



## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

May 16

**PVPHA general meeting**

*Empty Saddle Club*

May 19

**LSAC horse show**

*Ernie Howlett Park*

May 29-30

**Louise Koch dressage clinic**

Info: 310-377-3507

*Portuguese Bend Riding Club*

June 5, 12, 19

**Louise Koch dressage clinic**

Info: 310-377-3507

*Portuguese Bend Riding Club*

June 8-9

**Rob Gage jumping clinic**

Info: 310-377-3507

*Portuguese Bend Riding Club*

June 10-11

**Dennis Callin dressage show clinic**

Info: 310-377-3507

*Portuguese Bend Riding Club*

June 23

**Patrick Spanton jumping clinic**

Info: 310-377-3507

*Portuguese Bend Riding Club*

*Events listed here are not necessarily sponsored or endorsed by the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association. If you would like an event included, send the information to pvpha2010@gmail.com.*

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## MOSTELLER'S MUSTANG

by **NICOLE MOORADIAN**  
DISPATCH EDITOR

There's been a lot of talk lately about the Extreme Mustang Makeover's Mustang Million in Fort Worth, Texas. Wylene Wilson, a trainer who has won several of the events, is competing this year. Her assistant, Marissa Rogers, competed at Norco's Extreme Mustang Makeover.

Manhattan Beach resident Kati Mosteller, 18, who rides at Palos Verdes Stables, also purchased a  
*See MUSTANG, Page 8.*



KATI MOSTELLER / FACEBOOK

**Bravado—“Bravo” for short—checks out his saddle. He was purchased at the beginning of May in Norco by local rider Kati Mosteller; they will compete in this year's Mustang Million.**

NEXT PVPHA GENERAL MEETING: MAY 16

## May meeting: Equine emergencies

by **CHARLENE O'NEIL**  
PVPHA PRESIDENT

Our April meeting was a “wow!” with Wylene Wilson on stage—in person—telling tales of some of her life experiences with horses beginning at the early age of 2! She bought two mustangs at the Norco auction last weekend and is headed back home to Oklahoma to prepare for the \$1 million Mustang Makeover in Fort Worth, Texas.

We are going to have an exciting and informational evening May 16 as we discuss emergency situations, timing, the what to do and not to dos. Our panel will include Drs. Kelly, Giacobuzzi, Sobek and Oulette. The meeting starts at 7 p.m. at the Empty Saddle Club. In June, the PVPHA will host the second annual Horse Jeopardy evening with money and prizes to be won, so study up!

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

NEWS BRIEFS



LIZ KANE

**Mayor mounts up for annual ride**

Rolling Hills Estates hosted its annual Mayor's Breakfast Ride in early May. Equestrians met the mayor and other city officials at Chandler Park, then rode over to Ernie Howlett Park to enjoy the annual pancake breakfast from local Boy Scouts.

*Do you have something important or special to announce? Submit a news brief to the Dispatch! News briefs are generally about 100 words. Submissions may be edited for spelling, grammar, space and style. To submit a news brief, email [pvpha2010@gmail.com](mailto:pvpha2010@gmail.com). U*



JIM MOORE / COWBOY BOOT CAMP

RHE Mayor Frank Zerunyan participates in the annual ride.

**CLASSIFIED**

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# Dapplegray dressage arena gets facelift

by **MELODY COLBERT**  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

As part of an Eagle Scout project for the Boy Scouts of America, Rancho Palos Verdes resident Mark McHugh led efforts to rebuild the dressage riding arena at Dapplegray Park in Rolling Hills Estates.

The project included fundraising, as well as coordinating with city departments and varying organizations along with suppliers, family and friends. The PVPHA was happy to make a contribution of \$500 to the city's Peppertree Foundation in support of the project.

The actual work was performed by 28 volunteers—members of Troop 191 and their friends and family—on the weekend of April 19. In all, 220 volunteer hours were required to build 390 feet of fencing; 713 screws were used to attach 73 Douglas Fir wood rails totaling 1,450 feet of wood; and used 13 gallons of latex paint to double-coat 2,011 square feet of fencing.

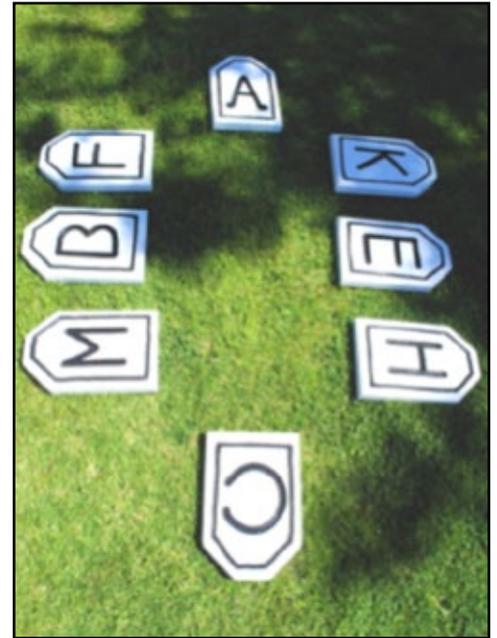
The PVPHA, along with board

member Melody Colbert, provided lunch—pizza and sandwiches—for the weekend warriors.

Mark, 14, found he had to perform the tasks of a builder-contractor when he agreed to take on the project suggested by Andy Clark, the community services director for the city of Rolling Hills Estates. Mark rose to the occasion, proving his mettle by making “cold calls” to potential donors, and also shouldering responsibility for coordinating, communicating with, and directing volunteers during the project execution. He also learned a lot about painting and sore muscles!

The “finishing touch” was added with the application of rustic-themed dressage letters freehand-rendered on wooden placards made by Mike Goldsmith, maintenance supervisor for the city of Rolling Hills Estates.

The equestrian community owes a debt of gratitude to the city staff as well as to the generous and dedicated folks who volunteered their time and considerable labors to improve facilities for a sport in which most of them



CONTRIBUTED

**These letters were rendered freehand by Rolling Hills Estates maintenance supervisor Mike Goldsmith for the dressage arena at Dapplegray Park.**

do not even participate! Don't forget to show your support for the Scouts whenever you get the chance! U



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

**Rancho Palos Verdes resident and Eagle Scout candidate Mark McHugh, 14, poses with his father, Douglas McHugh, at the newly renovated dressage arena at Dapplegray Park. At right, volunteers paint new fencing for the dressage arena as part of McHugh's Eagle Scout project.**

# Longeing around with Gil Merrick

*Gil Merrick explains how longeing a horse with the proper technique can help with training, conditioning and more.*

by **MELODY COLBERT**  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

About 20 spectators attended a free lecture and demonstration by trainer Gil Merrick on longeing for gymnastic development at the Ernie Howlett Park dressage arena May 4.

The purpose of longeing is not to allow your horse to “get his bucks out,” but rather to help the horse’s physical development as part of his training—often in conjunction with a riding program, Merrick explained. His observation is that most riders find it more difficult to train a horse from the ground until they master the skill of longeing. He recommends practicing first with a human friend to get comfortable handling the equipment before you attempt to work with a horse.

There are basic rules to follow for safety: wear gloves and a helmet; use a longe line with a sewn-in handle;



MELODY COLBERT

**Gil Merrick demonstrates longeing technique at Ernie Howlett Park.**

keep the line neatly wound when not in use; and clip the line to the off-side first. Merrick prefers to run the line through the inside bit ring, over the head and then clipped to the bit on the offside.

Do not stand in front of the horse when adjusting gear, and do not drop the longe whip on the ground—tuck the handle under your armpit with the whip trailing behind you when you are attaching the line, Merrick said. He also demonstrated how to keep the reins and stirrups out of the way during longeing.

Merrick said he always uses side reins when longeing—this way, the horse will learn that this is not “free time” but a training exercise, and proper head carriage is important for proper development. The reins should be even and attached to the girth so that they come out at the point of the shoulder, straight to the mouth. The proper length of rein encourages the horse to carry his nose/face on the vertical, with his poll at the highest point.

The horse is longed in a 20-meter circle, and the same exercises can be performed as when riding.

**Portuguese Bend Riding Club**

**Upcoming Clinics and Events**

**Hunter/Jumper**

Lucy Stewart: May 11      Rob Gage: June 8 & 9

Patrick Spanton: June 23

**Dressage**

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No Dogs Please

Walking is not a useful gait for longeing, according to Merrick. He only has the horse walk out onto the 20-meter circle—after that, the horse is either trotting or cantering on the longe line. If a horse is “too hot,” the handler should make the circle smaller to get the horse to slow down.

Merrick demonstrated longeing the horse in one direction on the circle, then moving down the arena before performing another circle. This exercise was interspersed with spiraling-in on a circle now and again, especially if the horse got too fast. Of course, everything was repeated in the other direction after changing the side where the line was attached.

In between the actual longeing demonstrations, Merrick answered questions from the audience.

He explained that this type of work

will not just keep a horse fit—it can help him develop a top line. Of course, it can be very useful if for any reason you are unable to ride your horse.

Longing is not just for English horses. Western disciplines require the same gymnastic abilities in a horse, and all horses will benefit from this kind of training.

Merrick also told the audience about an online resource where people can submit videos of themselves longeing their horses and receive coaching from experts to improve their technique. To try this out, visit [horseshow.com](http://horseshow.com) and click on “Coaching.” Trainers and riding instructors can also sign up to become a coach. The website also offers articles, a forum, classified advertisements and other resources. U

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# Wylene Wilson tells all at April general meeting

by **ERIN RYAN**  
RECORDING SECRETARY

We were fortunate to have Wylene Wilson come back into town this month for a last-minute series of clinics. We started with two days of three-hour mini-clinics, which expanded to eight days.

In addition to the mini-clinics, Wilson—who was featured in the documentary *Wild Horse, Wild*

*Ride*—hosted a question-and-answer session at the April general meeting of the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association.

In the movie, Wylene's bay mustang—named Rembrandt—was purchased for \$200, and he was sold for \$3,500 after training. One of the other contestants in the video, Chris, received a scholarship for vet school in Scotland. His family has a mustang training program. They adopted

38 mustangs last year. They change the lives of both people and horses.

(The *Wild Horse, Wild Ride* DVD can be ordered through Amazon; purchased at Walmart and or streamed through iTunes.)

This year's Mustang Million in Texas—part of the Heritage Foundation's Extreme Mustang Makeover program—will feature 1,000 horses with \$200,000 and a new truck for the winner.

Closer to home, Norco hosted an Extreme Mustang Makeover in early May. People who would like to expe-

rience the program without driving to another state might like to try this competition next year.

This year's competition in Norco had 300 horses, with a starting cost at \$200, allowing anyone to try their hand at training a mustang. The adoption starts at the beginning of the program instead of like Texas, where the mustang is adopted out after training.

To compete in most Mustang Makeover competitions, prospective trainers apply through the Bureau of Land Management, which makes sure the applicants have a qualified training facility. The horses are randomly assigned. At the Mustang Million in Fort Worth, on the other hand, competitors purchase their mustangs at auction.

All stallions are gelded before the competitors get them. There were lots of mustangs built like quarter horses. She like them because they tend to be easy to train and do not buck a lot. She prefers horses that are not narrow in the shoulder or have bonnie hips. She is looking for a diamond in the rough—something that someone would want to buy after training. She cares about how they the horse carries itself.

Wilson also said she looks for disposition, how they carry themselves, does the horse have a calm eye and how they view things above them.

The mustangs are only 3 or 4 years old during the makeover; however, they can be slow to mature.

Rembrandt was 14:2 hands just a few years ago. He was at a clinic



LIZ KANE

Wylene Wilson teaches a clinic at Ernie Howlett Park in February. The horse she is riding, a mare named Black Ice, was trained by Melissa Rogers and finished second in this year's Extreme Mustang Makeover in Norco.



LIZ KANE

### Wylene Wilson teaches a clinic at Ernie Howlett Park.

just recently, 6 years old and now 16 hands. He was easy to train and liked to be trained.

Wilson feels that is it her job to be an advocate for the Mustangs, because they do not have a voice. They have not been lied to or spoiled. Once they understand you will not hurt them, they will do anything you want.

Mustangs are a combination of many breeds of horses. All these horses come from other nations, and with time they roamed around the country. Different herds have different looks—some are drafty, while others look more Arabian. Each mustang costs \$12,000 per year to keep in a holding facility, so the government needs to get these horses out of the holding facilities. The Mustang Makeover events help with this.

According to Wilson, a common

thread when training is cause and effect. The trainer has got to be in the right place at the right time with clear communication. One needs to address things quickly. A trainer needs to adapt to different horses.

Wilson likes to lay horses down by teaching the horse to yield to pressure. You don't ever want to get into a fight with your horse. People need to be persistent with their horse. If something is not going as planned, there is a reason. Most people dealing with horses know they

need help but just do not know what to do about it. All horses can be fixed if you have to have the tools. Most people get mad and take it out on their horse. That simply never works.

With Rembrandt, he was picked up Saturday and Wylene was riding him Monday. Laying him on the ground is what helped. If you can lay the horse on the ground and they realize they are not going to die, they become the best horse ever, she said.

Wylene does not want to train as much as teach the horse. Lying down teaches the horse to yield to pressure.

Many people micromanage their horses, according to Wilson. The horse never excels because Mommy is always making the decisions for him. Let him make a decision on his own. Good training is all about pre-

paring him to make decisions.

Wilson likes to concentrate on the horse's feet with nothing on their head. She does not hurt the horse and has a safe environment with lots of soft ground. Being prepared is having the proper equipment. She does not over do anything. Her motto is do it until the horse gets the point.

She always starts horses in a snaffle and she likes to keep them in a snaffle as long as possible. Then she likes to find what the horse likes. Horses do not speak English so trainers can stop talking to them. If you have to talk to them use body language. Create boundaries for your horse. Your horses need leaders. Use work, leadership then love in that order.

For those horses that have a problem with trailer loading, this is a leading problem with the horse—not an issue with the actual trailer. The horse has to be straight. The horse's body parts are not in control when the horse is not straight. The same goes for obstacles. Do circles, then try the trailer or obstacle. If the horse messes up, then straighten it up and try again.

The meeting was well-attended, and we hope many of our members enjoyed learning about our wild horses. Some of these herds date back to the Spanish expansion in the 1700s. The PVPHA thanks Wilson for being our guest speaker.

One of our board members, Kelly Yates, who made the arrangements for Wilson to come to the Hill to put on the clinics, will also be coordinating another clinic in the late summer on Western Dressage.

Yates is organizing these clinics because she wants all people to ride confidently and have fun with their horses. Hopefully, with Wilson's help, more PVPHA members are riding the trails with a new attitude and better communication between themselves and their horses. U

# MUSTANG: Local teen to compete in Mustang Million in Fort Worth



KATI MOSTELLER / FACEBOOK

Manhattan Beach resident Kati Mosteller sits in the stall with Bravado, a young mustang she purchased auction in Norco in early May. Mosteller, who will be going to Alabama for college in the fall, and Bravado plan to compete at the Mustang Million event in Fort Worth, Texas, in September.

*Continued from Page 1.*

mustang to train at the beginning of May.

Dubbed “Bravado”—“Bravo” for short—the bay gelding has already learned to longe in the bull pen and carry a saddle on his back.

“I’m ... going to be spending the summer—alongside my competition schedule and college preparation—training this mustang,” Mosteller, who also competes nationally in Arabian horse shows, wrote on her Facebook profile before the Norco adoption.

Stay tuned to future issues of the Dispatch to see how Mosteller and Bravo are doing! U



KATI MOSTELLER / FACEBOOK

Bravo stands in his stall on his first full day in Palos Verdes.

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# Letter: Trainer explains experience with GGT all-weather footing

by **DEVON GIBSON**  
SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

*Editor's note: A version of this letter was read at the joint Rolling Hills Estates Equestrian Committee and Parks and Activities Committee meeting. The committees were discussing the all-weather footing in the two large arenas at Ernie Howlett Park and its suitability for different riding disciplines. Right now, western riders have said the footing is unsuitable for reining, as it will not allow a horse to slide.*

Having worked with the GGT footing in my ring for the last year and competed on it over the last few year at various venues in California and the East Coast, I have a few thoughts regarding Mr. Swanson's observations in response to Carol's experience in Kirkland, Wash.

A daily drag/roll is imperative [for maintenance of the footing], and that will obviously eliminate a very large part of the need for raking.

The need for watering is relative to the climate/rainfall. The GGT footing was originally developed in Europe for both indoor and outdoor rings. The indoor rings I have ridden in are never watered at all. Outdoor rings relies completely on the weather. I suppose Kirkland is a significantly wetter climate, thus no mention of water. [This is] a good question to ask the ranger.

The city can leave one ring dry for reiners to use and just dry roll it daily. It can be watered as needed for other uses. That would be the ring to use for turn outs as well [because] the horses are less likely to damage the base if it's dry.

Another question to ask the ranger is if they seal the rings prior to rains. I feel that is a must here in California as it gets rid of the foot prints that act like cups and hold the water. By sealing before the rain, the rings can be accessed much sooner. It packs the footing as well allowing [the water] to seep through the river sand and run out rather than seeping into the packed base. The amount of daily/pre-rain maintenance also is related to the base the footing is installed on.

Manure pick up is an option, not a must. If it isn't cleaned up, it will not mix with the footing as it is far less dense. It will work its way to the top of the footing and

just create a layer of manure dust. Since part if the allure of the GGT and the river sand is the very low level of dust, leaving the manure in the ring is not beneficial to the overall quality. Rudy Leone never cleans his rings but just adds more river sand every couple of years to cover the manure. [This is] a luxury the city cannot afford. Plus, it's easy to pick up manure.

Carol's report of her experience is good news regarding the GGT footing, and reports like that are coming in from all over the country as [the footing] gets installed at all the big venues. U

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*Dispatch edited by Nicole Mooradian.*

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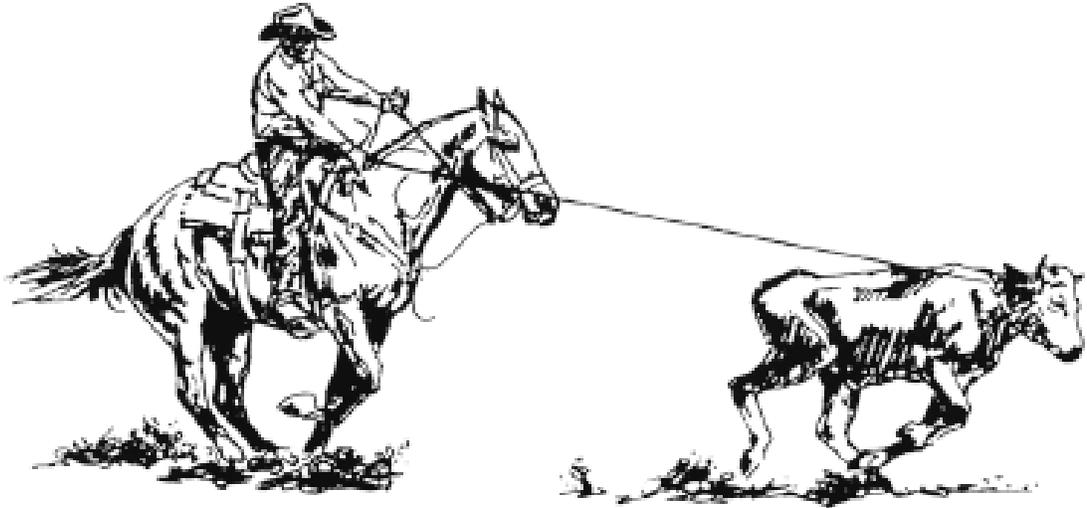
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