

FALL 2012

RIDERS *of the* ALISAL

PUBLISHED WHENEVER A LITTLE CORRAL DUST NEEDS KICKIN' AROUND

Wranglerettes!

The Alisal women wranglers



"Mr. Quickdraw"

Life of a dude wrangler



Plus: *Guest Experiences & News from the Lake*

Meet the WRANGLERETTES!

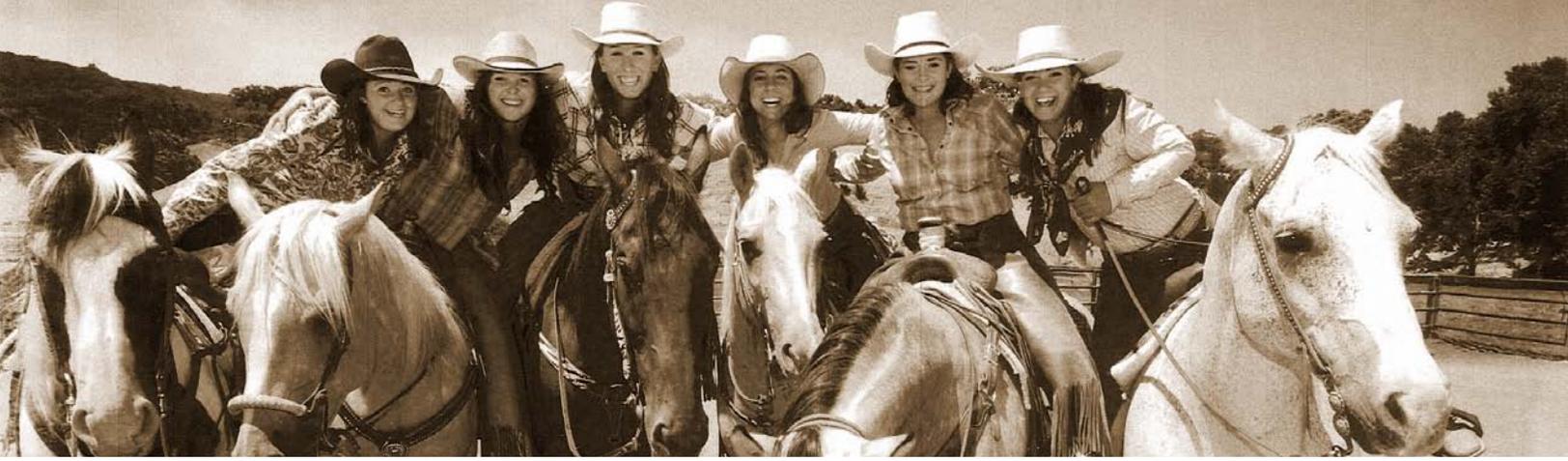


Photo: Robert Stern

Meet the Women Wranglers of the Alisal

Howdy y'all! We just wrapped up another great summer at the Alisal Guest Ranch. We had a special bunch of cowgirls working this summer and we hope they were able to wrangle a smile out of you while you were here...



Julia Testa

Julia was born in Salem, Massachusetts where she lived until she was eight years old. After that she and her family moved around quite a bit living in various places over the years including New Jersey, Colorado, Nevada, and even Hawaii and Guam. Julia moved to the Valley

in the spring of 2010 which is when she began working for the Alisal. She moved to this area because it is so beautiful and she wanted to work outdoors and preferably with horses. The Alisal was a great fit.

Julia began riding horses at just six years of age. Initially her focus was on English riding and she trained in dressage and hunter/jumper styles. Julia says that during middle and high school (when she lived in New Jersey) she spent practically all her time at the barn helping by riding problem horses, feeding, cleaning stalls, and whatever else was needed in exchange for riding lessons. This turned into a job for Julia working at a summer camp, providing riding lessons, and caring for horses. She was thrilled when she got her first horse at age 13. During

college, Julia rode on the equestrian team and worked at the university barn. Working at the Alisal was the first time she truly rode western style.

One thing many do not know about Julia is that she spent about a year working at an equestrian bed and breakfast in Ireland. She led guests on rides and even foxhunting excursions. Sometimes she would lead cross-country rides and hedge jumping – sometimes as high as five feet! Julia said she really enjoyed this time abroad. But she now takes great pleasure in the beautiful countryside at the Alisal. She gets to ride everyday and loves getting to know our guests. Guests respond very well to Julia in return.



Justine Gentilini

Justine was born and raised in East Northport, New York and through last May, had been living in Ithaca, New York while attending Cornell University where she recently graduated with a degree in Hotel Administration. Justine began riding

when she was six years old, showing on the pony hunter circuit, and as she got older transitioned to competing in the hunter/jumpers. At the start of her freshman year of college, Justine was selected to compete as a member of the Cornell University Varsity Equestrian Team, where she rode for three years. It was the summer between her sophomore and junior years in college that she first came to work as a wrangler at the Alisal. It sure didn't take her long to fall in love with the western way of life.

Justine's experience working at the Alisal inspired her to join the Cornell Western Club for her senior year. She competed in

❖ Meet the WRANGLERETTES! ❖

reining and horsemanship and made it to semi-finals in Ocala, Florida. In New York, she also worked with her coach starting and training many young horses, and has attended several barrel racing events. These days, Justine is working with her new horse "Tucker", a four year-old Palomino Quarter Horse gelding. Justine also volunteered for Guiding Eyes for the Blind, where she helped to train future service dogs, and also volunteered for an equine rescue. She played soccer competitively through high school and has also traveled widely to Australia, Alaska and several countries in Europe. Justine just completed her third summer working at the Alisal and has decided to join our team as a full-time, year-round employee. We sure are grateful to have such an amazing cowgirl as part of our team!



Michelle McKenzie

Michelle is from Los Olivos, CA. Her family moved to the valley from Santa Barbara when she was seven years old. Michelle was eight years old when she began horseback riding and started out riding reined cow horses. When Michelle was 10 years old she rode consistently with

a trainer and by the age of 12 she was exercising horses and helping her trainer with riding lessons and horse camps. Michelle got her first horse when she was 14, "Pearl". She competed in barrel racing, pole bending and goat tying for high school rodeo. It wasn't much later that Michelle needed a horse to take her to the next level and she purchased "Charley" who is more of a challenge, but has a lot of talent.

Michelle came to the Alisal through Hannah Borroel. Hannah had been working in the Activities Department at that time when we asked them to come out and run barrels for our summer rodeos. Michelle said she really liked the camaraderie amongst the wranglers. A job that allowed you to ride a horse all summer was just perfect! This was Michelle's second summer working at the barn. She says the Wednesday night rodeos and breakfast rides are the frosting on the cake! Be sure to come out for our summer rodeos and watch Michelle and "Charley" in action.



Hannah Borroel

Hannah is from Menifee, CA (Temecula Area) and she has lived in the Santa Ynez Valley for the last 10 years. Hannah started riding regularly when she was 13 years old. Her grandmother owned a thoroughbred breeding farm, so she has always been around horses. Hannah started taking

lessons after a family friend had given Hannah and her sister their first horse. Her passion for horses led her to start barrel racing, pole bending, and goat tying. Hannah competed in high school rodeo events as well as the West Coast Junior Rodeo Association for about five years.

Some of you may remember Hannah from the Arts & Crafts room at the Alisal. This cowgirl is so outgoing and fun to be around that we sort of stole her from Arts & Crafts and made her part of the barn family. We sure are happy about the switch. This will be Hannah's second summer working at the barn and she has quickly become one of the guests' favorite wranglers. Hannah says she loves working outside, riding horses and talking with people, so working at the barn hardly feels like work. The added bonus, she said, is that the wranglers at the barn are a lot of fun to be around. Hannah still has her high school rodeo horse "Dixie", an adorable Quarter Horse mare that sure is fast. Hannah is also a world traveler and loves sharing her stories of travels and adventure.



Katie Eberlein

Katie is from Santa Clarita, CA, and she started riding when she was seven years old. Katie grew up coming to the Alisal Guest Ranch with her family for their annual vacation. The Alisal sparked her love of horses where she hit the trails every opportunity she could. As a teenager, Katie started

taking western riding lessons at a local stable. Katie was a busy gal during high school. Her senior year, Katie was captain of the girls' varsity basketball team, where she set two school records. She also spent time working with a dressage trainer where she

Meet the WRANGLERETTES!

assisted in giving children vaulting and dressage lessons. After just a short time riding dressage horses, Katie could successfully ride all the introductory level tests.

Katie applied to work at the Alisal for the opportunity to expand her knowledge of horses and work at the place she loved most! This was Katie's second summer working as a wrangler. Katie says what brings her back to work here is also why her family comes back every year... Alisal is the happiest place on earth! The ranch is such a wonderful place for the whole family to share quality time together, and the fun never ends. Katie is the perfect example of cowgirl spirit; she's a hard worker, a good friend, and she always has a smile on her face.



Sandy Mowry

Sandy is from Torrance, CA. She was born with a true love for horses and started riding when she was six years old. She has had her own horse since she was nine and has owned horses ever since. In her younger days, Sandy did some showing in western pleasure, halter, trail class, barrels, and poles. Later on she also

rode hunter jumpers. At the age of 17, Sandy started working on a quarter horse breeding farm and also worked part-time with a vet at local race tracks. Her love of horses didn't stop there. Sandy started raising her own Paints and Quarter Horses and has also spent time working at a therapeutic riding center.

Sandy says that when she heard about the Alisal and the beautiful trails she wanted in. The hills, valleys, and everything about the Alisal is breathtaking. It is nice that so many guests come back every year and it gives us an opportunity to build relationships on a personal level. Sandy is the proud mother of two amazing children, a son and a daughter, both in their twenties. Her children are both a big part of her life, and that is exactly how she wants it. This cowgirl has found the perfect balance of her love of the

outdoors, family, and friends. Sandy has now been working at the Alisal for six years.



Haddie Tal

"What do I say about myself? Horses have always been a big part of my life. I've been riding as long as I can remember. I grew up working for a local pony ride/riding lesson/trail ride stable when I was nine years old. At age 12, I was assisting with kids' horse camps

and riding lessons. I learned to drive teams and wagons and was part of a driving club that drove teams of horses and mules across Death Valley for five years. I started working for pack stations in the Sierras and my traveling bug kicked in. I have since worked for several ranches and outfitters all over Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, Colorado, Wyoming and California. It was quite the gypsy lifestyle and I loved every minute of it.

Aside from working as a wrangler, packer and backcountry cook, I also had the opportunity to work at Zia Park Race Track (Quarter Horses and Thoroughbreds). I was a vet assistant, trainer's assistant, and pony person. That was a fun and very educational experience. I also worked as an event coordinator for a ranch outside of Scottsdale, AZ where we put on weddings,

corporate events, and special functions. Something a lot of people don't know about me is I worked as an equipment operator assisting the border patrol in building a new road and fence on the border with Mexico from Texas to New Mexico.

It was in 2009 when Jesse and I decided that the Alisal was where we wanted to be.

I started working here in March of 2009 and the rest is history. I am thankful that I had the opportunity to work in so many beautiful places and experience so much. It has only made me love the Alisal that much more. We'd all love to share more of our stories with you, so come on over to the barn and let's ride!"



Photo: Robert Stern

LIFE *of a* DUDE WRANGLER



Dick Silva – Alisal Wrangler and Author

Many of you know Dick Silva as “Mr. Quickdraw” from his weekly performances at our summer rodeos. Dick began working as a Wrangler for the Alisal way back in the early 1970’s. Although he came and went a few times that decade, he finally made the Alisal his home in 1979. Guests who have been coming to the Alisal for many years know Dick and he has become a living legend of sorts and an integral part of Alisal history.

Sometime in the early 1970’s Dick wrote a piece entitled *The Life of a Dude Wrangler*. He cannot recall specifically what prompted him to write this commentary, but recalls being asked by many Ranch guests about Wranglers and the history of the trade. He believes it was this guest interest that inspired him to write down his experiences as a Wrangler. In his writing, Dick expresses his love for the Ranch lifestyle in addition to explaining the history of the term Wrangler and what his job at the Alisal entails. It is clear he loves the simple life and living the country lifestyle.

Although not an avid writer, he says he “just had it in him” and the article came together quite easily over the few months it took him to write it. He first wrote each section down on paper before typing it out on an old typewriter. Dick shared copies of his writing with several people over the years and was thrilled how many enjoyed it.

About four years ago, a guest was asking Dick about the Wrangler life. He mentioned to her that he had written about it and asked if she wanted to read his piece. She eagerly agreed and later returned the article to Dick with a note of gratitude. Dick never expected his writing to resonate so strongly with individuals like this guest. He is pleased that after 40 years his story is again being read and appreciated.

We have included a few paragraphs from Dick’s commentary below. If you would like to read the entire piece, please go to the Alisal website, www.alisal.com or [click here](#).

The Life of a Dude Wrangler

The life of a wrangler is somewhat the same as a cowboy except that there are no cattle in the daily work of a wrangler.

The name “Wrangler” comes from the 1800’s when the big cattle ranches would have to drive their cattle from the home ranch to market, which would usually be a few hundred miles away and would take from three to six months. When the cowboys went on the long trail drive, they would take with them a string of horses. Each cowboy would have a string from six to ten horses plus the extra horses to pull the chuckwagon. While the cowboys were taking care of the cattle on the long drive they needed someone to drive the extra horses down the trail and see to it they were all taken care of. Thus the wrangler (which means horse handler – origin unknown) came into being.

On the cattle drive, there were two different wranglers. There were the day wranglers and the nighthawkers (the word “nighthawker” refers to a man who works all night). The nighthawkers work would begin after the cattle and horses were bedded down for the night. They had the job of being out and around the horses all night to see that they were not stolen or that they did not wander off. The day wrangler’s job would begin around three or four hours before daylight. He would roll out of the sack, pull on his boots, strap on his spurs, get a hot cup of campfire coffee and maybe a hard roll and his day would begin.

• • •

There is something special about being a dude wrangler and living out in the country on a large dude ranch like the one I am on right now. At night, instead of all the noise of the city, you hear the noise of the cattle in the surrounding pastures. You also enjoy the clear night air around you and see stars so bright they look like you could put out your hand and pull them out of the sky. Out in the country like this, there is never any problem falling asleep at night.

[Click to read full article >>](#)

WHO'S WHO *at the* ALISAL



Meet Marcy Payne, Director of Activities

Her vibrant energy and never ending supply of smiles has been with us at the Alisal for quiet some time! We all know Marcy Payne, but here's just a little bit more about this amazing lady that you might not have known.

Marcy grew up here in the Santa Ynez Valley, and actually started working at the Alisal when she was 18 years old. Her father was a frequent visitor at the Alisal Golf Course and her aunt worked at the front office. Marcy found out about the Alisal's kids program and started her first day on Easter Sunday of '89.

Working as a Children's Counselor sparked a real interest in education for Marcy and she wanted to be a teacher. Marcy continued to work at the Alisal part time while attending college in Santa Barbara. From there she continued her schooling at the University of Northern Colorado. She was working towards her major in Sociology with an emphasis in education. While in Colorado, Marcy chose an elective class in recreation and immediately knew this was a direction that was meant for her. After her first year she added a second major in Recreation Management.

Marcy has been the Director of Activities since 1994 overseeing activities from toddlers to corporate functions, lake operations, tennis operations, fitness center/spa, guest services, nightly family entertainment, holiday functions, and anything as needed. There are so many things she loves about the Alisal: family is very important to her, and working here year round feels like a continuous family reunion. Marcy really prides herself in knowing that the Alisal gives such a special experience to so many.

While talking to Marcy about what she's done and all she's been a part of, I truly admire her hard work, determination, and grit. Marcy is an avid runner and has ran several marathons. For Marcy it's not about how fast you run, it's the cause that gives her drive. Marcy is a part of "Team In Training" (Leukemia and Lymphoma Society), she has ran marathons in Chicago, New York, twice in Honolulu, Napa, San Diego, Phoenix, and Maui. From American Heart Association Walks to Relay for Life (American Cancer Society) to Breast Cancer Walks, she participates with the purpose of raising money for these organizations. Marcy says she can't donate a lot of money, but she can sure donate her time.

While Marcy is very modest about all that she has done, she is an important driving force in the operations at the Alisal Guest Ranch. She is the first to lend a helping hand, a great leader, and she puts her heart and soul into all she does. Her favorite quote is just a small piece of what she is about. "100 years from now it will not matter what my bank account was, the sort of house I lived in, or the kind of car I drove... but the world may be different because I was important in the life of a child". 🏡

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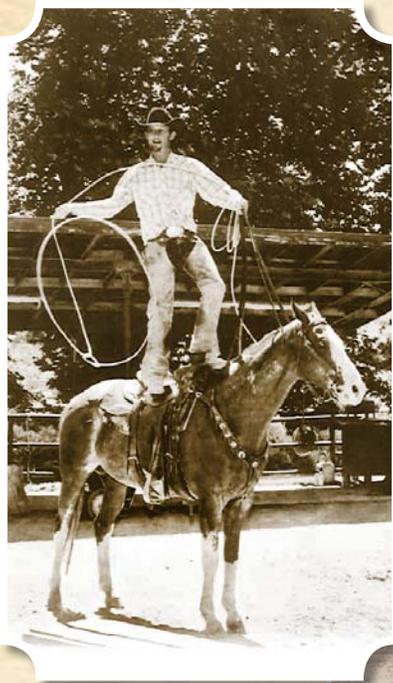


Photo: Robert Stern

Jesse James is chasing the GOLD! (well, gold buckles)

Jesse James Townsend, the Alisal's Assistant Head Wrangler, was born and raised in New Mexico. He's been on horseback ever since he learned how to walk, so it's no surprise he is on his way to competing in the World Series of Team Roping Finals held in Las Vegas, NV. Jesse's competitive edge really sparked while competing in high school rodeo. He rode broncs throughout his high school years, both bareback and saddle bronc. Jesse's hard work paid off and he received a full college scholarship to Eastern New Mexico University.



Jesse didn't start team roping until his college years and it quickly became his passion. He worked diligently with his rodeo coach on becoming a better horseman and roper. Throughout the years, Jesse has had many team roping accomplishments, but this has been his most successful year ever. The hours he spends practicing every day has paid off. So far this year, Jesse has won money, several buckles and a trophy saddle. His 2012 accomplishments so far include:

2012 Season's Awards:

- * *Champion Header at the "Rope for Hope" Cancer Benefit ~ Wickenburg, AZ*
- * *High Point Saddle Winner at the Deanna Hope Cancer Benefit ~ Bakersfield, CA*
- * *Champion Header Trophy Buckle ~ Litchfield Park, AZ*
- * *Champion Header Trophy Buckle ~ Wickenburg, AZ*
- * *Reserve Champion ACTRA Finals ~ Wickenburg, AZ*
- * *Champion Header Las Vegas Qualifier (WSTRC) ~ Chowchilla, CA*
- * *3rd Place Las Vegas Qualifier (WSTRC) ~ Mohave Crossing, AZ*
- * *Champion Header - Open Roping - Parkfield Rodeo ~ Parkfield, CA*
- * *Champion Header - Open Roping - Creston Rodeo ~ Creston, CA*



The biggest event of the year will be the World Series Finals held at the South Point Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas. Jesse qualified in all four ropings for the opportunity to win \$100,000 in each roping. He will be competing December 10th - 16th.

Jesse will be taking his #1 rope horse "Buddy" to Las Vegas. Buddy came from Wild West Yellowstone Rodeo Company. He is a 15.3 hand, 12-year-old Sorrel Gelding. He was used as a pick-up horse, rope horse and breakaway horse. Jesse spent a lot of time trying different horses when he was looking for just the right one. The day that Jesse took Buddy to his first roping to try him out, he won the roping along with \$1,700. It was an instant match. Buddy has taken Jesse to the next level and they are partners in every way. Buddy might not have the pedigree of some other horses out there, but Buddy loves his job and gives everything he has.

GOOD LUCK JESSE! We're rooting for you!

NEWS *from the* Lake



PHOTO: COLIN MADUZIA

The Alisal's private 100-acre spring-fed lake is a shimmering jewel surrounded by picturesque rolling hillsides, towering oaks and an abundance of wildlife. To many guests who return year after year, it is the heart of the Alisal experience. Whether you're a couple looking for a romantic canoe ride, a novice angler looking to try fly fishing, or a family looking to bond on the archery range, the lake and all its activities await.

Archery is more popular than ever.

Whether because of the blockbuster movie the "Hunger Games", or the excitement of the Olympics, archery has never been more popular. According to Dale Combs the Alisal's Archery and Shooting Director, the archery and shooting ranges have always been guest favorites and this year the demand is even higher. The Ranch offers three



archery ranges (15 yards, 20 yards, 25 yards) and up to 10 participants can use the range at a time. There are traditional paper bulls-eyes as well as 3D foam animal targets (all safely

backed by hay bales). Guests also have a choice of traditional Browning bows or compound/mechanical bows. Dale, who is a National Archery Association certified instructor, can help beginners and more advanced shooters improve their skills. "It's really gratifying for me to see how much people enjoy this program and what a great self-confidence builder it is." says Dale. In addition to the archery ranges, there are also two rifle ranges up at the lake. Using powerful air rifles, guests can test their skills on either the 20-yard range or the 10-yard range. Dale offers competition shooting as well as qualification shooting lessons.



Both the archery and the rifle ranges are open year-round, but especially in the summer, it is a good idea to sign up the day before you want to participate.

Both the archery and the rifle ranges are open year-round, but especially in the summer, it is a good idea to sign up the day before you want to participate. The rifle range is open in the morning 9:00–11:00 a.m. (or 3:00–5:00 p.m. on Breakfast Ride days). The archery range is open 1:00–3:00 p.m.

Dale who is a former Air Force trained sharp shooter and NRA certified instructor, has also been shooting a bow since he was six years old. His emphasis is on teaching solid fundamentals, making sure guests have fun and above all, "Safety!"

Minimum age for participation in archery is eight years old (unless a younger child has already had archery experience) and 10 years old for the rifle program.

NEWS from the Lake



If you'd rather be fishing...

If you're a seasoned angler or have never caught a fish in your life the Alisal Lake is the perfect spot to find success and a few hours of fun and relaxation. Master fishing guide and fly fishing instructor, Jason Grupp, has been a fixture at the Ranch since 2001 and he knows when, where and how to catch the bountiful supply of Large Mouth Bass, Blue Gill, Red Ear Perch and Catfish that call the lake home.

You can rent all the equipment you need right at the lake with plenty of top-of-the-line Orvis gear, ready to increase your odds of success.

For those who prefer a little quiet alone time, you can simply pick up a spinning pole, and cast from the lake's docks or rent a boat and explore the inlets for a serene fishing experience. While soloing it appeals to some, most guests



find that a private guided tour or lesson with Jason will make a world of difference. "I have a new 21-foot bass boat that is perfect for fly fishing or spin fishing and this year we have been averaging 30 or 40 fish per fishing trip," says Jason.

The largest fish caught this year was a 9.5 lb. bass, but the

average fish is a nice two- pounder. All the action isn't just in the lake, as there is plenty of wildlife to enjoy from the boat. Among the frequent sights are deer, ducks, and blue heron as well as the occasional bob cats, badgers and bald eagles.

Guided trips run either three or four hours and fly fishing lessons go for three hours. The trips and lessons are offered year-round, but in summer it is suggested that you call ahead to Guest Services to reserve your space.

The fishing is all "catch and release", but the memories you take home will last a lifetime.

There's shore a lot of things to do at the lake

Beyond the great fishing, archery and rifle range, the Lake is a great oasis for family fun and group get-togethers. Josh Ward, the Lake Manager, says the fleet of boats available for rent has never been better. There are Bass Boats, Catamarans, Sail Boats, Canoes, and Paddle Boats all ready to take you out on a lake adventure. Getting up to the lake is easy with the shuttle available to guests on an hourly basis from 7am – 4pm. The lake is also home to the Ranch's famous Seafood BBQ, and the ever-popular summer Kids Nights with campfire and marshmallow roasting. For corporate guests or large groups who visit during the off season, Josh is happy to help coordinate a Lake Olympics with a fishing tournament, archery contests, canoe races and more.

So remember on your next visit to the Ranch, the water at the Lake is clear, the fish are biting and the scenery is always incredible. ☺

GUEST EXPERIENCES

at the ranch



Morning Ride | by Jillian Baldwin

“Wake up sleepy head!”

“Ugh,” I groaned into my pillow. That was the fifth time my dad had shouted that phrase at me, only this time he had done so with a mouthful of toothpaste and his flannel shirt buttoned up wrong. I saw my mom rush over and re-button it before hastily lacing up her leather boots. I felt the soft, warm comfort of the sheets and buried my head deep into my pillow. Out of the window I could see the bright shades of purple and pink that look as though they were painted onto the foxglove flowers. I sat up, getting a bone-tingling shiver sent down my back. I almost dove back into the pile of blankets, but forced myself up.

As I walked past my sister’s bed, I could hear the slight sound of her breathing, but I couldn’t see her face because it was buried in blankets and she clutched a stuffed horse in her arms. I slowly put my jeans, thick socks and a shirt on and then went to brush my teeth. Though I kept hearing my mom pushing us to get ready faster, as she got my sister out of bed, I still went at the same pace, deciding that nothing would ruin today. I finished putting my hair in two braids and walked out of the bathroom to put my boots on. My mom was helping Ally lace up her boots as she was playing with her toy horse in her lap with a beaming, excited smile on her face. I felt the same way but, being older, I could control it. As I opened the cabin’s screen door, a blast of cold morning air hit my face and I remembered

the warmth of my bed. However, the thought was quickly erased at the sight of the sycamore trees that towered over the road to check-in like giants. Then it happened, the noise I had longed for the entire year, the four beat sound of a dove call that signaled that the day had begun.

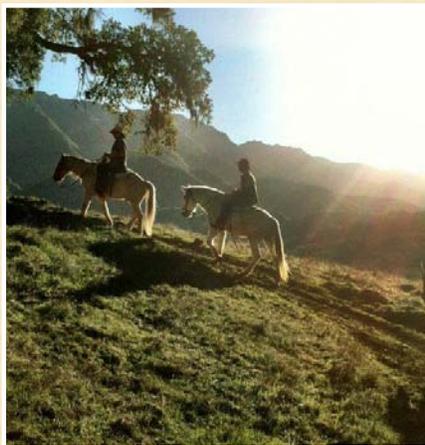
I spotted Parker running across the wood bridge that led to the other cabins. I started running too. I ran awkwardly towards her, my heavy, inflexible boots restricting me from my normal pace. We met in the parking lot in front of the barn, both panting.

“I am so excited!” I blurt out.

“Me too,” said Parker as she adjusted the chin strap on her white helmet. This was the first advance trail ride for both of us. Though the horses would be in a single file line along the trail, I always enjoyed talking to Parker when I could. She is a great listener and would certainly boost my confidence on this ride.

“It’s going to be so fun, ooh, I hope we get Hattie or Jessie as our lead wrangler, it’s so cool that they are engaged...” I trailed on about the possible wranglers that could assist us on the ride. My sister began to run up behind us and kept shouting, wait for me! But I ignored it. We both showed up at the waiting area in front of the corral and barn.

“Let’s get some hot chocolate,” suggested Parker and we both got a cup at the nearby table. On early morning trail rides, the staff will have containers full of coffee and hot cocoa waiting for the guests about to ride.



GUEST EXPERIENCES

at the ranch

"Oww!" I shrieked as the hot liquid burned the tip of my tongue. Parker began to laugh, but then took one sip of her drink and did the same thing. We both laughed at our gullible mistakes and decided we shouldn't have any more.

"Alright, you're both checked in and they should be calling your ride in a few moments" said my mom, pouring herself a cup. We were about to warn her about the hotness until she took one gulp and didn't wince at all. Parker and I both looked at each other, shocked. However, we quickly moved on when the 7:30 advanced ride was called to enter. I pushed hard on the long metal gate that led to the corral. Unlike the hot cocoa, its touch was colder than the morning air.

"Morning kids, enjoy yer trail ride" said Tony, the Head Wrangler, his busy black mustache moving with his lips.

"Good morning," we both said cheerfully in unison. Parker and I followed the other riders and lined up behind several mounting blocks. I quickly looked at the big whiteboard hanging on the old wood barn and found my name next to the horse I'd be riding.

"Yes, Parker I got Coppertone! Who did you get?"

"Parker," she said with a smile. It always amused me that Parker's favorite horse was named Parker.

Dick, a small, old wrangler who had been at the Alisal Ranch longer than anyone can remember, pointed to me and asked me what horse I got. I could barely make out the words, his face hidden behind tufts of white facial hair.

"Coppertone," I replied, and then he went to retrieve the docile creature from the lines of saddled horses tied to posts. The little horse walked obediently to the block. I couldn't help but smile

when I saw him. His dirty caramel coat matched the crème colored mane that crowned his neck and tail alike. I sat on the brown saddle and slipped the leathery reins in-between my hands. As Tony lead me and Coppertone to the line of horses and mounted



Jillain and Hattie

riders, I listened to the chimes of the wrangler's spurs and the snort from Parker's horse behind me.

"Yer riding with yer parents?" inquired Tony.

"Not this time," I replied.

"Yer a big girl now," he said with a deep chuckle. Though a bit embarrassed, I laughed along. As soon as the rest of the riders had gotten lined up on their horses, Hattie trotted to the front of the line on a beautiful appaloosa, and like the dove call, she said the key words.

"Let's move out," called Hattie, and the trail of horses moved forward towards the endless golden hills. 🌄



Our Eagles!

The Alisal's American Bald Eagles first appeared at Alisal Lake in the fall of 2007. They started building their nest in January of 2008 and the first clutch hatched during the last week in March, 2008. The pair has had a clutch of two in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011 and 2012. We believe one eaglet died in 2010. These are wild birds because neither has a wing tag or leg band. We hope the eagles continue to thrive in the unique environment our lake provides and that many of your will be able to see them during your future visits.

GUEST EXPERIENCES

at the ranch



Ten Years of Family Memories

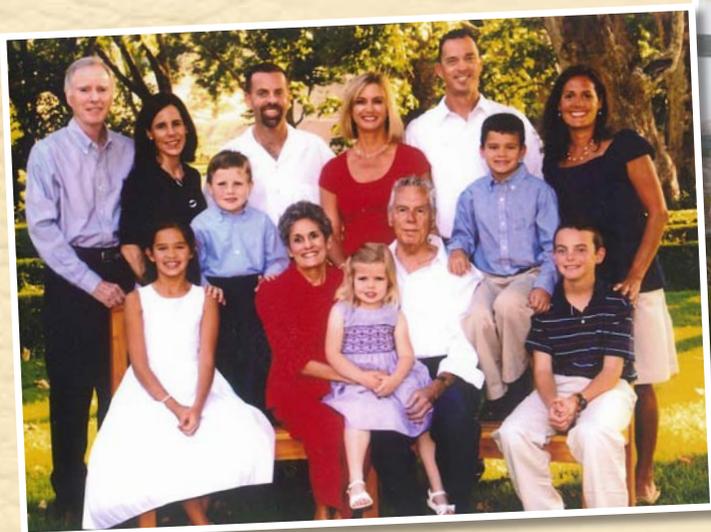
by Bill and Celida Deseran (and family)

Over the past 10 years, our family has visited Alisal 7 times. We have now made it a yearly summer visit that the entire family looks forward to. We have 3 adult married children and 5 grandchildren. The oldest grandchild is 14 and the youngest is 6. Our trips to Alisal have been so memorable with each year building upon the prior year. I cannot possibly recount the many positive effects and everlasting memories that these times at Alisal have created for our family. It truly is a time for laughter, fun, and bonding.

This recent summer was the first time that all our grandchildren could ride horses together on the trail ride (my particular delight). Our 6 yr. old grand-daughter didn't take off her riding hat. Then there is the tennis. Our 2 daughters and our daughter-in-law play

a good game. Our son and son-in-law love the golf and more recently the grandchildren have experienced the thrill of catching fish off the dock at the lake. I haven't even mentioned the many other wonderful activities including the pool, ping-pong, and the arts and crafts. In the evening, the delicious meals provide us with special family time for much laughter and happiness, as well as the ability to share with each other about our day. Now our grandchildren sit together so they can have their own fun.

Thanks for giving us a great family experience, and a tradition we hope continues for many years. 🐾



The Deseran family

GUEST EXPERIENCES

at the ranch



Alisal Again

by Jerome H. Thompson

Well, the clocks are still rolling
And now it's October Ninth, Two Thousand Eleven
The entire Thompson gang is here in Alisal
Of course they all think they are in heaven.

This is our 26th trip to Alisal
Which all started in October 1985
Literally hundreds of great remembrances
Give us one more reason to thrive

There are so many fabulous memories
Of fishing, horseback, camping and rides
Makes us wonder what this place looked like
When it was occupied by Indian tribes

I doubt the owners of Alisal are aware
Of how many thousands of people enjoy
All that they offer to the public
Especially to the young girls and boys.

—Jerry



Alisal Fun

by Kendrick McDonald, age 9

My favorite event is going to Alisal Ranch. My sister and I get to share a big bed, with red and green checkered bed spread. Outside our little house there is a swimming pool with waves the color of the windy blue sky.

Far away from the swimming pool there is a barn. It is very noisy over there. I can hear the clack clack from the cowboy's boots, squawk squawk from the chickens and naaa naaa from the horses. Other than that, I love visiting the barn.

Sometimes the cowboys even let me and my dad ride on the trail. Clock click go the horses hoofs.

Back near the swimming pool there is a field. I go there with



my sister Carys. We play tag for about an hour. Then we flop on the cool green grass all tired out.

After I go to the arts and crafts room, I usually see my other sister Bryn in there. It is so quiet in there. I only hear the sound of cutting, gluing and writing on paper. I sat down and made a frog with green skin and eyes as bright as a cat.

Alisal is important to me because I get to spend time with my family.

WE'LL SEE Y'ALL
next time



We hope you've enjoyed this edition of the Riders of the Alisal!

If you have any comments, stories, or photos you'd like to share with us, please send them to: webmarketing@alisal.com



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If there's anything else we can help you with, don't hesitate to give us a ring:

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Reservations (Toll free): (800) 4-ALISAL

Fax: (805) 688-2510

Guest Services: (805) 686-7700

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