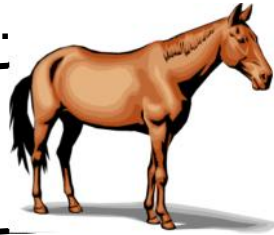


Notes from....



## Serrano Creek Ranch Equestrian Center

SEPTEMBER 2015

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There has been a rumor going around the stable that our own Lupe has gotten married. In this case this one is true (1% rule). Our congratulations to her and her new husband Victor. How quickly she grew up!

You may also recognize the two distinguished gentlemen on the side as well!

### *Is El Nino For Real?*

Computer meteorological models seem to be agreeing with greater confidence that the El Nino impact could be of record strength this rain season. While threat of big storms seems to be the stuff that boost news ratings, we will be taking its possibilities quite seriously. For a more thorough discussion of El Nino one should visit the NOAA discussion board [http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis\\_monitoring/enso\\_advisory/ensodisc.html](http://www.cpc.ncep.noaa.gov/products/analysis_monitoring/enso_advisory/ensodisc.html)

Over the years, great efforts have been expended to facilitate drainage, however there is always room for improvement. During these many years, we have been adding gravel to

*(Continued on page 2)*

### *SCR Exceeds Water Saving Goal*

Our last newsletter was for some a comprehensive, and for others an inordinate examination of the arena footing. I promise that this portion is a much briefer review of the same topic.

Again, as detailed in the last newsletter, we have retooled the compost screening equipment to capture the ideal footing material. This has proved to be wildly successful. We had earlier planned to screen the dust from the back arena. Instead we are able to add thin layers of the captured courser material to the footing. Then with each night's watering, the finer material is washed downward, eventually going below the cutting depth of the arena harrow. While there

*(Continued on page 2)*

*(El Nino Continued from page 1)*

harden the walkways of the stable. In two areas, this adding has created high areas or dams that prevent proper drainage. By retarding the flow, these areas will remain wet longer than others, and could easily become muddy bogs if the storms come in rapid successions.

Area 1 is by Leslie. This area is 1' too high and as such blocks the drainage of the small arena and hotwalker. By cutting this hump, the hotwalker and small arena will have the proper fall to shed water quickly.

Area 2 begins at the low end of the front breezeway and continues to the corner of Fernando's house. As it currently exists, rain flows into the front arena delaying the time this arena can be reopened after light to moderate storms. By routing this water around and past the bathrooms, the closure time should be reduced. The regrading will be done on Mondays beginning September 14. A thick layer of gravel will be re-laid after grading to ensure that the all-weather surface will be in place for the winter.

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*New Gate  
Code  
Coming*

In order to maximize the security of the back gate, we'll be changing the code in September. For the sake of all, we ask that you treat the code with the same confidence as you would any pin number. Look for separate email in your inbox with the new code

*(Water Savings Continued from page 1)*

were brief times where the footing was slightly deeper than the desired depth, the fines move downward becoming compacted and returning the footing to the proper depth. This process saved an arena being closed for weeks.

The other great success was the installation of the stable-wide irrigation control system. By watering at night when winds are the least, humidity is the highest, and ample time is available for water to soak throughout the footing, dust levels have been greatly reduced. This new watering strategy has resulted in 40% reduction in our water usage as compared to the same period in 2014. Seeing that the savings are real over the past months, we're going to increase the watering of a few landscaped areas that seem to have suffered. But even with these small increases, overall the reductions have proven real and significant.

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By time you finish fighting others to get your copy of this newsletter, you will be seeing the newest member of the stable team. The red tractor that has been used for the past 23 years to faithfully tractor the arenas suffered a catastrophic breakdown in August and has been "released from duty". The new replacement (also red) should be here in early September. Given the critical role an arena tractor plays in the daily operation of the stable, we decided to purchase a new one, rather than used. Having reliable equipment in the long run outweighs the short term pain of purchasing full price.

