

Mail: 19025 Charleston Road
Volcano, CA 95689
(209) 296-2114
(831) 818-3129 cell



website: MiracleMountain.com
MMRI@MiracleMountain.com
Owner/Trainer/Educator:
Julie Carpenter

The MMR Newsletter JANUARY 2010

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MMR 2010 Activities

Two Chances to Ride
with Harry Whitney

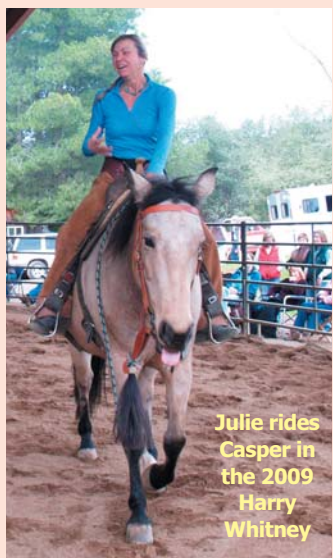
My First Gaited Clinic

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Julie's 2010 Calendar



Julie rides
Casper in
the 2009
Harry
Whitney

2010: RIDING FUN FOR EVERYONE

Consistency, Balance & Fun are the Goals in Julie's 2010 Schedule!

Students of Trainer/Instructor Julie Carpenter know that consistency is important to their riding progress. With many students in both Santa Cruz and Jackson, CA, Julie is trying a new way to divide her time between both locations. Instead of spending up to two weeks at a time in each place, this year Julie will be at Miracle Mountain Ranch in Jackson every Saturday through Tuesday, and in Santa Cruz Wednesdays through Fridays.

"I want to offer more consistency to all of my clients," Julie says. "This way I can be accessible to folks in both locations so we can ride together every week if they want. It should also offer more balance for Julie herself.

Of course, the normal range of clinics and trips to other areas are also in the schedule. In addition to 1, 2 & 3-day Clinics, Julie once again has a Women's Camp, a Gaited Clinic and is hosting trainer Harry Whitney. Read more about these upcoming clinics below:

Spend time with Harry Whitney

On February 1-5 and 8-12, participants and auditors alike will learn as much as they care to absorb by watching Harry work with horses and riders in two clinics. Seasoned clinician Harry Whitney works "From The Horse's Point of View."

Harry's combination of simplicity and humor are both enjoyable and helpful to horse and rider. Julie rides with Harry at least once a year to continue advancing her skills. "Harry has an amazing eye for helping any situation," Julie says. "We are happy to have him here again." There are only two riding spaces left in the Clinics. Pre-registered auditing is available in both clinics.

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Harry Whitney holds Kiowa, a Mustang who worried a lot about things above her. Harry supports and directs her attention while Julie (left) and Micah work flags above and behind her from a safe distance.

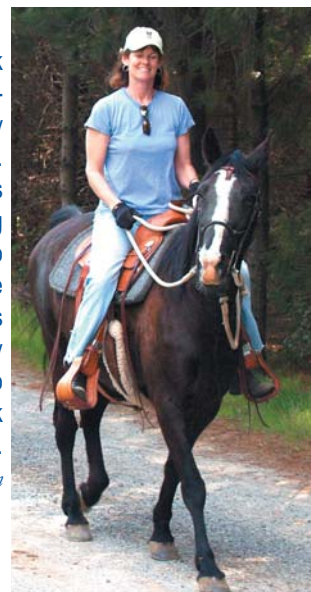
MY FIRST GAITED CLINIC

I enjoyed seeing the different gaited breeds. We had Tennessee Walking Horses, Peruvians and Missouri Fox Trotters. Even though they are all gaited, their movement varies and it was interesting and educational for me to learn more about the differences and similarities.

I also wanted to check in with Julie on the progress of Diamond (my 2.5 yr old TWH filly). Even though she is ready to work – training wise, I wanted Julie to evaluate her size. Julie agreed that she was probably not physically strong enough yet. So we just did ground work and had a great time.

(Read more about Tracy on page 4.)

**Tracy Johnson & her
TWH mare Dixie.**



This newsletter is produced and distributed quarterly. Its mission is to share news & happenings and to supply continuing knowledge to help everyone improve their equine partnership skills using Horsemanship From the Heart. Please let us know what you think of our content and what else you would like to see. Contact Julie or Newsletter Editor Susan Hartje at ACTSusan@earthlink.net or 209-245-3789.

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ANOTHER PIECE OF THE PUZZLE FALLS INTO PLACE

I have always loved puzzles. That is probably why I like saddle-fitting horses for a living. It is a complex, living, changing puzzle. Understanding horses is a big part of that puzzle. And, I am smart enough to seek help with that...

That is how I came to be standing in the Miracle Mountain Ranch round pen with my 8 year old mare Taz. I had just sent her out on a circle – which she did very nicely – and asked her to stop. She stopped. But it took two steps.

“What do I need to do differently to get my horse truly in sync with me?” I asked between round pen rails on the first day of a Harry Whitney clinic.

“Get your horse to look at you after each request,” Harry replied. “Ohhhhhh (a light went on in my head)”. He didn’t mean the ‘turning-in to face me’ kind of look. Taz does that really well.

I needed to want the ‘*stop what you’re doing mid stride and tip your nose to see what I want you to do next!*’ look. “*That is what I was missing!*” That is what turned her quiet obedience into enthusiastic engagement in what we would do together next.

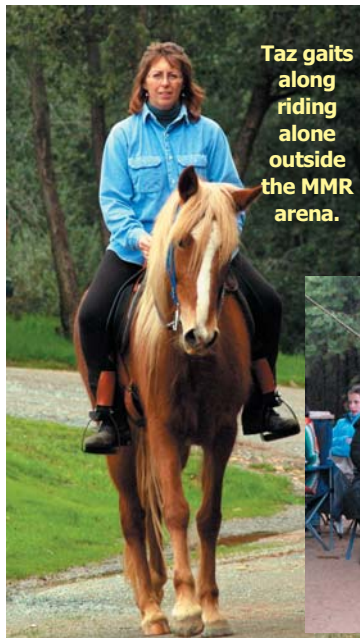
From there on out it was just a matter of practicing staying focused on being there to answer each question before my horse asks it. Let’s go faster here. Let’s turn softly there. Let’s ignore the thunder and lightning. Let’s stop and back up straight. No, really straight. Let’s trot to the corner, and stop at that gate. Let’s go down the trail, and... no let’s turn softly here before you worry about what’s in the woods there. Now let’s go back down the trail.

By the end of the clinic, Taz had gone from a worry-wort outside the arena to a curious happy go lucky girl gaiting down the trail. As usual, what it took was me getting more specific with my requests and firmer and quicker with my answers to her questions. Once she felt I would be there consistently to support her, she let go of her own agenda. She happily offered more forward than ever before.

This clinic felt like finding that elusive puzzle piece that finally connects the main picture to the background. Everything gets easier!

While my horsemanship journey will never be complete, the big picture sure looks a lot clearer than when I bought my first untrained horse in 2000. I am surely a more patient, focused and thoughtful person as a result.

Trainers like Julie Carpenter, Harry Whitney and others have made such an impact on my skills. Each has helped me find more pieces of the puzzle. My horses and I are thankful to them for the opportunities to learn under their tutelage. And I am most thankful to my horses for how they continue to teach me to listen and learn.



Taz gaits along riding alone outside the MMR arena.



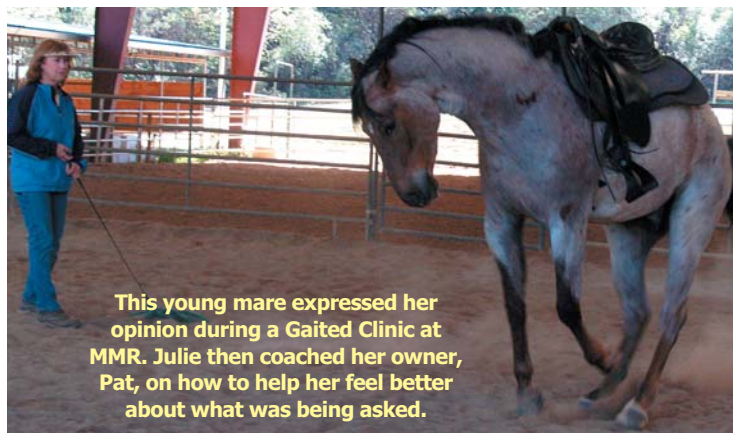
Above, Harry Whitney answers questions of the huge audience while he rides a young Andalusian mare to check out her progress for her owner Stella (near right). Left, Everyone gets a heavy dose of laughter at a Harry Clinic!

2009 MMR CLINICS (CONTINUED)

Gait On Down the Trail

Julie has raised and trained easy gaited horses for many years. Although gaited horses are trained the same way as non-gaited horses, sometimes it is easier to develop their smooth intermediate gaits when riding with other gaited horse owners. Julie’s Gaited Clinics make this easy.

“Gaited horses are still horses,” Julie says. “But there are many different intermediate gaits. The rider has to learn how to make it easy for their horse do theirs.” Participants benefit from watching other horses and learning to identify different gaits both under saddle and from the ground.



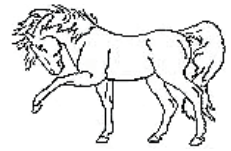
This young mare expressed her opinion during a Gaited Clinic at MMR. Julie then coached her owner, Pat, on how to help her feel better about what was being asked.

Women's Camp

Imagine spending the last week of May 'roughing it' *Julie-Style* with your horse on 300 acres in the Sierra foothills. Participants can bunk in the ranch house or bring their own trailer or tent. Breakfast, lunch and dinner are prepared for you daily. All you have to do is feed your horse -- and RIDE!

"It is wonderful getaway that allows you to learn and play with your horse in real world situations on the trail," says Julie. Or, you can read, meditate, or work in the arena. And, bring your swim suit because the river is only a short hike. Just prepare for relaxation, horses and fun!

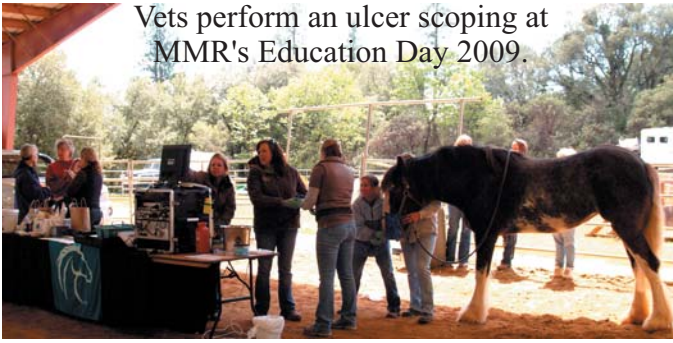
JULIE'S 2010 CALENDAR



<u>DATE</u>	<u>EVENT</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>NOTES</u>
Jan. 20 - 22	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
Jan. 27 - 29	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
Feb. 1 - 5	Harry Whitney Clinic	\$1200	MMR: Jackson, CA, One space left; Auditors welcome
Feb. 8 - 12	Harry Whitney Clinic	\$1200	MMR: Jackson, CA, One space left; Auditors welcome
Feb. 17 - 19	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
Feb. 24 - 26	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
March 3 - 5	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
March 10 - 12	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
March 13 - 21	Off		
March 24 - 26	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
March 28	1-Day ReBalance Clinic	\$100	MMR: Jackson: Contact Susan Hartje, 209-245-3789 Tune up your Seat! Balanced riding skills with Zsuzu Illes
Mar. 31 - Apr. 2	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
April 7 - 9	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
April 10 - 11	Two-Day Clinic	\$300	MMR: Jackson, CA: Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
Apr. 14 - 16	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
April 20 - 22	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
April 23 - 25	Three-Day Clinic	\$450	NAPA, CA: Contact Pat Hyatt, 707-321-3277. Groundwork, seat & riding.
April 26	Individual Sessions		NAPA, CA: Contact Pat Hyatt, 707-321-3277.
April 28 - 30	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
May 5 - 7	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
May 12 - 14	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
May 19 - 21	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
May 24 - 31	Women's Camp	\$1250	MMR: Jackson, CA, Groundwork, seat and riding skills in the arena and on the trails. Includes all meals, camp facilities & a stall.
June 4 - 5	Two-Day Gaited Clinic	\$300	Oroville, CA: Contact Tracy Johnson, 530-534-5815
June 6 - 7	Two-Day Advanced Clinic	\$300	Oroville, CA: Contact Tracy Johnson, 530-534-5815
June 9 - 11	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
June 16 - 17	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
June 18 - 20	Three-Day Clinic	\$450	Seattle, WA: Contact Sue Sheckett, 206-860-5068
June 21 - 22	Individual Sessions		Seattle, WA: Contact Sue Sheckett, 206-860-5068
June 23 - 25	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
June 26 - 27	Two-Day Clinic	\$300	Los Altos, CA: Lisa Powell. 650-248-0473. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
July 7 - 9	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
July 14 - 16	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
July 28 - 30	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
Aug. 4 - 6	Individual Sessions		Santa Cruz, CA: Contact Julie. Groundwork, seat & riding skills.
Aug. 25 - 29	Trail Camp		Seattle, WA: Contact Margaret Boos, 510-282-4454
Sept. 24 - 26	Three-Day Clinic	\$450	NAPA, CA: Contact Pat Hyatt, 707-321-3277. Groundwork, seat & riding.
Sept. 27	Individual Sessions		NAPA, CA: Contact Pat Hyatt, 707-321-3277.
Oct. 1 - 3	Three-Day Clinic	\$450	Seattle, WA: Contact Sue Sheckett, 206-860-5068
Oct. 4 - 5	Individual Sessions		Seattle, WA: Contact Sue Sheckett, 206-860-5068

*Clinics cost \$150/day plus board (& you bring your hay) unless otherwise noted. **Audit any clinic for \$25/day.** *All Clinics run from 9am - 5pm unless otherwise noted. *Deposits are required to hold your space. If you need to cancel, and we can refill your space, we will refund your deposit. If we cannot fill your space, your deposit is non-refundable. *We maintain a waiting list on all events. * Check the website for the most up to date details of all events.

Vets perform an ulcer scoping at
MMR's Education Day 2009.



JULIE'S 2010 TRAVELS

This year Julie will be splitting her weeks spending Sat. - Tue under the covered arena at Miracle Mountain Ranch in Jackson, and Wed. - Fri. in Santa Cruz, CA. However, she will still be traveling to help client in other locations. "Horsemanship From the Heart" clinics will be held in Napa & Los Altos, CA and Seattle, WA. Between her travels and MMR activities, more people than ever can benefit from Julie's clear and supportive direction in creating better equine partnerships.

WHY I WORK WITH JULIE

I first started working with Julie after I adopted a Thoroughbred gelding off the track. Snazzy was seven at the time with the training of a 3 year-old at best. Once I started working with Snazzy, I realized I needed help and fast! The poor horse was afraid of his own shadow. His answer to being tied was to rear up. He had issues with his hindquarters due to the racetrack chutes. He was afraid of the trailer, and he was spooky on the trail.

I learned so much as Julie helped me help my horse through so many problems that I had not encountered before. I also learned a lot about myself. I still own Snazzy (some 9 years later) and although he's not perfect (as no horse can be), he is in a lot better place mentally; and Julie helped to get him there.

Now, with my two Tennessee Walkers, I continue to learn from Julie about gaited horses; A whole new adventure for me! It is really wonderful to have a trainer who can teach about gaited and non-gaited horses at the same time. I feel fortunate to have found her!

Tracy Johnson, Running Horse Ranch, Oroville, CA



Cheryl, Tracy & Rex (left to right) return from a trail ride at MMR.



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MMRI@MiracleMountain.com

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AND INFORMATION AT:

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