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Sunday, August 19, 2007

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A riding club for adults

POLK COUNTY -- The Marion/Polk Old People's Riding Club, aka The Equinuts, spent last week camping out in Turner at Nancy McKnight's ranch, called the Two Dollar Window.

By **Erin Zysett**
 POLK COUNTY -- The Marion/Polk Old People's Riding Club, aka The Equinuts, spent last week camping out in Turner at Nancy McKnight's ranch, called the Two Dollar Window. The Old People's Riding Club is a national organization with chapters in Canada as well.

"We operate similarly to the United States Pony Club (USPC), but we aren't affiliated with that group," Equinuts president Karen Freeman said.

"Most of us had kids in Pony Club and kept saying to



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each other, 'There really should be something like this

Photo by Sarah Hillman
Equinuts is a local unit of a national riding club.

for us old people' -- then we heard about this group that started back East. We thought we should start a chapter here.

"Now there are two in Oregon."

The Old People's Riding Club national web site says the group's mission is "to promote safe and enjoyable horsemanship through educational activities to anyone over the age of 21, no matter the discipline."

Services are even available to non-riders to who may just want to learn more about horse care.

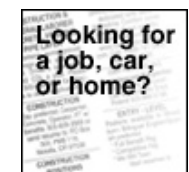
"We have a couple of members with miniature horses who joined to learn about nutrition and care, and for the friendships," said Nancy Clarke, Equinuts treasurer.

The group meets once a month to take care of club business and plan outings. The members attend riding clinics and schooling shows shows together, learning from one another all the time.

"We welcome all levels of rider. Most of us rode as kids and wanted to do it again, but we have people who have never owned a horse before and want to learn how to care for their animal and ride safely," Freeman said.

Members of the Equinuts hail from throughout the valley. Freeman and club treasurer Nancy Gilbert are from Dallas; others come from Aumsville, Salem and Turner.

For more information: Karen Freeman, 503-623-6282, or www.oldpeoplesridingclub.org.



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