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# POWAY NEWS CHIEFTAIN

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"SERVING THE CITY IN THE COUNTRY"

## HORSE PLAY

### *Jeremy's Ranch: equestrian fun, without the competition*

By Jeremy Lynch  
Sports Editor

When Stephanie Kicinski moved to America via England in 1982, the self-taught horse rider quickly realized that competition was a part of everyday life here.

But Kicinski was raised to believe equestrian should be fun.

"In America, people try to make everything into a competition," she said. "We're not like that here."

Here is at Jeremy's Ranch, which Kicinski started with the help of her husband in 1990. The English Riding School is for people who want the fun and excitement of riding without the financial responsibilities and time commitment of owning their own horse.

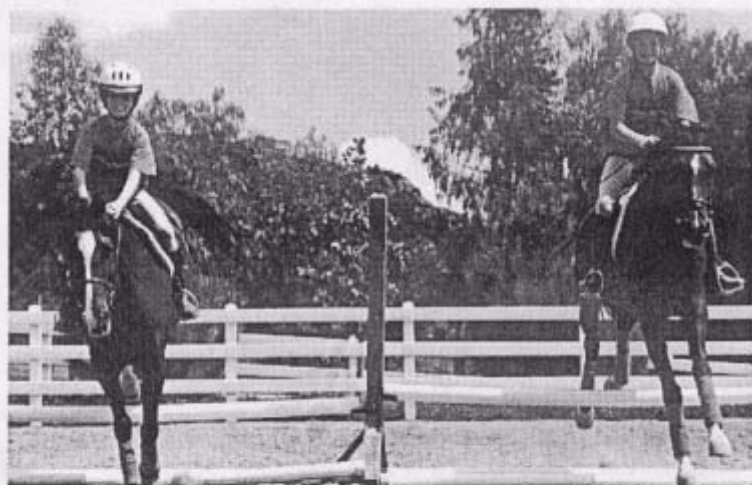
Kicinski's philosophy is that riding once or twice a week allows riders to always enjoy the experience, rather than look at it as a chore. "We want to keep it interesting," she said.

With four types of horses executing various tricks, games and traditional skills, peaking the students interest isn't something Kicinski usually worries about, however.

The well-trained horses, including Arabians, Thoroughbreds, Quarter Horses and Morgans, are able to dance around a Maypole, jump eight at a time and play baseball with water grenades. But many lessons are serious at which time the horses demonstrate their more traditional skills in show jumping, dressage, quadrilles, polo and gymkhana.

Jeremy's Ranch was named after one of Kicinski's horses, who currently is 24 years old and semi-retired, but no favorites are played. "We have no prejudice for any horse or type of riding," Kicinski said.

While they try not to favor one of the 13 lesson horses or a type of riding, Kicinski did offer a few recommendations for prospective students. The ranch welcomes all beginning riders, but the youngest riders must be at least nine years of age.



Students at Jeremy's Ranch enjoy a non-competitive atmosphere while still learning the many aspects of equestrian.

"Our youngest riders are nine or 10 to accommodate the necessary size and intelligence levels required to properly ride a horse," she said. "But if I had a kid this is the way I would do it."

Most students ride once or twice a week, and there are usually three horses and riders in an hour-long lesson. And while most of the lessons focus on the actual riding, students are encouraged to arrive early and stay late after their lesson so they can learn how to properly care for horses and tack.

"The students then get a chance to clip and bathe the horses, braid their manes and learn veterinary skills," said Kicinski.

Kicinski's pupils may learn basic first aid and get to take occasional field trips to learn more about certain horses, the teacher is there to teach.

"I've been asked if I would rent out my horses," she said. "Would you rent me one of your kids or your dog? I don't do anything other than teach lessons."

Originally from England, Kicinski came to this country first in 1982 where she settled in Orange County. And while our neighbor to the north may be scenic at times, Kicinski seems to think San Diego county, and her current Poway site in particular, is heaven on earth.

"It's the most beautiful place you've ever seen," she said.

A group of five lessons costs \$145. For more information on Jeremy's Ranch and the programs they have available call 679-1168.