

Just Horsing Around

Outside, which documented not only the change to the famed Casino Pier break in Seaside Heights after Superstorm Sandy's 2012 wrath, but more importantly, the personal journey each one of these legendary surfers has taken through the waters of the ocean and the tides of life, the connections they've made, and the lessons they've learned along the way.

While surfers might be stereotyped as being extremely cut-throat competitive, these buddies encourage, inspire, and gain inspiration from each other. "There's nothing like surfing with friends, with people you've been surfing with for fifty-two or three years. You look out for one another and have a code of sharing with one another," Hale said. "I get as much joy from watching Rich, or Buck, or my son, Nash, or any of our gang on a wave as if I were riding it myself."

"It's not an out-do you thing," Luthringer added. "It's a celebration."

Like a surfboard that evolves from a large, rectangular blank with careful precision and a passion for crafting, a friendship also evolves and is shaped over time.

Hale decided to display a longboard designed and crafted by his very close friend in the One Ocean Boulevard building as a way to incorporate a part of the Jersey Shore's surfing soul into its design. Luthringer's creation, the Luthringer 11' ¼" Reverse Rocker Custom Noserider Longboard, with its center stringers and classic design, contains enough reverse rocker in its tail so that any surfer can experience the pure exhilaration that is derived from gliding across the face of a wave with ten toes wrapped around the nose!

But the board is so much more than an encapsulation of that Jersey Shore magic. It embodies a celebration of a beautiful friendship and serves to remind us all of such friends in our own lives.

—Jill Ocone



Andy Kazie

Monmouth and Ocean counties have dozens of stables where you can learn to ride and pursue a variety of equine activities. Horseback riding provides health and wellness benefits, and furnishes a new way of looking at the world while allowing relaxation and a return to the natural.

The Jersey Shore and the outdoors go hand in hand. However, there's an outdoor activity that's commonly overlooked, something visitors and residents alike can enjoy: horseback riding.

Not only does horseback riding provide health and wellness benefits (such as improving balance, coordination, and core strength), it furnishes a new way of looking at the world while relaxing and returning to nature. Horseback riders experience a sense of freedom that's quite different from other hobbies or athletics.

Linda Marciante of Bountiful Blessings Farm in Howell said, "Jersey Shore vacationers should spend a day horseback riding to experience New Jersey's beautiful parks and farms."

Each riding encounter is unique in its location and personnel, but what they all collectively share is fun. "Our riding program is designed to be instructional, exhilarating, relaxing, and a memorable experience for everyone," said Linda Fazio of Chariot Riders in Manchester. Fazio said that both farm and trail riding can enhance any Jersey Shore vacation.

Before heading to the stables, it's always a good idea to "know before you go."

First, decide which style of riding you'd like to try: English or Western. English style uses a smaller "tack," or saddle and equipment, which result in closer contact between the rider and the horse. Western style uses a larger saddle, which is designed for more comfort and stability, with a saddle horn and longer stirrups.

The second-most important thing to do is to find the stable or farm that offers the type of lessons you desire. Some farms and trainers only offer horsemanship riding lessons, while others offer lessons geared towards learning the basics of trail riding. Do the research beforehand so that you find the perfect instructor and stable for you.

Advance reservations are a must at most stables. Inquire about rates, schedules, availability, and to shore up reservation details. Ask if the stable has helmets for riders or if you are expected to bring your own.

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courtesy of Chariot Riders

Chariot Riders in Manchester.

(Helmets can prevent head injury and trauma sustained from falls.) In the event of inclement weather, contact the stable before leaving to make sure riding activities haven't been called off.

On "ride day," wear long pants to protect against chafing and close-toed shoes with a small heel so that your feet don't slip out of the stirrups. Avoid wearing scarves, long or loose jackets or shirts, or any other hanging attire that can possibly become tangled in the equipment. Bring a bottle of water and sunscreen if your ride is outdoors.

You'll want to arrive a bit early so that you have ample time to get to know your horse—and so that your horse can also become acquainted with you. Before mounting, ensure

that your instructor has properly secured your saddle and stirrups.

Follow your instructor's directions, and before you know it, you'll be trotting and galloping like a pro.

How about combining horseback riding with the Jersey Shore's beautiful beaches?

Island Beach State Park, located just south of Seaside Park, is the only New Jersey state park that permits horseback riding, albeit offseason from October through April. While the park does not provide horses or instructors, you're in luck if you don't happen to have your own horse. Acres Away Farm in Flemington offers beach horseback riding excursions to Island Beach regardless of experience. (Reservations in advance and deposits are required. For more information, call (908) 809-9019.)

Take "Horseback Riding" off your bucket list this season and spend a relaxing day unplugging from the world and connecting with nature.

—Jill Ocone



Gordon Hesse

Island Beach State Park is the only New Jersey state park that permits horseback riding, albeit offseason from October through April.

A Guide to...

Most of the stables offer riding lessons (private, semi-private, group, and therapeutic) and many offer horse boarding and training. Some also sell horses.

Many of the stables offer a variety of activities including trail, beach, park, and arena riding; pony rides and birthday parties; summer and winter camps; programs, workshops, and clinics; and horsemanship for special needs.

MONMOUTH COUNTY

ALLENTOWN

Stargate Farm

631 Route 524, (732) 740-3981

www.stargatefarm.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment, boarding

Wind Dance Equestrian Stables

86 East Branch Road, (609) 259-8923

www.winddancehorse.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment including trail riding, boarding

ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS

Highland Farms

180 Whipperwill Valley Rd., (732) 576-8911

www.highlandfarmsnj.com

Email: ShannonCunneff@aim.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, group), boarding, summer camp

Knightsbridge Farm

181 Whipperwill Valley Rd., (732) 747-3909

www.knightsbridgefarms.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private, group), boarding, summer riding programs, clinics

CLARKSBORO

Okey Doke Ranch

150 Timberlane Road, (856) 224-0195

www.okeydokeranch.webs.com

Email: okeydoke.ranch@yahoo.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment including trails, arena, and pony, boarding, birthday parties, beach riding in Wildwood (October through April)

COLTS NECK

Happy Tails At Stillwell Stables

117 Muhlenbrink Road, (732) 239-4846

www.happytailstr.com

Email: Lauren@HappyTailsTR.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (traditional and therapeutic, private and group), summer program

Painted Pony Riding Academy

80 Obre Road, (732) 771-3962

www.paintedponynj.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, group), boarding, birthday parties, summer camp

HORSE STABLES in Monmouth and Ocean Counties

Sandstone Stables

121 Five Points Road, (732) 674-3203

www.sandstonestablesnj.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private, group), horse training, boarding

FARMINGDALE

Fleetwood Equestrian At San Sue Acres

191 Casino Drive, (848) 391-1363

www.fleetwoodequestrian.com

Email: ld5423@aim.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment

Nevergreen Farm

395 Casino Drive, (732) 256-9271

www.nevergreenfarm.com

Email: nevergreen395@gmail.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, group), boarding, sales

FREEHOLD

Beth Donoghue Training

260 Burlington Road, (732) 710-2198

www.bethdonoghuetraining.com

Email: bethdonoghue498@yahoo.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private), summer riding program

The Equestrian Experience

At Burlington Farm

260 Burlington Road, (908) 334-1042

www.theequestrianexperience.com

Email: equestrianexp@gmail.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private, group)

Free Spirit Farm

187 Siloam Road, (732) 637-9686

www.freespiritfarmnj.com

Email: freespiritfarm@gmail.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, group), boarding, sales

Good Times Farm

278 Jackson Mills Road, (732) 409-2882

www.goodtimefarm.com

Email: gtts@optonline.net

Services: Riding lessons by appointment, boarding

HOWELL

Bella Rosa Riding Academy

151 Oak Glen Road, (732) 938-5445

www.bellarosara.com

Email: stephen@bellarosara.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, group, itty bitty, mommy and me), boarding, summer camps, sales/lease

Bountiful Blessings Farm

14 Maxim Road, (732) 272-7108

www.bountifulblessingsfarm.homestead.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private), training (dressing and jumping), boarding

Circle A Riding Academy

116 Herbertsville Road, (732) 938-2004

Facebook: @CircleARidingAcademy

Services: Guided horseback riding through Allaire State Park by appointment, pony rides, pony parties, boarding

HorseSense Therapeutic Riding Center

145 Easy Street, (732) 910-7855

www.horsesensenj.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private, group), Equ-Well Program (Equine Assisted Leadership and Wellness Program), horsemanship for people with special needs

Hunter Brook Horse Farm

672 Fort Plains Road, (732) 319-0662

www.hunterbrookhorsefarm.com

Email: maureen@hunterbrookhorsefarm.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private, group), boarding, summer camps, winter camps, birthday parties

Serenity at Last Farm

1064 Maxim Southard Rd., (732) 216-1364

www.serenityatlastfarm.com

Email: nnikki25@yahoo.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (no trail riding or horse rentals), boarding

LINCROFT

Sunnyside Equestrian Center

805 Newman Springs Road

(732) 224-1367, ext. 3

www.spuronline.org

www.monmouthcountyparks.com

Services: Therapeutic horseback riding lessons, Equine Environment for Learning Program, Horses for Heroes: workshops for veterans

MANALAPAN

Get Over It Stables

57 Daum Road, (908) 692-7371

Email: jcjensen5988@aol.com

Facebook: @getoveritstables

Services: Riding lessons by appointment, training, horse showing, boarding

MORGANVILLE

About Time Stables

278 Spring Valley Road, (908) 433-6064

www.abouttimestables.com

Email: abouttimestable@gmail.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, therapeutic), birthday parties

Baymar Farms

38 Harbor Road, (732) 591-9600

www.baymarfarms.com

Email: baymarfarms1970@gmail.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private, group), summer riding program, birthday parties, training, boarding, sales

RED BANK

Lancaster Equestrian

551 Cooper Road, (732) 687-7145

www.lancasterequestrian.com

Email: Lois.LancEq@verizon.net

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private, group), boarding, sales

WALL TOWNSHIP

Infinity Equestrian At Wall Equestrian Center

2906 18th Avenue, (732) 947-6118

teaminfinityequestrian.weebly.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, group), boarding

OCEAN COUNTY

LITTLE EGG HARBOR

Forest Edge Farm

55 Forest Edge Drive, (609) 296-3777

www.forestedgefarmnj.com

Email: forestedgefarm@verizon.net

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private, group), boarding, summer camps

MANCHESTER

Chariot Riders

3170 Chariot Court, (732) 657-2710

www.chariotriders.org

Email: info@chariotriders.org

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (private, semi-private, group), Day at the Barn, Farm Experience, therapeutic riding for physically and mentally challenged children and adults, parties, workshops, and seminars

NEW EGYPT

Full Circle Training Stables

10 Highbridge Road, (518) 338-7401

Facebook: @fullcircletrainingstables

Email: MLHorse@yahoo.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment, equine therapy

Laurita Equestrian Center

Home Of Reindancer Therapeutic Riding

31 Archertown Road, (609) 752-0900

www.lauritaequestriancenter.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment (traditional and therapeutic), boarding, camps, volunteer opportunities

Sleepy Hollow Stables

47 Woodruff Road, (609) 758-5114

www.sleepyhollowstablesllc.com

Services: Riding lessons by appointment, boarding, sales