

Lake Sonoma Horse Camp

Dan Horn

About 5 years ago Donna Meier and I heard there was a new Trails Ranger at Lake Sonoma, Mr. Joel Miller. So we went to introduce ourselves and Back Country Horsemen. What a great day for the horsemen of Sonoma County.

We visited for about an hour, throwing out ideas about trail improvements and a horse camp. Much to our surprise, Joel was very excited about our wish list and within a few days called me with the ok from his boss.

We started with high line poles and manure bunkers.



Over the next year we added fire pits, tables and lantern hooks.



2 years ago, we had a water tank donated to the unit, so again we went to see our friend Joel.



We were able to cut it into the old water lines that ran to Lone Rock Trail Head and with the help of the Sonoma County Trail Blazers that donated 2 water troughs, we put in water to the camp. The water troughs seem to have a dual purpose.



This last year, we decided that the camp needed some shade, so off to see Ranger Joel again. With a lot of help from Bay Area Barns & Trails, Burgess Lumber, Reliable Hardware and a lot of private donations, we now have a large Shade Covered Dining area at the horse camp.



Del King and I tack welded the metal post parts together that will support the roof of the shade shelter. I took them up to the Lake and last week I got a report from our helpful Ranger Joel that he had finished all the welding on them.



we got to work on the trusses. Bo, Del, Barry and I were a bit slow getting started with the cold morning, but by mid afternoon we had finished 2 of them.



Looks like one more Saturday work party in my driveway and we will be ready to start putting it together up at the Lake Horse Camp
Thanks to Del, Bo, Barry for all the help.



We set up to put in footings for structure



One side done



With both footings done, our friendly Rangers put up the post supports.



With the trusses up, on goes the roof



Our work crew enjoying the shade

We also put in a horseshoe pit at the camp.

Cowboy Swimming Hole with Hitching Rails and Picnic Tables down at the lake.



Our next project is to have a permanent pit toilet. The Army Corp has already bought most of the materials and we have the tank installed. Hopefully we can get to work on the building this fall. Right now it is just full of water to hold it down.



I would like to thank my work crew for making this all possible; they are too many to list.

Lake Sonoma Horse Camp is available to the public by contacting the Visitor Center at the Lake. (707) 433-9483, ext. 27 There are 42 miles of trails and we are adding to that all the time. There are many types of riding,

from single tract to fire roads. Trail maps can be down loaded at <http://www.spn.usace.army.mil/lakesonoma/images/trails.jpg> or you can pick one up at the Visitor Center.

If you would like more info or would like to help with work parties, contact me.

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