

THE Ranch Review

December 2015
Volume 9, Issue 12

A Newsletter for Riata Ranch Residents

COPPER CREEK MEADOWS COMMUNITY GIRL SCOUTS



IMPORTANT NUMBERS

EMERGENCY

Sheriff.....	713-221-6000
Fire Department.....	281-855-1110
Cy-Fair Medical Center.....	281-890-4285
Memorial City Hospital.....	713-932-3000
Poison Control.....	800-222-1222

SCHOOLS

Cypress Fairbanks ISD.....	281-897-4000
Postma Elementary.....	281-345-3660
Rennell Elementary.....	281-213-1550
Spillane Middle.....	281-216-1645
Cy-Fair High.....	281-897-4600
Cy-Falls High.....	281-856-1000
Cy-Woods High.....	281-213-1800
Cy-Fair College.....	281-290-3200

UTILITIES

HCMUD #196	
Billing.....	281-579-4500
Repairs.....	281-398-8211
Centerpoint Electric.....	713-207-2222
Centerpoint Entex Gas.....	713-659-2111
AT&T/SBC.....	800-464-7928
Comcast Cable/High Speed Internet.....	713-341-1000
Waste Mgt.....	713-686-6666
HOA, SCS Mgt.....	281-463-1777
United States Post Office.....	800-275-8777

LIBRARY

Cy-Fair College Library.....	281-290-3210
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NEWSLETTER INFO

NEWSLETTER

Articles.....	riataranch@peelinc.com
Peel, Inc.....	888-687-6444
Advertising.....	advertising@Peelinc.com

ARTICLE SUBMISSIONS

Do you have an idea or suggestion for the newsletter? Want to submit a photo, article, or both? It's easy!! Email your articles to riataranch@peelinc.com by the 10th of the preceding month. So if you get your ideas in before the deadline, you should see them in the very next month's newsletter.

We are glad to hear all of the positive feedback and we intend to continue to improving the look and feel of the newsletter according to what you tell us. So get as involved as you like! We look forward to hearing from you.



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Fairfield Sports Association

2016 SPRING BASEBALL AND SOFTBALL

BASEBALL

- Instructional T-Ball (Boys and Girls)– Player must have reached age 4 by 4/30/16
- A – Player must be 6 or younger on 4/30/16
- AA7 – Player must be 7 or younger on 4/30/16
- AA8 – Player must be 8 or younger on 4/30/16
- AAA 9 – Player must be 9 or younger on 4/30/16
- AAA 10 - Player must be 10 or younger on 4/30/16
- Majors – Player must be 12 or younger on 4/30/16
- Majors - 13yrs old Players must be 13 or younger on 4/30/16

SOFTBALL

Age Cutoff has changed to 1/1. This year will be grandfathered by request ONLY.

- 6U Sweetees (Tee Ball) – Player must be 6 or younger on 1/1/16
 - 8U Darlings (coach pitch) – Player must be 8 or younger on 1/1/16
 - 10U Angels (kid pitch) - Player must be 10 or younger on 1/1/16
 - 12U Ponytails (kid pitch) - Player must be 12 or younger on 1/1/16
- Ponytails division may have a partnership with Katy Girls Softball Association. Some games may be played at:

Paul D. Rushing Park
9114 Katy Hockley Road
Cypress, Texas 77493

PLEASE NOTE: THERE IS NOW A FAIRFIELD RESIDENT ONLY SIGNUP WINDOW

Our league has grown in size and we must allow an opportunity for residents to sign up before non residents. Once the window is closed registration is on a "first come first serve" basis.

All dates are tentative and subject to change!

CALENDAR:

NOV 28, 2015 - DEC 4, 2015

Registration for Fairfield Residents ONLY

DEC 4, 2015 - JAN 3, 2016

OPEN registration at: www.fairfieldsports.sportssignup.com

JAN 3, 2016th

Registration CLOSES. Refunds will NOT be given after this date.

Week of January 11 – 15th

Coaches Meetings

January 23rd

Tryouts for all baseball divisions except T-ball (no tryouts for t-ball)

January 30th

Tryouts for all softball divisions except T-ball (no tryouts for t-ball)

March 1st - Games begin

March 4th - All sponsorship money DUE.

March 5th - Opening Day Parade and Festivities

March 11th - 20th - No Games: CFISD Spring Break

March 24th - 27th - No Games: Easter Holiday

May 23rd - Tournament scheduled to begin (dependent upon weather)

June 10th - All Star Weekend

WAITLISTS:

As divisions approach our maximum capacity of registrations, we sometimes need to utilize waitlists in order to ensure that we have appropriate numbers for each team. We also do this to backfill any cancellations. If you receive a note that you have been placed on a waitlist, it does NOT necessarily mean you won't be able to play. However, as we approach the close of registration the possibility of being shut out increases as we reach capacity numbers. Some divisions will be limited due to space and once a division is full, we cannot accept any more registrations.

LATE REGISTRATION:

There will be NO LATE REGISTRATION. Unfortunately, our size has dictated a more strict approach to registration cut-off in order to handle all of the administrative duties and preparation necessary to start the season.

GETTING INVOLVED:

Lastly, I would like to invite everyone to find a way to take part in your sports association. FSA is a volunteer organization and could use your help to provide the best facilities around. There are jobs ranging from helping with try-outs, opening day help, field maintenance, and concessions duty. We hope you familiarize yourself with the Baseball and Softball Committees via our website and reach out to committee members to see how you can help. Three areas needing the most help are baseball committee, nightly field maintenance and concessions. These are opportunities to not only get involved and meet great people, but most of all contribute to making Fairfield one of the best places around for our kids to play sports!!!

On behalf of the Fairfield Sports Association and the Baseball/ Softball committee members, I would like to thank you for all your support.

TENNIS TIPS

By USPTA/PTR Master Professional
Fernando Velasco



HOW TO EXECUTE THE FOREHAND VOLLEY

In previous newsletters, I offered tips on how to hit a forehand groundstroke, a two-handed backhand and a one-handed backhand. In this issue, I will give you instructions on how to execute a forehand volley for a right hander. This stroke is used whenever the player is forced to hit a ball in the air. In these pictures Grey Rock Tennis Club player, Camille Palafox, demonstrates the proper form and technique. Photos by her husband Charlie Palafox.

Step 1: Ready Position: The body is facing the net. The right hand is holding the end of the racket in a forehand grip position and the left hand is next to the right hand. The left hand is holding the racket slightly tighter than the right hand. Feet are a shoulder width apart and the body is in equal balance. For beginners it is okay to use the forehand and backhand grips for the forehand and backhand volleys. As the player gets stronger and the balls come at a faster speed, it will be best to use the continental grip for both volleys.

Step 2: Back Swing: Since the volley is usually executed when a player is close to the net and there is very little time to react to the incoming ball, the back swing is very short. The right arm should

take a short turn and the head of the racket should align to the flight of the ball. The right wrist should be “cocked” back slightly and the head of the racket should be above the wrist. Eyes are still focused on the incoming ball. Here I am helping Camille to feel the hand on the racket to tilt back and still keep the head of the racket above her wrist.

Step 3: Point of Contact: The right foot is now taking a step forward and the racket is making contact with the ball. It is important to keep the left shoulder closed and not rotate the right hip too early. Flexing the right knee will allow more flexibility to find the proper point of contact and give power to the ball.

Step 4: Follow Through: Once the racket has made contact with the ball, the follow through is very short to allow the player to immediately get back to the ready position. The left arm should be close to the body.

Look for in the next Newsletter: The Two-Handed Backhand Volley

Holiday Luncheon and Gift Exchange Event

Luncheon Details

Thursday, December 17, 2015

Networking 11 a.m.; Luncheon begins at 11:30 a.m.
Sterling Country Club, 16500 Houston National Blvd.,
Houston, TX 77095

Costs \$25 with advanced reservations; \$30 at the door

At the December 17 Cy-Fair Express Network Luncheon, attendees will enjoy a joyous celebration during the annual Holiday Luncheon and Gift Exchange Event. As always, guests are welcome and encouraged to join in and network. Join us and be a part of the fun.

This month's CYFEN meeting begins with networking at 11 a.m. followed with a prompt 11:30 a.m. start of the program. Luncheons are held at the Sterling Country Club, 16500 Houston National Blvd.

About Cy-Fair Express Network (CYFEN)

Now over 50 members strong, Cy-Fair Express Network's vision is to be a community and national leader for the support of professional women by providing a nurturing environment for business development, networking, education and mentoring. Our members have opportunities to pursue excellence and achieve both local and national recognition. CYFEN is part of the national organization of American Business Women's Association (ABWA), for more information go to www.CYFEN.org.

About American Business Women's Association (ABWA)

Founded in 1949, ABWA provides business training and networking opportunities for women of diverse occupations and backgrounds. ABWA has dedicated 60 years to women's education, workplace skills and career development training. For more information, visit, www.abwa.org.

KIWANIS CLUB OF CY-FAIR HOUSTON

Join us for lunch, followed by a short, informative program. We welcome your visit and invite you to consider membership in this service oriented organization.

Where: Hearthstone Country Club located at 7615 Ameswood Circle in Hearthstone

Time: Lunch is served at 12:15pm; adjournment at 1:15pm.

Dates: We will meet on November 3, 10, 17

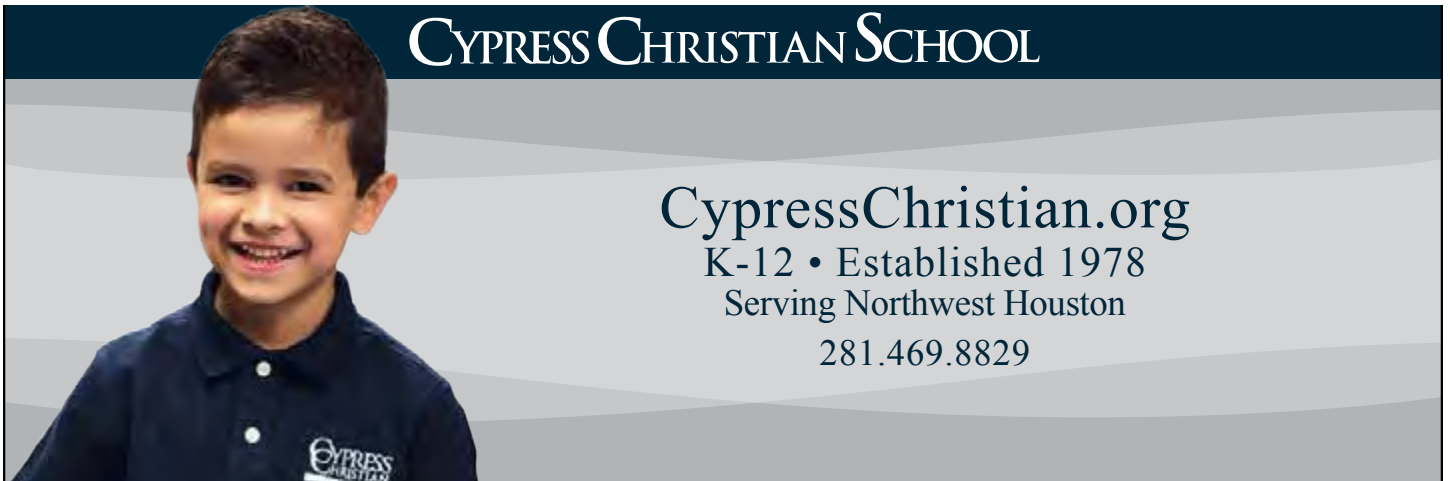
What is Kiwanis? Kiwanis is an international service organization focused on changing the world one child and one community at a time. Service is at the heart of every Kiwanis club, no matter where in the world it's located.

Key Clubs: The Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club sponsors all of the Key Clubs in the Cy-Fair Independent School District. It's primary service project is the sponsorship of these Clubs. The Cy-Ranch Key Club is the largest Key Club in the world. We are proud of all these clubs and support them in their worthwhile service activities. You can enjoy the pleasure of being a part of this service through membership in Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club.

Fellowship: Kiwanis members have fun also. Members make new friends when they attend meetings and participate in social events. Kiwanis clubs also provide excellent networking opportunities for professionals. Members meet new people by participating in service projects, fundraising, and attendance at district and international conventions.

Visit the Cy-Fair Kiwanis Club website at www.KIWANISHOUSTONCYFAIR.COM.

For more information, call John Carroll (Copperfield and Hearthstone areas) at 281-463-0373; George Crowl (Jersey Village area) at 832-467-1998; or Peggy Presnell (Fairfield and CyRanch) at 281-304-7127.



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The Do's and Don'ts for getting that Perfect Christmas Photo of Your Pet

Photographing animals can be really difficult. They get distracted easily, they're almost always moving, and they even make silly faces. This can make it difficult to get a photo worthy of a Christmas card, but it is possible! Here are some Do's and Don'ts to help you out.

DO keep plenty of treats handy

Our animals often need a bit of extra reward and loving to sit there and look cute for us, so make sure to have plenty of their favorite treats available.

DO have toys and noise makers to grab their attention

They don't always listen to us, so bring their favorite toy to hold up next to you and they're sure to look over with an inquisitive face.

DO look at your background first and move around until you have eliminated distracting items

You don't want to turn your horse into a carousel ride by having a pole in the background looking as though it is going straight through their belly.

DO have an assistant or two to help out

It can be really tiring and frustrating if you are the only person out there and you are repeatedly putting your camera down and running over to your animal to pose him or fix a prop, and then running back and only hoping he is still where you left him.

DO use a fast shutter speed

If you are shooting in Manual mode on your camera be sure to use a fast shutter speed (at least 1/250), so that even if the animal is moving when you click the shutter you will still get a clear picture. If you do not have a Manual mode on your camera, try using the Sports mode.

DO be aware of colors

Choose complimentary colors for the props and costumes you use. The same goes for taking a picture of the pet with his owner- don't wear a shirt that is the same color as your dog- you want contrast.

DO focus on the eyes

Especially when taking close up shots. Their eyes can be very expressive so you want them to be sharp and clear.

DON'T forget that candid shots can be cute, too!

Don't automatically throw out all the photos where your pet is not looking or making a silly face. Those shots can be just as good as posed ones, because they show the personality of your pet.

DON'T just throw props and costume pieces on your pet before letting them "OK" it. Let your horse smell whatever prop you're going to use first or rub it on them gently until they are relaxed. They are much more likely to cooperate if they aren't scared of the Santa hat on their head.

DON'T crop off just the feet or hooves

Be careful when you are framing your picture, you don't want to

crop out just their feet or tail or ears. Step back for a whole body shot or crop it in close to a headshot.

DON'T shoot during the middle of the day

The best lighting of the day is about an hour before the sun sets. It is much more diffused and soft, and you will avoid all the harsh shadows.

DON'T try to be in a hurry

Taking animal portraits takes patience! You should expect it to take more than just a few shots.

DON'T use a flash

Sudden bursts of light from a flash may frighten your pet and cause red eye.

Photos and article thanks to www.kayliejphotography.com on location at www.fivehorses.com. Saturday, December 12th Kaylie will be back to take pictures with Five Horses, LLC clients. Join us and schedule online under the appointments tab.



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