

Camping in Cueno Creek Horse Camp in Humboldt Redwoods State Park



Presented by Cyndi and Steve Denny at the LFR July Meeting.

Traveling long distance with your horses can be pretty intimidating if you never attempted it before. For the first time, we drove our horses 800 miles to the Redwoods to camp. With good advice from Denise Gerken, and traveling with road warriors Rayen and Brian to camp, we learned a lot and had a successful trip. We traveled home by ourselves, 800 miles without any issues, covering the trip home in two days with one layover at Angel Acres in Los Banos, a lovely Equestrian ranch recommended by Rhonda Kabot. Los Banos was the

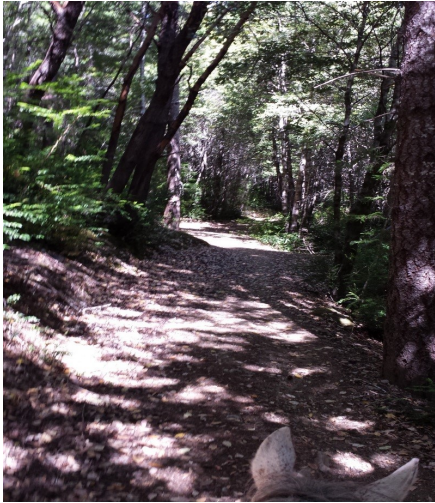
perfect midway point. After leaving camp on Saturday at 7am, several rest stops, overnight, we made it home Sunday at 4 pm after dropping off the horses.

At our meeting we showed picture slides of the trip up, the campground, the trails, the creek crossings, riding through the Redwoods and other forests. We talked about the camp, the trails all in shade, riding through meadows, visiting deer in camp, riding the fire roads along with the miles of mountain views. Other trails include a 17-mile loop and others that are a full-day ride. There were two bear sightings by others, and we missed both of them! The bears don't stick around. They see you and they are gone in a flash. We were only able to stay for five nights, and it was worth the road trip. Even though it was warm, the trails are shaded from the trees which made riding wonderful. The trails were wide and well-groomed with easy, flat trails or more challenging trails in the hills, your choice.

We learned the travel logistics from Rayen, who is the Queen of trip planning, and this is an annual trip for them. To help beginners like ourselves, I created a travel log based on Rayen's planning, putting everything into handouts to membership, a Word document of observations and tips, what we learned and experienced; and a spreadsheet explaining all the logistics, including stops, millage, gas, costs, mpg, with trip totals. The total cost of the trip was \$808.47 for travel and camping. Gas was half the expense. The handouts are posted on the website with the July Newsletter, available to download. Please see our June Tips and Tricks about Horse Quencher. This is what Rayen gave us to put in the water to encourage the horses to drink when we stopped for gas. Dynamite and Danny loved it. Our horses handled the long distance well. They were relaxed, and we did not unload them at stops but parked in shade for 30 to 60 minutes at the stops.

Cueno Creek Equestrian Camp is about 45 miles south of Eureka, CA on the 101. It includes five individual camp sites and the two group sites. Group Camp A has 22 corrals, rents at 200.00/night, while Group Camp B has 12 corrals renting for 135.00/night. Portable corrals are allowed for extra horses as well as tying to the trailer. They do not allow high tie to the trees but tying to trailers is allowed, or high tying between trailers is another option. The camp the bathrooms have out-Both group camps have pine trees with picnic tables, a bbq, and bear lockers to lock up your food and garbage. We used the lockers for our garbage but no bears came into camp. There are water troughs and water hose bibs throughout, with the exception of nine corrals on the edge of Camp A. The road is paved into camp, plenty of room for big rigs, LQs, RVs, and it is pretty level. You can park around the corrals which are grouped together.

Steve and I plan to go again in 2015. If we have enough interested parties for the trip, we can consider renting out Group Camp B next year. We would recommend going for eight nights. The logistics are already planned out for everyone to follow. As we do not want to conflict with our annual LFR campouts, we are looking at mid – late June, 2015. I would like to thank the following people: Rayen Davidson for sharing her excellent planning of the trip, Denise Gerken for answering all my questions about traveling with horses, and Rhonda Kabot for recommending Angel Acres at Los Banos.



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