

# Atwood Ranch Open House

by Kalley Krickeberg

**Well, friends, here we are once again! The Atwood Ranch Open House was held on May 4, 2008, and what a success it was! With Pat, Linda, the tour crew, horses, dogs, cows, Robo Steer and lots of smiling faces here on Open House day, how could it have been any better?**



In any case, here at Atwood Ranch we have been keeping our ears to the ground, shoulders to the wheel and noses to the grindstone. I tell you, it is amazing what we have been able to accomplish while in those positions!

## Getting Ready to Get Ready

The first thing we had to do between weaning horses, foaling mares, building fences and dodging the wind and rain this spring was to get ready. What I mean is that the whole Atwood Ranch staff and crew invested a monumental effort (just short of moving mountains) in order to get everything as ready as possible for Pat and Linda to arrive one week prior to the Open House, in order to **get ready** for the big day. What a week it was!

A few days prior, I had visited with Pat on the phone and told him I had a group of young horses ranging in age from one to three years old that I was preparing to have on display for Open House day. I also mentioned that we would have cattle here to play with, along with some other fun things. (I told everyone here at Atwood, "If you want to keep Pat's attention for any length of time, you need to have lots of fun things around to play with...get it? Left-Brain Extrovert!") When I

mentioned the cattle, Pat said, "That's good. You bring your cows, I'll bring mine." I did not know what that meant, but it left a big question mark next to a smiley face in my mind. You just never know with Pat Parelli!

**Well, it didn't take long for us to figure out what Pat meant about bringing his own "cattle."**

When Pat, Linda, the horses and crew arrived, it was like a dream. This was what everyone had been working so hard to prepare for, and the ranch and horses shone thanks to the incredible effort. We did a tour of the facility and the horses and viewed the improvements that had been implemented since Pat and Linda had last been here. And then it was time to play with horses! Well, it didn't take long for us to figure out what Pat meant about bringing his own "cattle." Out rolled the Robo Steer from the trailer. Robo Steer is a life-size, remote-controlled mechanical roping steer. It, too, can do six things besides stand still. It can go forward, backward, left, right and, in its own way, up and down, sort of. What a cool toy! So for the next week we played with horses, dogs, cattle and Robo Steer. At the end of the week we had the pleasure and honor of meeting a very special guest,

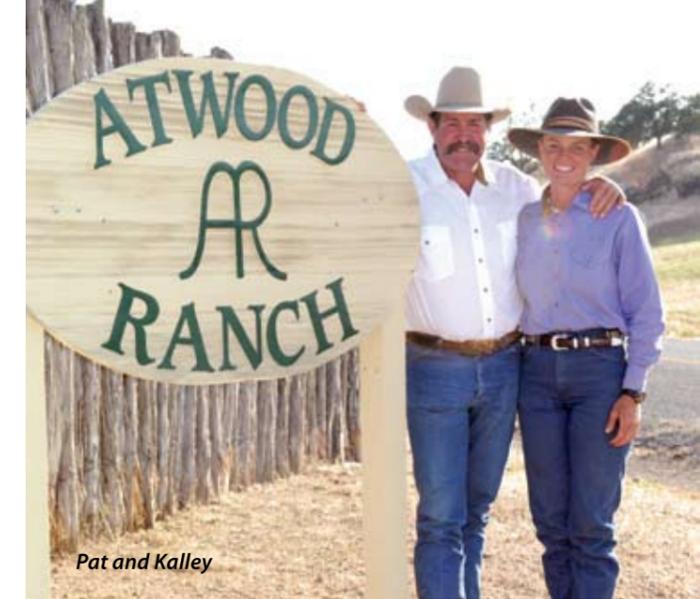
Ira Reid. Pat frequently talks about Ira as the Tom Dorrance of dogs; he is a legend in boots. Ira lives near this area and came by for a visit and to talk dogs with Pat. It was neat to be a fly on the wall for that.

## The Event

It was the big day, Sunday, May 4, and we were ready for the masses to arrive. It was fairly quiet in the beginning, and then **bang!** It was like someone had opened a gate somewhere, and we were in full swing. There were people everywhere! It was great! We had tours set up around the ranch to view the mares and foals in their beautiful rolling pastures. There were tours of the mare motel and foaling facility, where people were able to visit with our broodmare managers and get a bit of insight on the process and procedure there. People were also able to visit with Atwood Ranch's in-house veterinarian and view our in-house lab used for collection with the Atwood stallions. And last, but certainly not least, was the area that has been set up for the Parelli Preschool™. There were young horses playing everywhere! Pat had the tour crew, some of the local Parelli instructors and Parelli students playing with young horses while he visited with the crowd prior to the two-hour main event.

When it came time for that main event, it was once again a surreal moment. People were packed in and around the arena, teeming with curiosity about what they were about to see and hear. In true form, Pat talked of the future and where the industry is headed and how Atwood Ranch has taken a big step in leading this industry change. As Pat was talking he was riding his four-year-old Atwood filly, Vision, and then in came Casper. Pat visited with the crowd about how challenging Casper had been to take to a high level, not only because of his complex Horsenality™, but because of the baggage he came with because of the six professional predators—Oops! Dang, I do it, too—professional "trainers" that tried to do what they had always done, and Casper didn't fit their mold. Then came the future. Pat brought out Especial and Legend, his other two young Atwood horses, and gave everyone a taste of what is possible when you play with horses at a young age who don't have baggage. He talked about concentrating on the relationship first and putting foundation ahead of specialization. It was a spectacular demonstration of what is possible! Pat rode one young horse while playing with the other two at Liberty, and he rotated his way through riding all three. He ended on Legend, who at that time had had only a dozen rides. Yet, with all Legend's preparation, he was already confident enough in himself, his human and his environment to handle what Pat asked of him. What a demo!

The day finally arrived when it was time for the tour team, horses, Pat and Linda to pack up and head out for their next seminar, which was in Redmond, Oregon. Mike, Catherine and I traveled up to visit with people there about Atwood Ranch and all the wonderful things that are happening with the implementation of the Parelli Preschool™. Of course, the seminar was fantastic, and I especially loved watching the young Atwood horses perform! It was great to be with the Parelli team once again to visit, reconnect and share stories. For now, though, it is time to head back to the ranch. We have lots of beautiful Atwood babies waiting for a vision of their future. With Pat and Linda's help, I hope we can paint them a beautiful picture. 🐾



Pat and Kalley



Robo Steer



Corinne and Ira Reid

