



PALOS VERDES PENINSULA NEWS

Revamped trail guide features aerial photos of the Hill

By Rebecca Villaneda Peninsula News
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Horseback riders, hikers and bikers have a clearer picture of trails, thanks to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association's newly released Trail Guide, which includes satellite photos of the Peninsula taken earlier this year. Rooftops, schools and pools are in plain sight in the handy guide that maps streets and more than 175 trails — all in color.

"You can pretty well tell where you are and you can see better by looking at the actual picture and seeing the streets and houses," said PVP Horsemen's Association President Dale Allen. "We also list, for each trail, the length and the max and minimum elevation — it just gives you a little bit of a perspective on what to expect."

The association worked with Palos Verdes on the Net while putting together the guide. The guide costs \$20 and can be purchased at local tack and feed stores, including the General Store in Rolling Hills Estates or from the PVP Horsemen's Association.

"It was such a vast improvement and it made it more useful to users, so we felt compelled to come out with a new one," said PVP Horsemen's Association Treasurer Melody Colbert.

The guide also includes a four-page directory of local equine services, from photography and grooming to cremation and chiropractors.

Colbert said the guide is a great place for local owners — on and off the Hill and beyond the horse world — to advertise their services.

"What makes this such a great value is the fact that people keep their trail guide for years," Colbert said. "So when people take an ad in the guide ... it hangs for years."

Allen said the book took about six months to put together, and this is the guide's fifth edition.

"There's always a lot of change in the demographics, so there are people coming in with different likes and dislikes all the time, so we have to educate people," he said. "We have monthly meetings so we try and have a lot of good horse-keeping presentations to teach people how to properly take care of their animals so that it doesn't offend their neighbors, and keep their horses in good shape."

The association, which has more than 500 members, meets the third Thursday of the month at the Empty Saddle Club. The group's meetings regularly include educational information about horses and trails, and are open to the public.

"There are so many people who love to use the trails for their own personal fitness or for walking their dogs or for bicycling," said Colbert. "It's a valuable guide for anybody who enjoys the trails, not just horse people. We need everyone to support trail preservation, if we're going to keep them."

The guide includes trail etiquette and a legend that identifies bathroom facilities, water spots for horses and Peninsula landmarks.

"We tell a little bit about what the trail rules are," Allen said. "We [advise people to be courteous] to each other and to be careful approaching the horses from behind and to make sure they are aware."

Rancho Palos Verdes is the only city on the Hill that allows bicycles on its trails. Rolling Hills' trails are private, but a free permit can be obtained at the RH Community Services office.

"We're very fortunate because it's one of the very few places in the greater L.A. area that can have horses anymore," said Allen. "[Horseriding] is really relaxing, and you're able to get out and look at the pretty scenery and the hills and you can see way off into the mountains or into the ocean wherever you are."

Allen, who owns two horses, said he's proud of the new guide.

"It's always kind of scary when you go to release it. I didn't want to miss something. But it really came out nice," he said. "The PV Net and the people up there that worked on it were really great and were very nice to work with."

Said Colbert, "The greatest thing about these trails is that you can be in the suburbs and in 15 minutes you can be in the canyon where you're surrounded by nature — that's what makes this place unique.

"Most other places, you have to travel by car for an hour to get away from it all, and we can ride for 20 minutes and get away from it all," she added.

To purchase a copy of the new Trail Guide, call (310) 325-4903 or mail \$20 to P.O. Box 4153, Palos Verdes Peninsula, CA 90274.