



Renewal Ranch AZ | 8605 West Northern Avenue | Glendale | AZ | 85305

## **Renewal Ranch AZ Host of O.K. Corral Series: Lots of Excitement; No Gunfights!**

For three days in November, Renewal Ranch AZ, in partnership with Stable Innovations, hosted the O.K. Corral Series. This was equine training of a different kind. In an interesting turning of the tables the *horses* put the people through their paces, and started teaching the humans how to be effective coaches.

The O.K. Corral Series is designed to be the ultimate training in Equine Assisted Learning (EAL), Equine Assisted Psychotherapy and Wellness. The series offers the training and certification of facilitators to be directed toward several groups or types of learning.



These include critical business skills and group or team relationships and effectiveness, family relationships, crisis counseling, personal wellness and development. Equine Assisted Learning for the business setting generally focuses on leadership skills, communication skills, teambuilding, motivational techniques, and more. One participant noted that one of the most useful parts of the training was “learning the different activities and what they can teach and bring out for a corporation.”



To date there have been only a very small number of facilitators who specialize in using EAL in coaching individuals and teams in business skills and relationships. We were thrilled by the opportunity to co-host the renowned O.K. Corral Series at Renewal Ranch AZ.

More than twenty people, including Renewal Ranch's own Paris Steynor, were certified to facilitate Equine Assisted Learning with particular focus on business coaching and personal development. Gayla and Tim Hodges were trained by Kersten during his time with EAGALA (Equine Assisted Growth and Learning Association). This was also the first coaching experience for two of the younger horses on the ranch, Icee and Indy. Both of the younger horses and all of the adult horses demonstrated their skill and training as outstanding coaches of people.



One of the highlights of the training seminar is "The Real Deal," in which the trainee facilitators observe work with a group of actual clients. During this event, a group of physical therapists from Spooner Physical Therapy were the real group trained in team skills by the horses (coaches) and the trainees (human facilitators). One trainee said the most useful part of the training was the "experiential exercises and the real deal clients' use of metaphors."

Participants in facilitator training indicated great appreciation for the opportunity to discuss the value of various activities with an actual corporate group and the value of discussions of business metaphors in the EAL context.



The group kicked up their heels for dinner one evening at nearby Saddle Ranch Chop House. Some of the participants from Prescott College competed in the electronic bull riding competition. Everyone yelled their loudest and were thrilled when Morrigan Reilly-Ansons was awarded the prize for the evening.



All in all, the seminar went very well. The horses performed admirably, the training was very helpful to everyone who attended, and everyone had fun.