



After a recent work-out, my swim coach validated my enthusiasm for this issue's annual celebration of riding programs and events that open the horse world to new people. She was fresh from a Saturday afternoon watching Grand Prix jumping at a Blenheim EquiSports show in San Juan Capistrano. "The jumps were so big," she said with wide eyes and a big smile. "The horses were so big! And we got to pet about 10 of them!"

My coach is a regular, reasonable grown-up, with typical recreational riding experiences in her youth. Her obvious joy after an afternoon in the magical world we too often take for granted freshly inspired our team's efforts on this issue. Living in Orange County, I've often recommended Blenheim EquiSports' local competitions to non-horsey friends and there are plenty of equally spectator-friendly equestrian events throughout our readership area. Ideally, those visits lead to interest in beginning riding lessons and we all have a good program to recommend when asked. That's the main point of many of the articles in this issue.

This year's annual Riding School celebration spotlights the Hayden Riding School in Orange County, AG Equestrian Training in San Luis Obispo and the California Riding Academy in the Bay Area's Pacifica. Also included is our growing list of recommended beginner programs. Thanks for letting us know which should be added to this list's online version, and we welcome suggestions for programs to spotlight in print next year. Meantime, our biggest hope is that all readers be ready with a good riding school, show or event to recommend to prospective new fans of the sport. They are the all-important source for keeping the base of our sport's pyramid strong going forward.

The Western States Horse Expo this month in Sacramento is the perfect place for new and existing horse fans. We can't think of one question you couldn't get answered at the Expo, which celebrates its move to the Rancho Murieta Equestrian Center this year. The venue hosts

May 2019 - Editor's Notes

Written by by Kim F. Miller
Tuesday, 30 April 2019 01:05

top competitions all year, has undergone big upgrades and seems a perfect fit for Horse Expo.

Speaking of Northern California venues, we greatly enjoyed a tour of The Horse Park at Woodside on a spectacular mid-April day. The variety of equestrian activity going on there is impressive and it's simply a beautiful place to spend the day enjoying our sport. We look forward to returning this month for The Spring Event at Woodside, including the Preliminary Challenge festivities.

Big thanks to Finish Line Horse Products for sponsoring this issue's cover. Look for their trusted products at Horse Expo, including their newest: Performance Builder. We're grateful to all our advertisers, in print and online, for enabling us to keep sharing news and neat stories in the nearly 20,000 issues we distribute each month and online.

Along with our usual mix of horse, people and events news, June's issue will feature hunter/jumper trainers, barns, footing and equipment. Let us know if you have an article suggestion on those topics or another. We love hearing from our readers!

Happy reading and happy riding!

[Kim F Miller, Editor](#)



ADOPT ME! Batman is a 13 yr old quarter horse gelding up for adoption at FalconRidge Equine Rescue in Valley Center, CA (Northern San Diego County). He stands 15.2 hands high and was trained in western pleasure. He can do light riding only due to a slight hock lameness. His past

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owner had to give him up due to finances. He had a long time off from riding, we have started him on Previcox and he appears do be doing well. His AQHA registered name is Dust Off the Goods and he has a very nice slow jog. We are told he is easy to ride and very friendly. He is healthy, up to date on vaccines and ready for his life long adoptive owner who would like to do light riding only. Super cute personality Batman has! Adoption fee is \$800. Read about Batman on our adoption page at <http://falconridgeequinerescue.blogspot.com/> . Website, www.falconridgerescue.org

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