



EVENTS

Oct. 16

Fab Fall Horse Show

Ernie Howlett Park

Oct. 20

PVPHA general meeting

Empty Saddle Club

Oct. 28

TGIF celebration

Empty Saddle Club



ERIN RYAN

Riding in Rancho Oso, Page 4: Sandy Nobunga and Wendy Nobunga traverse a river on the trails at Rancho Oso.



PHIL JOHNSON

City Celebration, Page 6: The event features a gymkhana and other activities.

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Cowboy Days offers family fun

by **NICOLE MOORADIAN**
DISPATCH EDITOR

which featured barrel racing, pole-bending, a keyhole race and a hurry-scurry race.

The Empty Saddle Club held its 20th annual Cowboy Days competition Sept. 23-25. Participants competed for silver buckles in most events, and the winner of the All-Around Cowboy competition received a trophy saddle donated by Gspur Equine Hydrotherapy Center. All junior and youth riders received participant gift bags for competing in the gymkhana.

Events included trail, ranch sorting, team roping, cutting and the traditional gymkhana competition,



NICOLE MOORADIAN

From left: All-Around Cowboy winner Kenny Ennis poses with Cowboy Days organizer Julie Ringer, Empty Saddle Club President Greg Keenan and runner-up Sarah Miller.

namay Naef won the All-Around Junior belt buckle.

Header John Krambeer and heeler Larry Kelly won the team roping competition, while Sarah Miller and

See "Cowboy Days," Page 8.

Junior and youth riders competed in the trail class, a special ranch sorting event and their own gymkhana.

Norco resident Kenny Ennis won the All-Around Cowboy saddle, and his daughter, Amy Ennis, won the buckle for the All-Around Youth competition. An-

October meeting 'all about ulcers'

by **CHARLENE O'NEIL**

PVPHA VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION

From a personal standpoint, I have learned a lot about ulcers in the last several months, and I wanted to share this wealth of information with you! Dr. Silvia Ouilette (formerly Greenman) will share her knowledge about this equine ailment during the Oct. 20 general meeting.

Ouilette's presentation will discuss the causes, symptoms and cures for a disease that is far more prevalent than one could imagine. This should prove to be a most informative evening.

Apple pie will be served. The meeting is at 7 p.m. at the Empty Saddle Club in Rolling Hills Estates. U

NEWS BRIEFS

Houles chosen to manage Peter Weber Center

In a 4-1 vote Sept. 13, the Rolling Hills Estates City Council selected Gil and Doreen Houle to manage Peter Weber Equestrian Center.

In their prior presentation to the board, the Houles said they would aim for a “community barn” feel at the stables and consider rehiring current staff.

Seahorse Riding Club operator Scott Hill, the other potential manager under consideration, said that he would not consider rehiring current staff.

The Houles will now negotiate with the city on a contract. They have said they would prefer not to comment publicly until the details are ironed out.

Few attendees but lots of fun at ice cream social

Not many people attended this year’s ice cream social, but those who did had plenty of fun. Attendees made sun-daes with ice cream, brownies and other fixings before sitting outside for a chat.

Next year’s event may be moved to Friday to better accommodate families’ schedules.

Reader mourns Ruth Kain

I was shocked and saddened to hear that Ruth Kain, a longtime member of the PVPHA, passed away last March 10. She was 69.

Although she was unable to ride her Andalusian Geino for the past few years due to her illness, she still kept him as a pet. Additionally, for years, she would be at Jan Sawyer’s house every month, helping to fold, staple, label and



PHOTO COURTESY TIFFANY CHIU

Tiffany Chiu riding Whitney (right) poses with sister Nicole on Laurel circa 1990.

stamp the *Dispatch*, getting it ready for mailing.

She was a friend, and she will be missed.

—Hirsh Marantz

Community mourns loss of beloved pony

When Whitney, a beloved pony of trainer Tiffany Chiu, could no longer walk, Chiu made the difficult decision to put her to sleep June 9.

Whitney was more than 30 years old; however, because she was a rescue, her exact age is unknown.

Whitney was a pivotal member of the Chiu family who was loved by all and ridden by many. She was the steadfast best friend of Chiu for more than 20 years.

In the pony’s honor, Chiu planted a mulberry tree by the arena and has compiled a scrapbook that will continue to grow as people add stories, photos and more.

People who would like to add their own goodwill to Whitney’s scrapbook can email tiffanyjchiu@hotmail.com, call 310-621-4247 or visit the Red Barn off Palos Verdes Drive North.

—Tiffany Chiu

News briefs are generally 2-3 short paragraphs. To submit a news brief, email the text to pvpha2010@gmail.com. The editor reserves the right to not include briefs and to edit briefs for length and clarity. U

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TRAINER SPOTLIGHT: SEAN MARTIN

Martin 'translates' English to Western

by **KAREN PADGETT**

MARTIN PERFORMANCE HORSES STUDENT

I first met Sean about 10 years ago when he was my friend's team penning partner. We'd run into each other occasionally throughout the years, but it wasn't until I asked him to teach me about sorting last spring that I really understood how gifted he was when it comes to understanding and training horses—and people.

I explained to Sean that I'd ridden English for years and had decided to try something new. What better way to mix up life than to change horses, switch disciplines, throw my riding knowledge out the window, and buy myself a cow horse, right? I didn't just want to own a pretty Western horse; I wanted to ride her.

I mean, really ride her: spinning, sliding, etc. It should have been an easy feat, but alas, I was unable to comprehend the nuances of western riding and really needed someone who could translate my "English" language to this bizarrely shaped saddle.

Sean has the patience of a saint—who knew he could repeat the same thing over and over at least 50 times in the same quiet tone until I finally "got it!"? My horse is much happier now. We show well all over the West Coast, and I'm learning how much fun it is to chase cows.

Sean started riding when he was seven. Like most kids, he had multiple interests, but it was the horses that really captured his attention. He did a lot of training while growing up, but never gave much thought to it as a full-time career.

In college, Sean majored in equestrian studies when in college because it was something he knew and was familiar with. He attended Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Mont., Pierce College in Woodland Hills and El Camino to finish education. It was during that time when he decided to make horses a career. Never one to slack on the job, he went to work with Josh Lyons in Colorado, and became a John Lyons Certified Trainer.

Upon completion of his certification, Sean did team penning and competed frequently for many years. Lucky for us English-posting city-slickers, on one fateful trip to Yuma he tried his hand at sorting. You could say that took like a fish to water; he was absolutely hooked.

Martin Performance Horses was officially established in 2002 in Rolling Hills Estates as a riding school providing basic riding lessons for students ranging from be-



PHOTOS COURTESY KAREN PADGETT

ginners to advanced riders. Sean expanded his business to include everything from ranch sorting, team roping lessons, gymkhana lessons, horsemanship clinics, riding camps, training, horse sales, and horse rescues.

People responded well to his patient manner and kind heart and started coming in droves. As Sean's business grew he decided he needed a bigger facility more suited to cow horse activities so he purchased a ranch in Anza, Calif. It's a beautiful facility on 37 incredible acres with a roping arena, round pen, ranch sorting pens and numerous other amenities.

For more information, contact Sean Martin through martinperformancehorses.com, via telephone at 310-418-4583 or via e-mail at martinhorses@aol.com. U

Take a horseback trip over to Rancho Oso

by **ERIN RYAN**
PVPHA RECORDING SECRETARY

Rancho Oso, a half-hour inland from Santa Barbara, is a really great horse camping area. This gated private property area is snuggled up against preserve land offering many miles of hiking and horse trails.

Because guests have the option of dry camping, renting “chuck wagons,” bringing their own recreational vehicles or horse trailers with living quarters, and renting cabins or deluxe trailers, I have always considered it more of a luxury camping experience. For those who do not care for camping whatsoever, the aforementioned rental options take all the hardship out of the equation.

There are really two seasons, spring and fall. For the adventurous traveler who experiments with summer, expect scorching temperatures.

Spring brings lots of water, so the river is at its prime. Rain is a greater possibility during this season, which normally brings trail closures for a few days after a storm.

Fall, on the other hand, is warm. There is little possibility of getting your travel items rained on and the river is still viable, mostly void of current but boasting of well appreciated water holes. You can go to the same place at different seasons and have two unique experiences.

Another nice aspect of the campgrounds is their proximity to downtown Santa Barbara. A day of rest for

one’s horse can be a day of fun for its owner. She can sprint down the hill and visit the oceanside city, or she can travel in the other direction to reach Solvang—a fun-filled shopping adventure in itself. To replenish calories, the western-themed restaurant A.J. Spurs starts every meal with stew. The main courses have plenty of protein in the form of beef, and guests can sip root beer floats for dessert. Not a shabby way to end a day!

Naturally, in between day trips to downtown Santa Barbara and Solvang, relaxing at the campgrounds and barbecuing home-cooked meals, the area has plenty of trails for you and your horse.

Now, regarding those trails, many do cross water. If you do embark on

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a river crossing, may want to heed this advice—your horse may decide to take personal spa day by taking advantage of the cool water without consulting his rider beforehand.

During our last ride, Toni Agovino's horse Maverick did just that. Instead of walking through the water, he decided to take a refreshing bath. (See picture on the right.)

While it may be an unpleasant surprise for the rider, it's certainly entertaining for onlookers, and those who missed it will often be able to watch it for many weeks after on Youtube.

Rancho Oso is located at 3750 Paradise Road in Santa Barbara. Call 805-683-5686 for accommodations, or visit ranchooso.net. U



ERIN RYAN

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Happy Birthday, Rolling Hills Estates!

by DALE ALLEN
PVPHA PRESIDENT

Rolling Hills Estates marked its 54th birthday Sept. 17 with the annual City Celebration at the Empty Saddle Club.

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association held its annual Poker Ride in conjunction with the celebration. More than 60 prizes were donated for the ride.

The celebration included games and activities for all ages. Equestrian gymkhana games, a junior drill team demonstration, petting zoo, pony rides, hay ride, Redondo Beach Police K-9 demonstration, a dunk tank, kid's games, sack races and a watermelon eating contest were just some of the games and activities.

The Lomita Sheriffs won the annual volleyball game against the city.

Check out these photos, courtesy Phil Johnson, of the day's festivities. **U**





ALL PHOTOS ON PAGES 6-7 COURTESY PHIL JOHNSON.

Continued from Page 1...

Cowboy Days: Ennis family wins all-around awards

Sean Martin won the ranch sorting event. Empty Saddle Club member Julie Kazarian won the belt buckle for the cutting competition, Ron Radner won the trail class, and Kenny Ennis won the adult gymkhana.

An honorable mention for the trail class went to Larry "Jose Cuervo" Kelly aboard his burro, Chiquita. (See "Horse Funnies" on the next page.)

Besides the riding events, Cowboy Days also featured a special "Western

Hoedown Fiesta" on Friday night. Additionally, the annual Steve Harris Memorial Fundraiser benefitting the Pediatric Hematology-Oncology units at Harbor UCLA Medical Center. The annual fundraiser featured a happy hour and silent auction. U



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A young rider trots her pony to the finish during the youth gymkhana's barrel race.

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NICOLE MOORADIAN

Empty Saddle Club member and local farrier Joe Bell prepares to take a small jump during the trail class. Bell designed the course.

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HORSE FUNNIES

‘Happy Halloween!’

Photo by Liz Kane.



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JENN WINNICK, DVM, CVA

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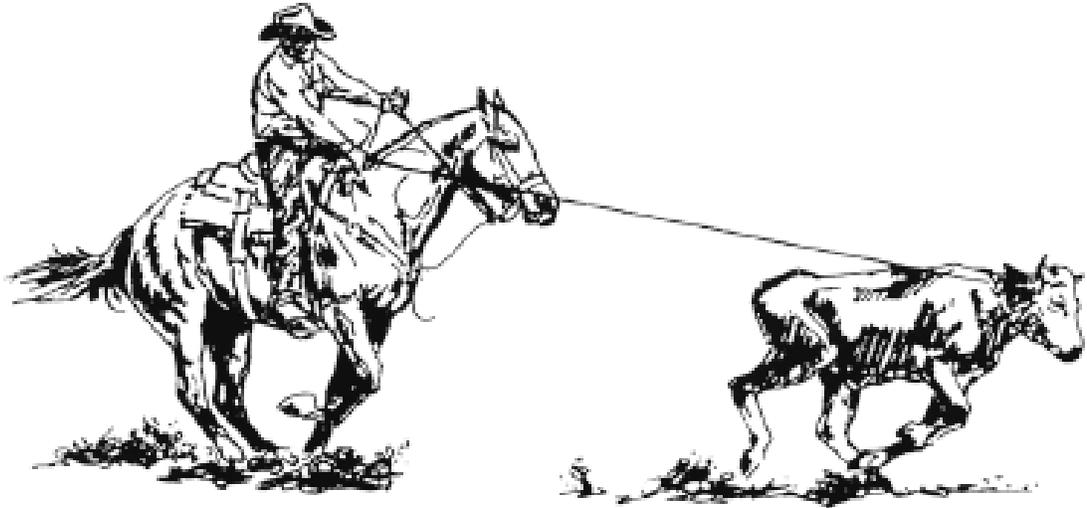
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