

Sea Star News Fall Features

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Issue 4: Fall 2015

Almaden Farms Horse Show: Fun in the Sun

An annual summer highlight, the Almaden Horse Show never disappoints. Because it takes place just around the

corner from the ranch, the Almaden shows are easy for families to enjoy.

This year Lomi, Val, Anna, Tess, Beth, Kelley, Sayali, Sydney, and Edie competed over two weeks. All the Sea Star riders did beautifully, many of them either moving up in divisions, competing on a new horse, or kicking off their Sea Star show career.

Thanks to all the parents who supplied snacks and support, to Beth Guhin for her beautiful braiding, and to Kristian Schenk for helping to hack all the horses. We'll be back next July for more fun in the sun at Almaden Farms!





Emma Joins the Pony Parade

Sea Star welcomed another pony into the barn this spring. A gentle, experienced, medium pony, Emma has quickly become a Sea Star Riding School favorite. It's hard not to fall for this quiet pony with her three smooth gates, sweet demeanor, and perfect manners.

An excellent lesson pony, Emma also has show-ring presence. At her first show as a Sea Star Emma, aka "Ponyella," was Reserve Champion, Walk-Trot, with Tess at Almaden Too. Emma also enjoys outings to Mt. Madonna, grooming sessions with "her" kids, and general pampering. Available for in-house

lease or lessons, Emma will delight every lucky kid who meets her. Emma is available for lessons or an in-house lease. She makes her next show-ring appearance at the upcoming Santa Cruz County Fair.

Sullivan the Gentleman

Summer brought another new horse to Sea Star, the elegant gentleman Sullivan. Sully is a 16.1 handsome gelding who quickly took to his new job as a lesson horse for riders ready to take the next step in their riding careers.

Honest and forgiving for amateurs and juniors schooling cross-rails to 2'9", Sully would make the perfect lease horse for the rider looking to begin competing and attending clinics. He has years of show-ring experience under his belt and clocks around like the seasoned pro he is. With perfect ground manners, a gentle demeanor, and an educated mind, Sully is a barn favorite. Available for lessons or in-house lease. Watch for him in the show ring at the Santa Cruz County Fair and at Brookside.



Advanced Camp Kicks off Summer at Sea Star

Young riders already involved in the Sea Star program got to enjoy a special treat to celebrate the end of the school year.

The 3-day Advanced Camp offered an opportunity to delve a bit deeper into such topics as grooming, scoring hunter rounds, and practicing equitation.

Thank you to Natalie Mueller who spent a day sharing stories and photos from her show career, using videos to teach the kids the finer points about

successful show ring conduct and appearance. Natalie also taped the students' courses and walked them through a "Judge My Ride" debriefing before having them ride the course again. Great job, Natalie!

The Sea Star Advanced Campers took a road trip to nearby Hidden Canyon Farms, the stunning, private hunter/jumper facility, for a Professional Grooming Clinic. Thanks so much to owner Barb Chapin for providing access to her beautiful barn, and to Armando, HCF's longtime groom who shared tips about grooming, clipping, and cleaning tack. Sea Stars have been using tricks learned at the clinic all summer.

Advanced Camp culminated with another off-property adventure, this time taking horses to nearby Mt. Madonna for a trail ride. Horses and riders alike loved the peaceful walk through the redwoods-- it's good to get out of the arena for some relaxed fun sometimes!

Keep an eye on the Sea Star calendar at www.seastarridingschool.com for the next Advanced Camp.

Buddy Goes to Bollywood: Sea Star Wins the Golf Cart Contest at Almaden!

The annual Golf Cart Contest, featured just before the Mini-prix jumper class at the Almaden Farms Horse Show, is always an audience favorite. All the barns decorate a golf cart following a theme of their choice and then participate in a parade around the jumper arena. Judges and fans in the stands choose a winner... an accomplishment long coveted by Edie.

As a playful nod to one of Sea Star's favorite families, the Kamaths, the riders chose "Buddy Goes to Bollywood" as this year's theme. Who better than Buddy, with his Hollywood background, to lead the parade as a pony stand-in for the sacred Indian elephant?



Thanks to the many parents and friends who made it possible to pull off a bedazzled Bollywood act, complete with a choreographed dance, in the midst of a busy horse show!

Teamwork pays off: Sea Star Riding School won the Golf Cart Contest! We can't wait for next year... start thinking of ideas, Sea Star kids!





Sea Star Spotlight: Madalyn Fernandez

"I'm pretty good at this," Madalyn Fernandez, 4-1/2 at the time, announced from aboard Buddy, the gentle, elderly pony. Leadline Day 1, a success.

Flash forward one year. Now riding Harris, the saintly Sea Star lesson horse, Madalyn confidently trots around the arena on her own, guiding Harris away from the grass he loves to eat when his rider isn't paying attention. "No grass, Harris," she'll command, thwacking Harris's sides with the miniscule heels of her paddock boots until he sets off in on an acceptable track. With one hand on the grab strap and one hand on the reins, Madalyn posts to the horse's placid pace, even trotting over poles and practicing jumping position. While her favorite horse is Harris, "I really like all the Sea Star horses and ponies," Madalyn tells us.

The Santa Cruz County Fair marks our one-year anniversary with Madalyn, the precocious, cheerful, "can-do" kid beloved by the entire Sea Star family. Madalyn's mother, Gina, brought her by the Sea Star stalls at the 2014 fair, and Madalyn was hooked the moment Buddy poked his nose outside his stall to say hi.

Madalyn embodies the Sea Star credo: she arrives neatly turned out to every lesson and works hard to learn all about horsemanship, from picking out Harris's hooves to wiping down his bridle after a brisk workout.

Madalyn has already competed in her first horse show, earning praise from the judge for her excellent heels and position. She plans to ride in more horse shows and looks forward to her first walk-trot classes.

When not charming kids, adults, and horses at Sea Star, Madalyn attends the Santa Cruz Children's School where she just started Kindergarten. She loves to draw and her favorite snacks are apples and cake. Madalyn has one younger brother, Tristan, and her favorite color is pink--we love her riding helmet!

Madalyn Fernandez brings Sea Star spirit to life and we love every lesson with her!

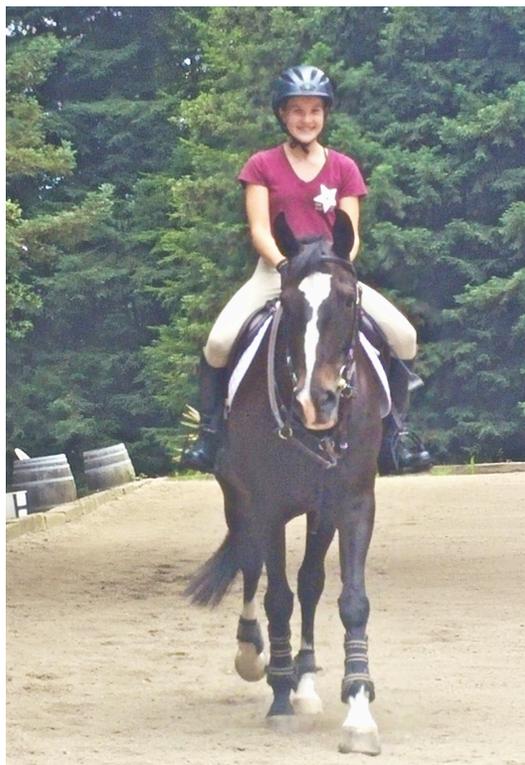


Paso Robles Horse Park: A New Star on the Horse-Show Scene

The Central Coast got another jewel in the local horse show crown when the Paso Robles Horse Show Park opened up in the spring. A beautiful facility featuring several meticulous rings and a Grand Prix arena on grass, Paso will be a fixture on the Sea Star show calendar. An easy 2-hour trip away, in the middle of wonderful wine country, Paso is sure to become a favorite Sea Star family destination.

Lomi and Edie took the first trip to Paso, accompanied by several Sea Star riders who wanted to check out the show, for the Central California Classic in May. Both Buddy and Maya gave the show and the facility a big thumbs up! Sea Star is going back for the Oak Tree Classic in November. Edie, Val, Kelley, and Lomi will be competing.

The Paso Robles Horse Park also holds periodic schooling shows. Watch the calendar at www.seastarridingschool.com to keep track of Sea Star trips to this great new show.



Learning from the Masters: Sea Stars Clinic with Greg Best and Kristin Hardin

There's no better way for a young rider to get inspired than to take a clinic with a top rider. Sea Star riders got lucky this summer, with opportunities to clinic with both Greg Best and Kristin Hardin. In June Colette Bradley and Maya traveled to Bonnie Doon Equestrian Park for a 2-day clinic with the great Olympian, Greg Best. It was the first riding clinic for Colette. Colette loves both the equitation and jumpers divisions and Greg Best worked with her on staying straight after each jump. "It sets you up for the next jump and instills good habits in you and your horse," says Colette. Colette is looking forward to doing more clinics and will be using the techniques she has picked up as she competes at the Santa Cruz County Fair.

The Almaden Farms Horse Shows hosted a free clinic for all PCHA members between Weeks 1 and 2. The clinician, Grand Prix rider Kristin Hardin, had just come off a serious riding accident and her presence alone was inspiring to all. Anna Wheat and her horse, Bodi, lucked out on the "first-come, first-served" lottery, and the clinic was the perfect way for Anna to finish off her Almaden show experience during which she rode in her first hunter derby. Anna liked the way Kristin Hardin worked with everybody in her group and focused on improving one big thing for each rider and horse. "She really focused on how I had Bodi collected and packaged," Anna says. Great input, as Anna and Bodi are also appearing at the fair, as well as preparing for the Fall Festival show at Brookside.

Gaining insight from a new person, learning something from an expert in the field, connecting with other riders and broadening the network of support, and getting a taste of horse-show intensity without competing--these are the benefits of riding clinics, and Sea Star riders look forward to many more.

