



EVENTS

October 16
Fab Fall Horse Show
Ernie Howlett Park

October 21
PVPHA General Meeting
Empty Saddle Club

October 24
RHE Equestrian Committee Meeting

October 29
Buckle Series Gymkhana
Empty Saddle Club

October 31
Halloween Horse Show
Ernie Howlett Park

Oct. meeting to feature youth on parade

Please join us at 6:30 p.m. on Oct. 21 at the Empty Saddle Club for hot dogs and soft drinks. The evening's entertainment in the Roping Arena consists of a variety of gymkhana gymnastics including pole bending, barrel racing, roping the pretend cow and, if we're lucky, some sorting. These young people are so talented, they'll make you proud!

— Charlene O'Neil, VP Education

No horsing around: Peninsula hosts 1st 'Mule Days'

Some of the nicest mules and donkeys in the United States came to the Empty Saddle Club on Sept. 24-26 to compete in the first ever Palos Verdes Mule and Donkey Days.

As this event was sanctioned by the American Mule Association, people vying for year-end points came from all over the country to compete.

The event started with a Friday afternoon trail ride and TGIF kick-off party with music by the Catalina Kings. Contestants and people from the community gathered at the ESC clubhouse and broke bread together.

"I was really surprised at the level of community interest in this event," said Dale Allen, president of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's

Association. "The Daily Breeze did a couple of write-ups, and a journalist for KCAL9 / CBS2 came down to the club and did a story on the event."

If anything, the show demonstrated how versatile mules are. Many of the contestants rode their mules in a multitude of different events ranging from team roping to trail to over fences classes.

"Watching a mule rope cows on Saturday and jump fences on Sunday is really amazing," Allen added.

One of the highlights was

75-year-old Bishop Mule Days Hall of Famer Tucker Slender, who competed in all of the events and gave the crowd a show by performing a bridleless cutting demonstration on his

See "Mule Days," page 9.



PHOTO BY NICOLE MOORADIAN

Photos: RHE City Celebration offers family fun. Pages 6-7.



PHOTO BY PHIL JOHNSON

Cowboy Days brings competitors to Empty Saddle Club. Page 5.



PHOTO BY DALE ALLEN

"Coon jumping" showcases a mule's ability to jump heights from a standstill.

NEWS BRIEFS

Portuguese Bend National Horse Show turns 53

The Peninsula Committee Children's Hospital hosted its 53rd annual Portuguese Bend National Horse Show at Ernie Howlett Park on Sept. 10-12.

Besides a variety of hunter, jumper and equitation classes, the A-rated horse show also featured a catered dinner, as well as a variety of children's activities.

Michelle Parker, riding Clever, placed first in the \$10,000 Seahorse Jumper Classic, and Sydney Callaway won the PCHA Horsemanship Medal.

Since the show's inception, the PCCH has raised more than \$9 million.

200+ show up for Steve Harris memorial event

The Steve Harris Memorial Dinner Dance and Auction celebrated its ninth year Sept. 25 with more than 200 people in attendance.

The event included both a silent and a live auction, dinner from Gaetano's Restaurant and music by the Chapped Cheeks Live Country Band. Money raised benefitted the pediatric hematology and oncology department at Harbor UCLA Medical Center.

Jackpot barrel racing kicks off gymkhana series

The first in a buckle series of three gymkhanas kicked off Sept. 24 at the Empty Saddle Club.

Entrants in the three age divisions competed in three events: hurry-scurry, ribbon race and jackpot barrel race. Those who won the barrel races took home \$45.

The next event will be held Oct. 29. Entry costs \$30. At the end of the series, those with the most points will receive buckles.

PVPHA sings for ice cream

About 30 guests enjoyed banana splits at the PVPHA's annual ice cream social and campfire sing-along Sept. 16 at the Empty Saddle Club.

PVPHA Vice President Charlene O'Neil, Danielle Allen and Erin Ryan scooped ice cream for the sundaes, while Kathy Stowe, Steve Cramer and a couple of other musicians led the group in song.



PHOTO COURTESY HALEY HARRINGTON

Haley Harrington and Benito Sidiago++/ jump a fence at the Pacific Slopes Sport Horse Championships on Sept. 10-12. The pair took home multiple championship and reserve championship ribbons.

Peninsula riders rein in ribbons at top shows

Rolling Hills Estates resident Haley Harrington and her horse Benito Sidiago++/ took home six Top 10 awards at the Arabian Sport Horse National Championship Horse Show on Sept. 22-25 in Nampa, Idaho.

Earlier in the week, local rider Kylee Arbuckle aboard D'Anconia Copper won the ASPCA Maclay West Coast Regional Finals, securing her spot in the 2010 ASPCA Maclay National Championship on Nov. 7 at the Syracuse Invitational Sporthorse Tournament.

Arbuckle is trained by Karen Healey; Kimberly Lynch owns D'Anconia Copper.

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President's message: Proposed golf course redevelopment plans cause for concern

September was a very interesting and exciting month with all of the horse and mule shows. Boy, what fun. I enjoyed visiting with so many members and friends.

Now it's time to get back to work. We're starting the month with a public hearing scheduled Oct. 4 with the Rolling Hills Estates Planning Commission on the Chandler Ranch/Rolling Hills Golf Club Development.

This project as proposed is a large concern for the equestrian community. The development calls for a 114-home single-family subdivision, a reconfigured/relocated 18 hole golf

course and a new 61,411-square-foot clubhouse that exceeds the maximum height of the city code on the site of the existing Chandler Sand and Gravel and Rolling Hills Country facilities.

The project as proposed requires

a number of major changes to the city general plan as well as zoning changes, conditional use permits and neighborhood compatibility determination.

See "Development," page 8.

EDITOR CHANGE AT THE DISPATCH

The DISPATCH has a new face this issue, thanks to new editor Nicole Mooradian.

Nicole, a graduate of Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., is an Emmy award-winning member of the Society of Professional Journalists, Online News Association and the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences.

—Dale Allen

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‘My passion was with horses, not law’

Kitty Kohles focuses on understanding a horse’s mind, body, spirit and instincts to form deeper partnerships.

My love for horses started when I was 6 years old, and I was lucky enough to get my first horse at age 10. As a junior rider, I had a traditional riding experience with English riding lessons and many successes in the show ring; I ultimately ended my junior riding career showing hunt seat with Julie Smith. As with most young riders, college and career took over, and although I continued to ride, it was not with the intensity as I did when I was younger. After college, I earned a law degree and began practicing patent law.

My life changed when I met one of my mentors, Lee Smith, a gifted clinician with deep insight into horses and people. Lee connected me with my other mentor, Ray Hunt, who was considered the master of horse-human communication.

Although I was always successful with horses, Ray and Lee taught me that a deeper partnership between horse and rider is available, and how to reach that level by teaching the horse to think and respond without using force, fear and intimidation.

Through my mentors, I learned how to understand the horse’s mind, body, spirit and instincts to create a successful partnership.

Wanting to soak up every bit of knowledge I could from Ray, I traveled across the country to ride with him as much as possible. It never ceased to amaze me that Ray’s methods worked on every horse he touched. Even the meanest, nastiest, most problematic horse responded to his approach.

Ray passed away last year, but I



PHOTO COURTESY KITTY KOHLES

Kitty Kohles credits her mentors Lee Smith and Ray Hunt with developing her horsemanship skills.

continue to ride with Lee Smith because all horses and situations are different, requiring continued education to refine and improve my approach. I believe being an excellent teacher requires being an excellent student.

Five years ago I started helping people with their horses and two years ago, I realized that my passion was with horses, not with law, and I gave up my practice to focus on horses full time. My goal is to teach others what I’ve learned from my horses and mentors—how to form a deeper level of communication, creating a better and safer situation for horse and rider. I, along with my sister Kim Glaza, am now in the business of helping

See “Kohles,” page 8.



Comedy and Magic Club Tickets

Take a night off and support the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen’s Association by buying tickets to the Comedy and Magic Club in Hermosa Beach, Calif. Tickets are \$15 per pair, and all proceeds go to the PVPHA and the Rolling Hills Estates Pepper Tree Foundation.

Tickets are tax-deductible.

Get a group together and have a fun evening. You may get your tickets at the Rolling Hills Estates City Hall or from any PVPHA board member.

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Old West spirit comes alive at Cowboy Days

The Empty Saddle Club brought the cowboy tradition to life with its 19th annual Cowboy Days.

The celebration kicked off Sept. 10 with a trail ride and a catered TGIF, but the real action began Saturday, Sept. 11 with team roping, ultimate trail and team sorting. Sunday’s events included cutting, a gymkhana, and trail.

The gymkhana included the classic events—keyhole, pole bending and barrel racing—as well as a “hurry scurry,” which involved racing over three jumps and around a pole.

Kenny Ennis and Dalton, Joe Bell, Julie and Kris Kazarian, Hilary Post, Madison Jones, AnnaMay Naef and Logan Dietrick took home the buckles for roping, combined trail, sorting, cutting, open gymkhana, Jr. gymkhana and youth gymkhana, respectively.

In addition, the ESC awarded belt buckles for the All-Around Cowboy, an ESC member who receives the



PHOTOS BY PHIL JOHNSON

All-around buckle winners (left to right): Logan Dietrick (Youth); Madison Jones (High-Point); AnnaMay Naef (Jr.); Joe Bell (All-Around Cowboy)

most points throughout the competition; all-around high-point winner, who receives the most points in all events; and youth and junior high-point winners, who receive the most points in the trail and gymkhana events. Recipients were Bell, Jones, Dietrick and Naef, respectively.

According to Cowboy Days co-chair Julie Ringer, caterers served

about 170 dinners Friday night, and about 120 people attended Saturday night’s dinner dance. She said 300 lunches were served over the weekend.

Though a full count of participants wasn’t available, Ringer said 33 people entered the three gymkhana divisions.

—Nicole Mooradian

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Rolling Hills Estates celebrates 53 years

Rolling Hills Estates hosted its annual City Celebration at the Empty Saddle Club on Sept. 18, showcasing equestrian and canine talents, local businesses and organizations, and all sorts of family fun.

The annual Poker Ride, which began at the Chandler ring, kicked off the celebration. The event continued with a gymkhana at the Empty Saddle Club, and multiple exhibitions by various community groups, such as therapeutic riding program Ride to Fly. Other events included a city/Lomita sheriffs volleyball match, a horseshoes tournament and a watermelon-eating contest.

Attendees could also receive free massages from a local chiropractor's office or adopt a kitten or dog from Whiskers and Tails.

The day ended with a dinner provided by Los Compadres.

—Nicole Mooradian



PHOTO COURTESY DOREEN HOULE

For some riders, the day began at the Chandler arena by Rolling Hills Estates City Hall where they picked up their hands for the annual poker ride.

◀ Numerous families enjoyed the celebrations, packing the Empty Saddle Club to the brim.

Redondo Beach police Officer Cory King (not pictured) and his police dog, Jack, demonstrate how Jack will "take down" a suspect, played by one of King's colleagues. According to King, police dogs are trained from a young age to look at the protective armguard as a toy.

In the final demonstration, Scott Gallagher and three dogs showed off their sheep-herding skills. Jerry Stewart and Gallagher's son, Dylan (pictured), also participated. The demonstration ended with two of the dogs herding cattle for the first time.



PHOTO COURTESY DOREEN HOULE



PHOTO BY NICOLE MOORADIAN



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PHOTO BY NICOLE MOORADIAN

▲ More than 30 riders entered the gymkhana, where they competed in barrel racing, pole bending and the keyhole event.

◀ The children's area offered many activities, including a corn-kernel pit sponsored by Waste Management, pony rides, a straw pit, a petting zoo and wooden play horses.

▶ The Happy Hoofers' HIT ("Hoofers in Training") drill team performed to Shania Twain's "Man, I Feel Like a Woman." The youth riders demonstrated a variety of maneuvers, including circles, "crack the whips," obliques and "thread the needles."



PHOTO BY NICOLE MOORADIAN



PHOTO BY NICOLE MOORADIAN

Continued from page 5...

Kohles: 'Being an excellent teacher requires being an excellent student'

humans build better relationships with their horses through a partnership called California Horsemanship.

Our primary focus is to help riders teach their horses to think. This starts from the simplest task of tacking your horse and carries over to having control in a spooky situation on the trail, trailer loading, jumping a scary obstacle or just being able to have a pleasant ride in the arena.

Our approach works for all disciplines, and we welcome the opportunity to help all types of riders and horses—from helping fearful riders and/or horses get down the trail safely to helping highly experienced riders looking for a true partnership.

The bottom line? We help horses and riders work with each other safely and effectively without the use of force and fear. As the understanding between horse and rider flourishes, so does the bond—and truly, there is nothing like it.

Kitty Kohles can be reached at 310-345-3274.

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'A long swim to Catalina!'

Submitted by Bruce Harnishfeger



PHOTO BY LARRY YBARRONDO

Have you taken a funny picture of your horse in a crazy situation? Send it to ghoule@cox.net with a funny caption, and you could win a trail map!

Winner will be announced at the 2011 Music and Poetry Festival.

Continued from p. 3...

Development: Zoning, trail plans pose issues

There are two major concerns for the equestrian community:

1. Removing the project from the "Horse Overlay Zone." This will possibly negatively affect horseback riders and is a major change to the demographics.

2. Not including the trail that goes from Narbonne along the RHE/Lomita border to meet with the existing RHE trail system near the little league field. This trail has been included in the general plan stating that it would be completed on any future develop-

ment site.

We will be updating you as this process progresses. Please watch PVPHA.org for new information on this item. The Chandler Ranch Program final EIR is on line at the City website at www.ci.rolling-hills-estates.ca.us. We will be asking for your support on this important issue of protecting our horse-keeping rights and protecting our rural community.

—Dale Allen
 President, PVPHA

Continued from page 1...

Mule Days showcases long-eared talent

mule Donk-A-Lena.

Spectators found the donkey barrel racing hysterical—just getting a donkey to finish the pattern was a huge accomplishment.

"The fact that these donkeys compete in gymkhana, pleasure classes and trail classes is simply amazing," Said Allen. "We were treated to watching some of the best-trained donkeys in the country."

On Saturday, the ESC hosted the Steve Harris Memorial Charity event benefiting the Harbor UCLA Pediatric Cancer Center. One of the mule show entrants, Joe Gonzales, purchased a saddle for \$1,100 at live auction and sheepishly inquired if he could donate the money and give the saddle back so it could be auctioned off again to raise additional funds.

Empty Saddle Club member Laurine McCaw arrived at the Club at the crack of dawn on Sunday and cooked up an amazing cowboy breakfast. The day's events included cutting, English and western pleasure classes and a gymkhana.

—Vic Otten



PHOTO BY TANIA SIMON

The donkeys' and mules' long ears stole the hearts of many spectators. Here, Empty Saddle Club resident mule Jesse James (left) checks out some of his competition.

The mules and donkeys competed in multiple events, including trail, cutting, roping, jumping and halter. In this photo, a mule competing in the trail class decides she doesn't want to walk through the water trough—she'd rather jump it.



PHOTO BY DALE ALLEN

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thanks to all the volunteers who worked and all those who participated in the PVPHA Poker Ride and the RHE City Celebration. This very successful event would not have been possible without the dedication of all the volunteers and participants.

Thank you all for the many hours of work that made this event such a success.

—Dale Allen

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