

## Business/Perspective

### English country dance is alive and well at Jeremy's Ranch English Riding School in Poway



**TRADITION LIVES ON-** At Jeremy's Ranch in Poway, English country dance is now being offered and performed. Equine English Country Dance is performed with young dancers and rider teams.

What happens when you take an infectiously enthusiastic English horsewoman and introduce her to English Country Dance?

There can only be one answer, dancing horses.

It started out simply enough when Stephanie Kicinski, owner of Jeremy's Ranch English Riding School in Poway, began attending Sunday night dances at San Diego English Country Dancing

held weekly in Oak Knoll Plaza. The classes were so much fun that Stephanie and her husband, John Greenwood, became regulars.

Not long thereafter, a spark ignited in Stephanie's imagination and she experienced visions of horses and riders performing English Country Dance moves. With only minor modifications in steps and music, "All Around My Hat" became the Jeremy's Ranch Equine English Country Dance.

"All Around My Hat," an old English folk song, provides the perfect background for eight ground dancers and eight horse and rider teams to perform Equine English Country Dance. The ground dancers and equine teams dance side-by-side in a large arena so the audience can view the traditional as well as the equine interpretations of English Country Dance.

The result is both educational and entertaining. English Country Dance originated in olde England and is featured in the films based on Jane Austen's book, *Pride and Prejudice*. During this period in the early 1800's, the ladies were modest and these proper dances were one of the few opportunities for young men and women to interact socially and flirt.

"All Around My Hat" will be performed as a part of Jeremy's Ranch Horse Theatre on June 2 and 3. This is just one of the many clever and unusual activities in which Jeremy's Ranch students participate.

Jeremy's Ranch equine stars also dance around a Maypole and participate in synchronized jumping. Last year these talented horse and rider teams performed "The Phantom of the Opera." Each of these

activities is performed with live music accompaniment.

For more information about Jeremy's Ranch, you can visit [www.jeremysranch.com](http://www.jeremysranch.com). If you are interested in seeing and participating in traditional English Country Dance (not on horseback), contact: [www.sdecd.org](http://www.sdecd.org).

San Diego English Country Dancing is a non-profit organization founded by Ellen Riley in 2000. The group meets each Sunday evening from 6-9 p.m. at the Academy of Dance at 12227 Poway Road in Poway. Beginners are always welcome and experienced dancers are there to take your hand and guide you. Partners are not required.

You can contact Helen at (858) 676-9731 or David at (858) 831-9091 with questions regarding SDECD.