet the latest addition to our herd of horses. "Annie" is not quite one year old, stands about 10 hands high and is a beautiful charcoal grey color! What? You haven't seen her roaming around the paddocks? Actually, you will most likely not see her roaming much. Her "stall" is down next to the hay barn which is where she will remain most of the time. Annie is an Equicizer which is handmade by former jockey, Frank Lovato, Jr.

The Equicizer offers many fun alternative ways of conducting therapeutic exercises for children with disabilities. The Equicizer is warm and friendly in appearance though built incredibly strong. Exercises beyond the typical horseback riding positions can be applied with stretching, strengthening and balancing in a safe controlled manner. Instructors will be incorporating Annie into their lesson plans for our students. She can help new students get accustomed to being on a horse, she can be used to relax tight muscles and she can be very instrumental in improving strength, stability, flexibility, balance, and confidence. Please feel free to stop by and say hi to Annie—just don't try to feed her any carrots!



P.O. Box 16  
Orinda, CA 94563

Phone: 925-377-0174  
Fax: 925-377-0174

We're on the WEB!  
[www.XenophonTRC.org](http://www.XenophonTRC.org)