



EVENTS

June 10

Horse Happenings on the Hill

310-704-7226

Ernie Howlett Park

June 17

LSAC horse show

palosverdes.com/lisac/

Ernie Howlett Park

June 16-17

Rob Gage clinic

pwec.org

Peter Weber Equestrian Center

June 21

PVPHA general meeting

Empty Saddle Club

June 24

ETI Corral 8 horse show

eticorral8.com

Ernie Howlett Park

July 8

LSAC horse show

palosverdes.com/lisac/

Ernie Howlett Park

Send events to pvpha2010@gmail.com.

HORSE HAPPENINGS TO FEATURE DEMONSTRATIONS, EXHIBITIONS, PONY CAMPS

by **NICOLE MOORADIAN**
DISPATCH EDITOR

Equestrians and horse lovers from all over the Palos Verdes Peninsula will gather June 10 at Ernie Howlett Park for the second annual Horse Happenings on the Hill event.

This year's event, which occurs from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., will feature numerous demonstrations, presentations and exhibitors, according to organizer Kelly Yates. Drs. Ruth Sobock, Sylvia Ouelette, Jimmy Giacopuzzi and Larry Kelly, as well as Susie Lytal and Meredith Clarke, among others, will give presentations in their areas of expertise.

There will also be demonstrations from Kim Glaza and Kitty Kohles, Jim Moore, Kim Arranaga, Rachel



LIZ KANE

A young attendee plays on a plush horse during the 2011 Horse Happenings event.

Goldsmith, the Junior Drill Team, the Happy Hoofers Drill Team, Sean Martin, Jan Ball and others. A pas de deux will also perform. Back by popular demand is the Parade of Breeds.

See "Happenings," Page 4.



LIZ KANE

Page 3: Tom Curtin horsemanship clinic

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NEXT PVPHA GENERAL MEETING: JUNE 21

Test Your Horse Trivia on June 21

by **NICOLE MOORADIAN**
DISPATCH EDITOR

How well do you know your horse trivia? The next general meeting, scheduled for June 21, will feature a "game show" hosted by Jim "Alex Trebec" Moore. Three-person teams will compete for money and prizes, and root beer floats will be served. Contestants of all ages are welcome.

As a reminder, the Empty Saddle Club requests that meeting attendees leave their dogs at home. U

NEWS BRIEFS



LIZ KANE

Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association President Dale Allen leads the way during the Mayor's Ride in Rolling Hills Estates. The annual ride ends at Ernie Howlett Park, where local Boy Scouts sponsor a pancake breakfast for all.

Updated trail guides now available

They're finally here! The Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association trail guides are now available for purchase through the PVPHA and local tack stores.

The trail guides, which include a directory of equestrian services, are available for \$20 plus tax at the Rolling Hills General Store and for \$22 including tax at pvpaha.org. The PVPHA will also be selling the trail guides at Horse Happenings on the Hill, scheduled for June 10.

Crenshaw Tunnel to get pump

The PVPHA board voted to purchase and pay for the installation of a sump pump for the tunnel under Crenshaw Boulevard. The pump will be used to drain excess water from the trail during the rainy season.

The board hopes the city will have the pump installed by the end of 2012.

PVPHA board positions up for election

The following positions are open for reelection at the June general membership meeting: vice president of civic affairs, president, vice president of membership and corresponding secretary. Nancy Wildman (vice president of membership) has agreed to run for reelection.

Those who are interested in running or nominating someone for one of the four positions should contact nominating committee members Doreen Houle at 310-375-5157 or June Olney at 310-326-4531.

Help the Dispatch

Do you have a horse care tip? Did you take home a ribbon at your last show? Got a great recipe for horse treats? Want to express an opinion on an equestrian issue? Have a clinic to put on the calendar? Send it to pvpaha2010@gmail.com, and I'll include it in a future issue. U

News briefs are generally 2-3 short paragraphs. To submit a news brief, email the text to pvpaha2010@gmail.com. The editor reserves the right to not include briefs and to edit briefs for length and clarity.

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Tom Curtin hosts clinic at Ernie Howlett Park

by **NANCY WILDMAN**
VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

It's no secret that I've had a tumultuous relationship with my quarter horse "Bucky." Over the years, I have tried a variety of approaches to solve our problems, most of which were largely unsuccessful. In an effort to alleviate some of the problems, I participated in Tom Curtin's clinic at Ernie Howlett Park last month.

The clinic started on May 10, a beautiful Friday morning. This being my first clinic, I really didn't know what to expect. Fifteen equestrians gathered around Curtin in the main arena to learn how to solve our riding problems or just to become better riders. He spoke for a while about general horsemanship, then put us to work doing various exercises aimed at teaching us how to get control of our horses' feet.

Everything hinges on this principle, and therefore most problems can be solved by using this method consistently, he said. The theory is pretty straightforward; the technique, however, takes time to master.

Curtin worked patiently with us through demonstra-

tion, individual attention and repetition of the basic steps. By the end of the first day I understood the concept, but I was feeling somewhat hopeless about my ability to put it into action. Thankfully, there was a second day.

Saturday started out pretty rough. Bucky was behaving very badly, but as it turns out, his timing could not have been better. With a little input from Tom, I was able to start working with Bucky using the concepts taught the previous day, and in less than an hour, he was standing calmly with the group. More importantly, in that short period of time, I changed. I see now that by fixing the rider you can fix the horse.

We spent the remainder of the day working on exercises that built upon one another until we were able to put them together to perform useful basic movements such as turning on the fore or hind, stepping precisely back and forth over poles, and leaving on the correct lead while always on a loose rein. I left feeling as though I had been given the tools I needed to become a better horsewoman and to significantly improve my horse's behavior.

Tom is an effective teacher, and I am really glad that I was given the opportunity to attend his clinic! 



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HAPPENINGS: Find the perfect pony camp

Continued from Page 1.

For people planning to attend Horse Happenings to learn more about pony camps in the area for the summer, among the exhibitors will be representatives from multiple area pony camps, Portuguese Bend Riding Club, Martin Performance Horses, Peninsula Riding Club, Peter Weber Equestrian Center and Tiffany's Red Barn.

The following information was provided by the different pony camps:

Callie Bell at Portuguese Bend Riding Club

Children ages 7 and up will spend three hours a day for four days learning, riding and caring for horses at Portuguese Bend Riding Club. Each student will receive a workbook containing important information on horse safety, horse anatomy, tack, as well as coloring pages, puzzles and other fun games.

Cost is \$275 per week for the half-day camp and \$500 per week for a full day.

For more information, visit calliebell.com.

Martin Performance Horses

Martin Performance Horses offers two pony camps—Level 1 for riders aged 8-15 and Little Wrangler for chil-

dren aged 5-7. Students will learn how to tack up, groom and ride horses in a safe learning environment.

Cost, which includes a T-shirt and a daily snack, is \$280 for Level 1 and \$190 for Little Wrangler Camp.

For more information, call Lisa at 310-809-9389 or email her at LAHTAH@aol.com.

Peninsula Riding Club

The kids will learn that safety is always first, general horse care, types of tack, colors and markings of horses. Participants will do a horse-related craft, and kids will ride every day. The week long pony camp lasts from Aug. 6-10 and is open to children aged 4½ and up. Cost is \$373 per child.

Contact Kim Arranaga at 310-541-5720. The Peninsula Riding Club is located at 1 Stable Way in Rolling Hills Estates. Call soon as spots fill up quickly!

Peter Weber Equestrian Center

For the 3- to 12-year-old crowd, the Peter Weber Equestrian Center is offering a new version of Pony Camp. It includes a "junior ranch hand program," where they will learn the care of goats, sheep, alpacas, miniature burros and bunnies. Our goal is to offer an after-school enrich-

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ment program for children who love animals. There are two sessions daily; rates are \$275 per week for pony camp only and \$385 per week for junior ranch hands.

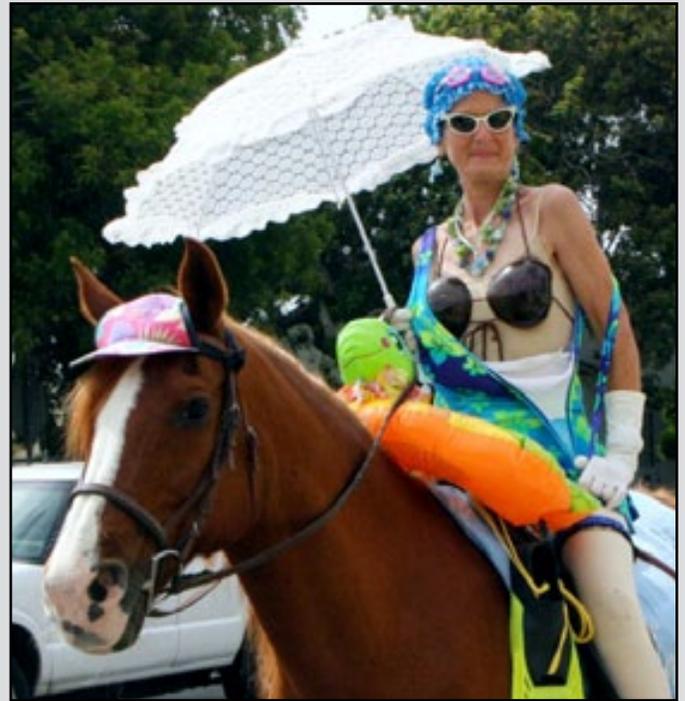
For more information, please call Chantal Allyn at 310-365-7343 or the barn at 310-541-9487. See ad in the back of the *Dispatch*.

Tiffany's Red Barn / Mystic Canyon Stable

For riders who want to learn all about the responsibility of having a horse, join us for two hours of intense, hands-on horse time! Come handle, groom, tack up and ride English, western and even bareback. Build confidence and learn responsibility through daily horse care. Learn all about feeding, cleaning tack, mucking stall, horse anatomy, bridle and saddle parts, how to trim hooves and more! Cost is \$420 per week for 45 minutes of riding a private pony or \$320 per rider per week for two riders to share a pony and ride 20 minutes. Only four to eight riders accepted per session.

For more information, call Tiffany Chiu at 310-621-4247 or email tiffanyjchiu@hotmail.com.

Hope to see you at Horse Happenings! U



LIZ KANE

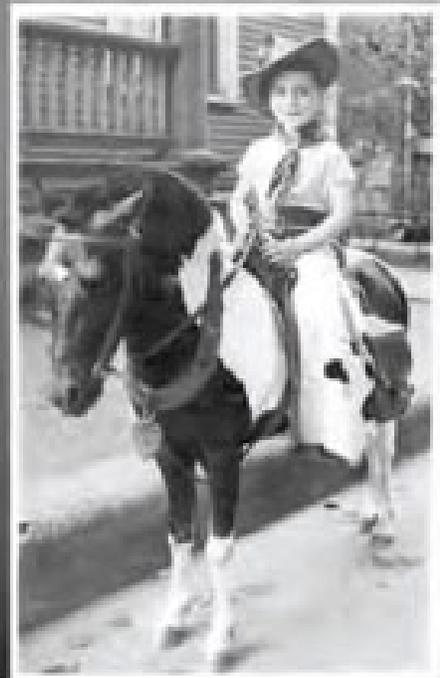
Carlita Roberts, dressed as "Miss Manhattan Beach 1912," and other members of the Happy Hoofers participated in Manhattan Beach's Centennial Parade.

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RPV considers allowing mountain bikers on pedestrian-equestrian trails in Palos Verdes Nature Preserve

by NANCY WILDMAN
VICE PRESIDENT OF MEMBERSHIP

At the Rancho Palos Verdes City Council meeting on May 15, the topic of discussion was recommendations made in a staff report to change the type of use permitted on many trails in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Last year, the city and the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy held workshops led by a representative from the National Park Service to obtain public input regarding the Preserve trails. The type of use permitted is a hot-button issue; however, apparently few equestrians attended the workshops, while mountain bikers attended by the dozen. Consequently, the recommendations that came out of these meetings are for more trails in the Preserve to be designated “multi-use” to permit bikes on trails that were previously limited to pedestrians and equestrians.

The problem is that most equestrians will not use the trails if they think there will be bikes on them—and it seems that many hikers are afraid to use the trails, too, because the mountain bikers often ride very fast.

The Natural Communities Conservation Plan (NCCP) that established the Preserve dictates that passive recreation is permissible in the Preserve so long as it is consistent with preservation of the coastal sage scrub habitat there, since protection and restoration of habitat is the reason millions of dollars in public funds were provided for the City to acquire this property.

Between 2006 and 2008, a citizen committee, the Public Use Master Plan (PUMP) Committee, wrangled over which of the principal user groups—pedestrian, equestrian, and bicyclist—should be permitted to use which trails. They made recommendations to the city council at that time and, with a few changes, the city council adopted the Preserve Trails Plan. The city hired the Mountain Recreation and Conservation Authority (MRCA) to patrol the trails and they passed several ordinances intended to protect the habitat and the Preserve visitors.

One of the ordinances says that “reckless use of the trails” is prohibited. According to the ordinance, “it shall constitute a public nuisance for any person ... to use any trail ... in a reckless manner that demonstrates a wonton disregard for the safety of other human beings or animals



LSOCAL450 / YOUTUBE

This freeze frame of a YouTube video shows a mountain biker wiping out on one of the trails in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve. Video: <http://youtu.be/e4unhJOY7Us>

or causes injury or harm to others.

Since then, based on a review of MRCA ranger reports, not a single citation has been issued under this ordinance; yet, there are reports of mountain bikers crashing and people being hit and scared off the trails by mountain bikers. Much of the activity going on in the Preserve doesn't seem very passive at all.

RPV resident Eva Cicoria, a hiker and former horseback rider who once was hit by a mountain biker, wrote to City Council to say that she believes “trails that permit bicycling should be limited in the Preserve—to protect the Preserve experience for other users, to minimize the scarring of the landscape, and to protect plants and animals and the habitat we're expending considerable resources to restore.”

She provided the council with links to YouTube videos (find links at pvpha.org), and at the city council meeting, she showed photos, of mountain bikers aggressively attacking the trails—speeding, jumping and crashing. The video clips show hikers scurrying to get off the trail as bikes come upon them. They show how steep the trails are with loose soils and gravel making it hard for bikes to stop. They show how narrow many of the trails are, making it hard for others to get out of the way of the bikes.

Many mountain bikers attended the city council meeting, asking for more trails—even beyond those recommended by city staff—to be designated as multi-use. Among other claims, they said that there are hardly any others on the trails, and it's not fair to exclude bicyclists. There would be more equestrians on the trails, but many will not take their horses out on these trails for fear that their horses will be startled by mountain bikes. The mountain bikers seem to be unwilling to acknowledge that their presence on these trails ends up excluding equestrians no matter what uses the trail sign permits.

In addition to many bikers and hikers speaking at the meeting, a few equestrians spoke up to oppose the recommendations and ask that bicycle use be limited because of safety concerns. For now, the city council has tabled the recommendations and wants to investigate the safety concerns more closely.

What we can do now

The equestrian community needs to write to the RPV City Council at cc@rpv.com in large numbers to express our concerns about speeding, thrill-seeking, downhill bike riders.

Equestrians also need to show up and speak up at any RPV city council meetings or community workshops where trails are on the agenda to let decision makers know that we want to be able to use these trails—trails that we were using long before mountain bikers came on the scene. We must be consistent in our message that multi-use does not really permit equestrians.

We need to identify which trails are most important for us to allow safe passage from one area or another and ask that they remain, or be designated for, pedestrian-equestrian use only. Currently, Landslide Scarp and Ishibashi Farm Trail are designated pedestrian-equestrian, but Staff recommended that they be changed to multi-use. Virtually all the trails in the Filiroum Reserve are being recommended for multi-use. We should ask for a safe route through this reserve for equestrians.

We need to pitch in to help on the Land Conservancy's volunteer days. We can help with trail maintenance, planting and other improvement efforts. Showing that we care enough about these areas to help maintain and restore them is important. Find the volunteer day schedule at http://pvplc.org/_volunteer/index.asp#ovdays.

Links to some of the YouTube videos showing biking in the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve can be found on the PVPHA's website. U

Rolling Hills reopens Poppy Trail, Hesse's Gap

by NICOLE MOORADIAN
DISPATCH EDITOR

The city of Rolling Hills was scheduled to complete the landslide remediation at Poppy Trail and Hesse's Gap near the Caballeros ring on June 1, once again allowing equestrians and hikers to use the trails, according to an email from Rolling Hills Community Association Manager Kristen Raig.

The city also planned to reopen the north end of Georgeff Trail on the same date.

"We really appreciate the cooperation of the equestrian community during the many months of construction," Raig said in the email. "We know this was an inconvenience, but the work was done quickly and safely thanks to everyone working together."

The trails were first closed April 4, 2011. Remediation work included grading the hillside, restoring Georgeff Trail and creating a new trail parallel to the Poppy Trail roadway.

As a reminder, all riders and hikers must have trail badges as of June 1 to enter Rolling Hills. People who wish to use the trail should check in with the gate person before entering the city.

Trail badges are available at no cost and can be picked up at the RHCA office at 1 Portuguese Bend Road in Rolling Hills. (The office is located behind Rolling Hills City Hall, just outside the entry gates.)

Applications can be dropped off in person, mailed or emailed to info@rhca.net, according to Raig. Applications should be accompanied by a photo of the applicant and a signed waiver. People who mail or email their applications will have a waiver mailed for them to sign.

The RCHA office is open from 7:30 a.m. until noon and 1 p.m. to 4:45 p.m. Monday through Thursday. On Fridays, the office hours are 7:30 a.m. until noon.

Equestrians and hikers without trail badges will be turned away. U

PUDGY PONIES: Obesity far more prevalent in horses than owners think

by **LINDSAY BROOKE**
FUTURITY.ORG

Humans aren't the only creatures getting larger. Rates of obesity in horses are rising, according to a study that finds one in five horses owned for leisure activities in the U.K. is overweight.

"This provides the first snapshot of the prevalence of obesity in horses in the U.K. and an insight into owners' management of body weight in horses," says Sarah Freeman, a specialist in veterinary surgery at the University of Nottingham.

"Obesity is linked to a number of different diseases, including arthritis, laminitis and equine metabolic syndrome. A larger study would be useful to establish the prevalence and risk factors for equine obesity in different horse populations across the U.K."

The study is reported in the journal *Veterinary Record*.

Research carried out in Scotland has already shown a prevalence of obesity in pleasure riding horses, but this is the first time a similar study has been done in England.

Five hundred owners were sent questionnaires. None of them kept horses for breeding, livery, riding stables or competition, so were all

classed as keeping their animals for leisure only.

Owners were asked to score the condition of their horses on a scale from zero to five. Of the 160 returned, one in five showed that their horses were either overweight or obese.

Grass was the main source of forage for half the horses, and coarse mix was the main source of concentrate feed in a similar proportion. Only one in 10 horses was not fed any concentrate.

The researchers then assessed the body condition of 15 randomly selected horses to see if the scores had under or overestimated the horse's weight.

They assigned an average score that was significantly higher for these horses; eight of the owners had scored their horse at least one grade lower than the researcher had, indicating that the owners had underesti-



SINI MERIKALLIO

A study conducted in the U.K. discovered that many people tend to underestimate their horse's weight.

mated their horses' weight.

On the basis of the researchers' findings, the authors estimate that the true prevalence of overweight/obesity was likely to be 54 percent rather than the 20 percent indicated by the questionnaire responses.

"Increasing incidence of obesity is a multi-species problem, affecting both humans and their companion animals," says veterinary student Helen Stephenson. "Addressing this issue is an important role for the profession, and I hope to do my part when I go into practice." U



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Photo and caption by Denise Johnson.



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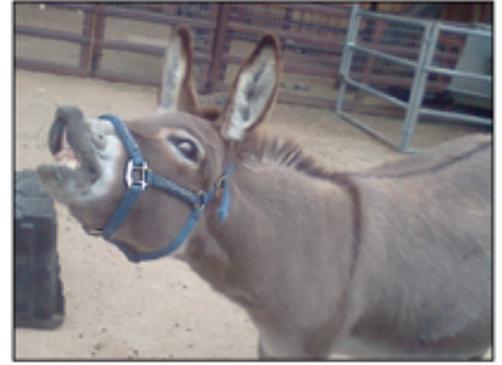
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Dispatch edited by Nicole Mooradian.



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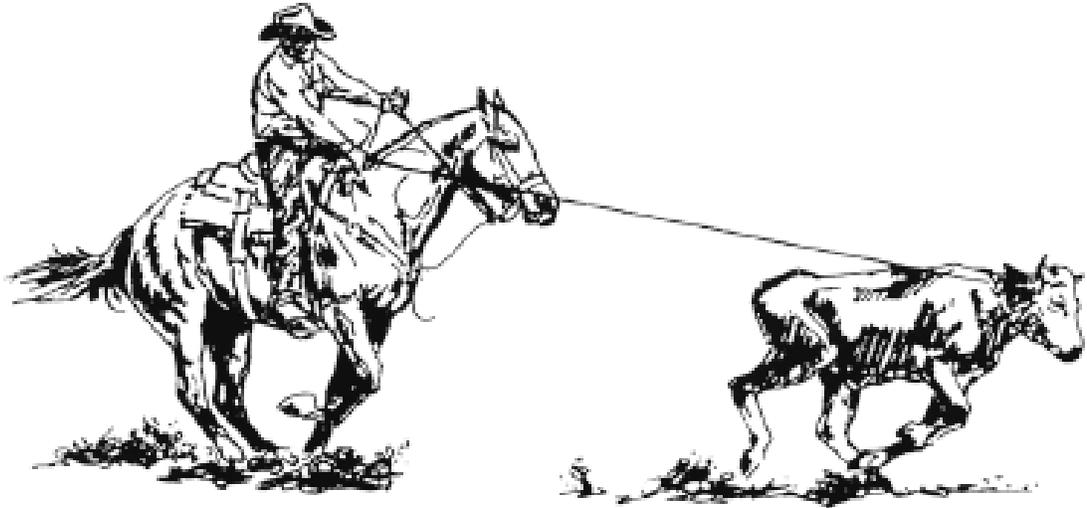
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