



EVENTS

Dec. 3

Holiday Parade of Lights

Silver Spur Road

Dec. 3-4

Robert Gage clinic

More info: 310-613-5884

Peter Weber Equestrian Center

Dec. 10-11

Interscholastic Equestrian

League horse show

More info: ociel@cox.net

Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park

Dec. 18

Annamay Memorial Trail Ride

More info: <http://is.gd/Annamay>

Ernie Howlett Park

Jan. 14-15

Interscholastic Equestrian

League horse show

More info: ociel@cox.net

Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park

Jan. 21

Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival

Empty Saddle Club

Send events to pvpha2010@gmail.com.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE: Happy Holidays!

by DALE ALLEN
PVPHA PRESIDENT

As we end another year, it is time to reflect back on what we have accomplished in the past year. We have accomplished many things with the help of our members.

We have dramatically increased our membership. With the help of our *Dispatch* editor Nicole Mooradian, we continued to improve the *Dispatch* and increased the number of advertisers.

In addition, we reduced our costs by having the printing done by the PV School printers, which also supports Palos Verdes Peninsula Unified School District.

We have continued to support city projects to improve trails—including resurfacing some driveways on Palos Verdes Drive North—and are con-

tinuing to work with Rolling Hills Estates on new equestrian projects.

Along with all of our accomplishments, we had time to enjoy our horses. We had a very successful poker ride along with the Rolling Hills Estates City Celebration. Many of our members were seen competing in local horse shows.

We would like to congratulate board member Gil Houle and his wife Doreen on being selected as the concessionaire for the Rolling Hills Estates city stable (The Peter Weber Equestrian Center) and wish Gil and Doreen well in this endeavor. I hear that we should watch for some new and exciting things.

I would like to thank everyone for their help in the past year and wish you all a very wonderful and safe holiday season and a healthy, happy and prosperous 2012! U

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Don't Forget Poetry Festival

by CHARLENE O'NEIL
PVPHA VICE PRESIDENT OF EDUCATION

The annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival will be held at the Empty Saddle Club at 6 p.m. Jan. 21, 2012. Enjoy homemade chili and cornbread before the entertainment begins at 7 p.m. We will have amazing musicians like Pat Bolen, The Cross Town Cowboys, Kathy Stowe, and Steve Deming and the New Westernaires, as well as poets Wanda Smith, Janice Lukstein, Charlene O'Neil, Steve Deming among others. It will prove to be a grand evening of entertainment for all, so save the date! U

NEWS BRIEFS

Remember: No December meeting

As usual, the PVPHA will not be hosting a December meeting. Instead, members are invited to attend the annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival on Jan. 21, 2012, at the Empty Saddle Club.

IEL classes postponed

Multiple classes at the Nov. 6 Interscholastic Equestrian League horse show in San Juan Capistrano due to weather. According to the Orange County IEL website, classes will be made up at the next show, scheduled for Dec. 10.

Excluding results from Nov. 6, Palos Verdes High School remained at the top of the school rankings, with Palos Verdes Peninsula High School in third place. Rolling Hills Prep, Chadwick and Miraleste Middle School are among other local schools competing in the IEL.

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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Is your rig ready for winter?

USRider offers tips for those who plan to travel with horses during the cold season.

by **USRIDER**

SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

With the change of seasons, USRider reminds those who travel with horses to be careful when traveling in wintry weather and invest time doing routine preventive trailer maintenance to enhance their travel safety.

It is imperative to make sure your vehicle is ready for winter driving. Be sure to maintain your vehicle according to the manufacturer's service schedule. It's also important to take your vehicle to a trusted mechanic.

"When it comes to vehicle maintenance, especially heavy-duty vehicles towing precious cargo, it is better to be proactive than reactive," said Bill Riss, general manager of USRider. "If you have not already done so, establish a relationship with a trusted ASE mechanic. It is essential that you do this before your vehicle breaks down on the side of the highway while towing your horse trailer."

USRider recommends that you check tire pressure before each trip. This is especially important with temperature changes. If you are traveling from a warm climate to a cold climate, air pressure in your tires will drop. On the other hand, when traveling from a cold climate into a warm climate, the air pressure will rise.

A weak battery will usually reveal itself during cold weather. If your battery is more than a couple of years old, be sure to check it prior to cold weather setting in. Otherwise, you will most likely be inconvenienced on some cold morning when the battery fails to start your vehicle.

When driving, a good rule of thumb to follow on the road is "rain, ice and snow—take it slow." Before setting out on a trip, take the time to check weather reports and plan accordingly. Be sure to allow extra time for inclement weather. Mother Nature doesn't care that you need to be somewhere at a certain time.

See "USRider," Page 6.

Opinion: Save horses from slaughter

November's general meeting focused on the plight of wild horses.

by **ERIN RYAN**
PVPHA RECORDING SECRETARY

At our last meeting we had a presentation on the Bureau of Land Management's policies in regards to wild horses, and the topic of horse slaughter came up. This is something that I cannot write about with any sense of calmness because of my personal opinion on this practice. With this in mind, I will present some of the facts, but know that there is little chance of changing anyone's mind on this matter.

This subject can be an emotional one tied to how people view horses in general and how we as Americans should treat our animals. I even

hesitate to use the term "pets," because there are some who do not think of horses as pets but as livestock.

Do we, as a people, want to eat our pets or have them slaughtered to be consumed for their meat by other countries? I do not have my dogs or cats sent to a facility to have them butchered, processed, and sent out for meat to be eaten by other animals and people. I do not sell my horses in exchange for a price they can fetch in meat, either. So you see, I am completely unqualified to write objective-



JEFFREY K. EDWARDS / FLICKR

Mustangs rest in Nevada's high desert.

ly on this subject.

With this in mind, here is some information from the presentation so you can form your own opinion:

More than 100,000 American
Continued on the next page.

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horses are slaughtered annually and sent to Europe and Asia. This meat does not feed the malnourished but those who can afford what is considered a delicacy.

Slaughter is not a necessary outlet for unwanted horses with the advent of rescue groups, adoptions with the SPCA and vet-assisted euthanasia.

Wild horses, which were once federally protected, are now used to support foreign demand for horsemeat.

The American Horse Slaughter Prevention Act (H.R. 2966/S. 1176) will prohibit the slaughter of horses in the United States for human consumption, as well as their export for the same purpose.

The federal government now warehouses more mustangs in holding facilities than are left free in the wild. In the past, numbers were in the millions; today, fewer than 33,000 are left in the wild. Public lands are being cleared for privately-owned live-

stock, which outnumber mustangs on BLM-managed lands by 50:1. Ranchers can lease an acre of public land for \$1.39—half the cost of leasing private land.

As private citizens, we can make a difference by becoming educated, involved and by our personal decisions on how we take care of our own horses. Do not sell your horse at an auction. Sell your horse to an individual with proper references and a legally binding agreement that the horse will never be sold to slaughter. Humane euthanasia by a licensed veterinarian is preferable to the cruel conditions at the slaughter house.

If you see an abused or abandoned horse, please report the details to your local animal control authority for further investigation. Not only does such abuse and neglect require immediate attention for the obvious welfare reasons, but these horses are also at risk of being sold into slaugh-

ter by uncaring owners.

It is in many people's power to donate a percentage of their earnings to charitable organizations. Consider giving your money to horse rescues and sanctuaries. Make your thoughts known by voting and actively contacting your representatives. We live in a world with instant information, thanks to the Internet. Read up on those topics you consider important, and become educated as to how revenue is made from slaughter houses. The flow of money is pivotal.

When I was looking for day care for my infant (years ago), one of the items I thought important was an "open door" policy. I wanted to have the right to visit my baby without notice, to ensure things were being run in a thoughtful way with care and safety in mind. Any organization that required advance motivation raised a red flag in my head. Yet the BLM insist no outside photographers or oth-

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er non-authorized persons are witness at their “roundups.”

Probably for good reason, since there is a percentage of wild horses that automatically abort, get injured or die from exhaustion while being chased down with helicopters during the process. Can this be considered a humane way of rounding up wild horses? I think not. I am suspicious of the BLM’s policies in this matter.

This is a difficult topic at best. Please consider this, money is everything to our government. Follow the flow of revenues and find out who is economically benefitting from our vanishing wild herds.

Thanks go to guest speakers Susan Rudnicki and Linda Lee for their informative presentation. U

More information

If you care to look into some of the organizations that offer alternatives for our wild equine population, here are some suggestions:

- 🐾 American Wild Horse Preservations Campaign:
WildHorsePreservation.org and StopTheRoundups.com
- 🐾 Wild Burro Rescue Sanctuary: Wildburrorescue.org
- 🐾 Wild Horse Education: WildHorseEducation.org
- 🐾 Lifesavers Wild Horse Rescue: WildHorseRescue.org

Additionally, the Bureau of Land Management offers its own adoption program for wild horses and burros.

- 🐾 BLM’s National Wild Horse and Burro Program:
wildhorseandburro.blm.gov

More resources can be found online.

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WINTER: Follow tips for safe trailering

Continued from Page 2.

Always drive with your headlights on during inclement weather, even if it is not dark. USRider recommends that owners use headlights anytime when trailering horses, regardless of weather, because of increased visibility afforded by using headlights.

Also during inclement weather, be sure to increase distance between vehicles to allow more stopping time. USRider recommends that you double the normal distance between vehicles when towing a horse trailer.

“Stopping on snow or ice without skidding and/or jackknifing takes extra distance. Use brakes very gently to avoid skidding,” said Riss. “If you begin to skid or jackknife, ease up on

the brake and steer into the skid to regain control.”

During winter months, traction tires are recommended. In order to qualify as a traction tire, tires must have at least an eighth of an inch of tread and be labeled Mud and Snow, M+S, All-Season or have a Mountain/Snowflake symbol. Since tire performance can vary, a trusted area dealer may be able to advise you on the best tires for your vehicle.

Since it's difficult to know what road conditions you may encounter during the winter, make it a practice to re-fuel when your vehicle fuel gauge drops below the halfway mark. In many states, you can dial 511 for travel conditions and road closures.

In some states, vehicles over 10,000 gross vehicle weight rating, including some passenger trucks, SUVs, RVs, and vehicles towing trailers, must carry chains on certain highways Nov. 1 through March 31. Check with the Department of Transportation or Department of Motor Vehicles for information on the states you will be traveling through.

USRider provides emergency roadside assistance, towing, emergency stabling, veterinary referrals and other services for those who travel with horses. Those interested in the company's Equestrian Motor Plan can visit the website at usrider.org or call 800-844-1409. U



HORSE HUMOR: Barn Rules

The art of snorting

Humans like to be snorted on. Everywhere. It is your duty, as the family horse, to accommodate them.

Neighing

Because you are a horse, you are expected to neigh. So neigh—a lot. Your owners will be very happy to hear you protecting the barn and communicating with other horses. Especially late at night while they are sleeping safely in their beds. There is no more secure feeling for a human than to keep waking up in the middle of the night and hearing you, “Neigh, neigh, neigh...”

Stomping cats

When standing tied, make sure you never *quite* stomp on the barn cat’s tail. It spoils all the fun.

Chewing

Make a contribution to the architectural industry—chew on your stall wall, fence or any other wooden item.

Fresh bedding

It is perfectly permissible to urinate in the middle of your freshly bedded stall to let your humans know how much you appreciate their hard work.

Dining Etiquette

Always pull all of your hay out of the hay rack, especially right after your stall has been cleaned, so you can mix the hay with your fresh bedding. This challenges your human the next time they’re cleaning your stall—and we all know how humans love a challenge. (That’s what they said when they bought you as a 2-year-old—right?)

Doors

A door is always an invitation for you and your human to exercise. Bolt through the door and trot around, just out of reach of your human, who will frantically chase you. The longer it goes on, the more fun it is.

Rules of the road for trail rides

When out for a trail ride, never go to the bathroom on your own lawn. Wait until you’re crossing the street or someone else’s driveway.



S. PARKER / FLICKR

Holes

Rather than pawing and digging a *big* hole in the middle of the paddock and upsetting your human, dig a lot of smaller holes all over so they won’t notice. If you arrange a little pile of dirt on one side of each hole, they’ll think it’s gophers. There are never enough holes in the ground. Strive daily to help correct this problem.

Ground manners

Ground manners are very important to humans, so break as much of the ground in and around the barn as possible. This lets the ground know who’s boss and impresses your human. U

—Submitted by Melody Colbert.

HOLIDAY HORSE COOKIES: Sweet Carrot Treats

This recipe is adapted from "Rolled Carrot Nibbles," which was originally printed in The Original Book of Horse Cookies by June V. Evers.

You'll need:

- 3 carrots
- ½ cup cracked corn or feed
- ¼ cup molasses
- 2-3 tablespoons brown sugar
- Feed bucket

Directions

1. Mix brown sugar and molasses together on one side of feed bucket to thicken molasses. Put cracked corn or feed on the other side of the bucket.
2. Break carrots into 2- to 3-inch pieces. Roll carrot pieces in molasses, making sure they're completely covered.
3. Roll molasses-covered carrots in feed or cracked corn until completely covered. Serve in bucket—your horse will eat the goodies and lick the bucket sides clean. U



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HORSE FUNNIES

Mine!*Photo and caption by Nicole Mooradian.*

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JIM CHAMPION / FLICKR

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Dispatch edited by Nicole Mooradian.

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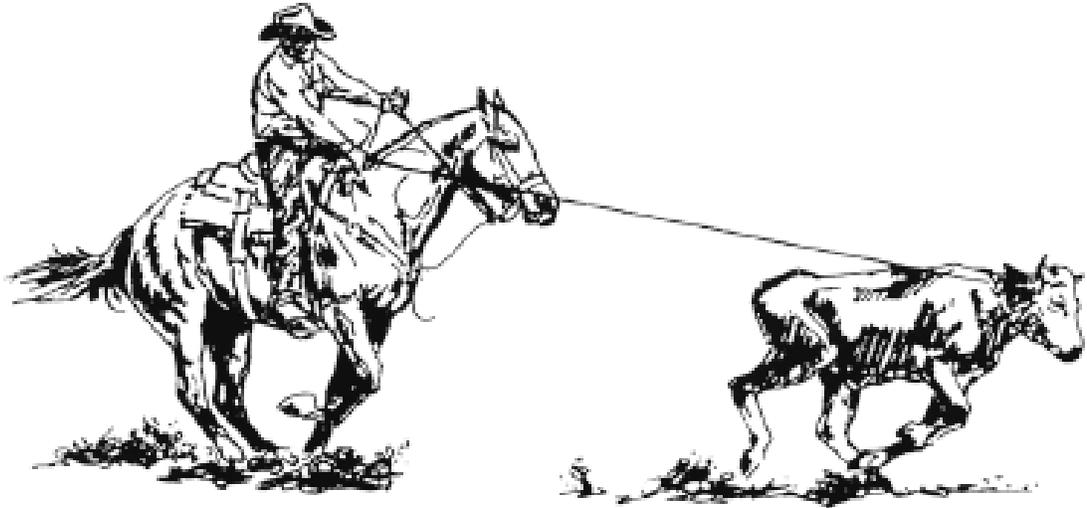
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