



Palos  
Verdes  
Peninsula  
Horsemen's  
Association

# DISPATCH

Vol. XXVII, Issue 10

PVPHA.org

December 2013

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Dec. 4, 5, 11, 15

**Louise Koch dressage clinic**

Info: 310-377-3507

*Portuguese Bend Riding Club*

Dec. 7

**Peninsula Holiday Parade of  
Lights**

*Promenade on the Peninsula /  
Silver Spur Road*

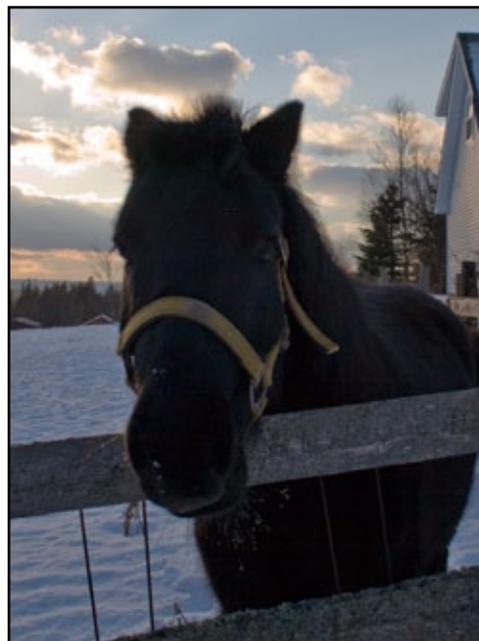
Jan. 18, 2014

**Cowboy Poetry & Music Festival**

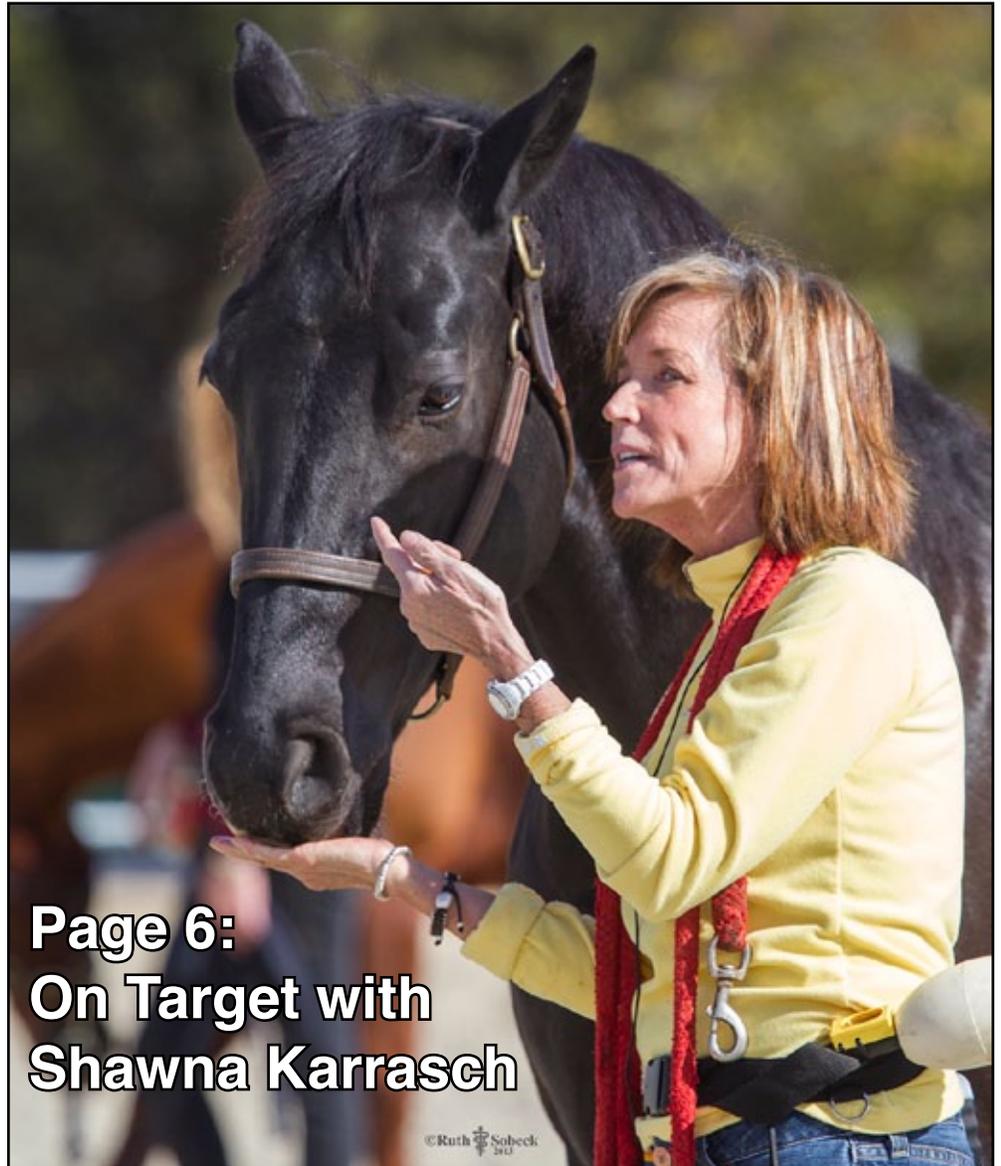
Info: 424-625-1202

*Empty Saddle Club*

*Events listed here are not necessarily  
sponsored or endorsed by the Palos  
Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's As-  
sociation. To add an event, send the  
information to pvpha2010@gmail.com.*



OWEN BYRNE / FLICKR



**Page 6:  
On Target with  
Shawna Karrasch**

©Ruth Sobeck  
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PHOTO BY RUTH SOBECK. USED WITH PERMISSION.

## No PVPHA meeting in December

by NICOLE MOORADIAN  
DISPATCH EDITOR

There will be no general meeting for the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association in December. Join us Jan. 18, 2014 at the Empty Saddle Club for the annual Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival.

The next general meeting is scheduled for Feb. 20, 2014. U

## NEWS BRIEFS

**Prepare for Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival**

The 2014 Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival promises to be action packed this year! Some familiar faces and some new faces will be performing.

As always, if there is anyone out there who would like to share a poem or two—or even a song—please contact festival director Pam Turner at 424-625-1202.

The festival is scheduled for Jan. 18, 2014 at the Empty Saddle Club.

**Update on Saddlehorn Loop Trail**

People have noticed that construction has begun on two houses on the east side of Rolling Hills Road just down the road from Empty Saddle Club, near Tanglewood Lane and were wondering how it affected the trail next to the property.

The trail is called the Saddlehorn Loop Trail because it makes a loop around to Empty Saddle Trail and Bent Springs Trail (seen on Page 6 of the Trail Guide). PVPHA

## CLASSIFIED

**GO ONLINE:** Buy/Sell/Lease a Horse; Buy/Sell Tack; Rent/Find a Stall. List your ad (including pictures and unlimited words) FREE at [palosverdeshorses.net](http://palosverdeshorses.net).

*Two-line classified advertisements are free to PVPHA members. To submit a classified advertisement, email it to the editor of the Dispatch at [pvpha2010@gmail.com](mailto:pvpha2010@gmail.com).*

board and Equestrian Committee members met with the developer several years ago when construction for homes was being planned there. It was determined that the trail should remain where it is, and not be re-routed to accommodate development.

Dale Allen recently met with the engineer for the project and received assurance that the trail will only be temporarily impacted by construction. Furthermore, it will receive some improvements: at the point where there is a large bend, the trail will be flattened somewhat, and all the trails adjacent to the project will be groomed.

—Melody Colbert U

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# How to report trail problems

by **MELODY COLBERT**  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

We've all been there: having a great ride until we are suddenly stopped in our tracks by a big tree that's fallen across the trail—or a hive of bees is hanging in a tree too close to pass safely—or perhaps the trail itself has washed out from rain or a broken pipe has flooded a trail. Who do I report this to?

Of course, it all depends upon which trail you are on, so hopefully you know where you are and can describe the location—that's why it's always a good idea to have your PVPHA Trail Guide with you on the trail!

Here are the primary contacts with responsibility for the various municipalities and properties with public or private trails. Report problems to the appropriate authority. If you are not sure, you can always send an email to the PVPHA, and we will try to assist you in determining who can help. At this time, we do not have a designated individual for reporting—perhaps some member would care to volunteer? Contact information for board members is posted at [pvpha.org/contactso1.htm](http://pvpha.org/contactso1.htm).

- Landfill Trail (Sanitation Districts): 310-378-1928
- City of Rolling Hills Estates trails (Community Services Director Andy Clark): 310-377-1577, ext. 109 or [AndyC@ci.Rolling-Hills-Estates.ca.us](mailto:AndyC@ci.Rolling-Hills-Estates.ca.us)
- City of Rolling Hills (Rolling Hills Community Association): 310-544-6222
- City of Rancho Palos Verdes trails (Recreation and Parks Department): 310-544-5267 or [parks@rpv.com](mailto:parks@rpv.com) (Report bees, wasps and mosquitoes to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Land Conservancy at 310-541-7613)
- Trail on Palos Verdes Drive North center divider (City of Palos Verdes Estates): 310-378-0383, ext. 2227
- Westfield (unincorporated Los Angeles County): We have no information for this area. See below for general trail situation contact information.

Katie Howe with RPV kindly provided the following information for reporting on a variety of conditions. Note that some of these apply specifically to the Palos Verdes Nature Preserve, but the first two paragraphs would ap-

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ply to any trail:

For a life-threatening emergency or a fire, call 911.

For the following criminal activities, contact the Lomita Sheriff's Station at 310-539-1661.

- Abandoned or suspicious sea craft
- Illegal drugs
- Violence
- Destruction of property
- Graffiti (in progress)
- Illegal dumping (in progress)
- Illegal parking
- Individuals in Preserve after hours
- Nudity or lewd behavior
- Smoking or open flames
- Use of recreational or hunting weapons (e.g. sling shots, bows and arrows, paintball guns)

Report the following examples of nature preserve misuse to MRCA rangers.

- Dogs off-leash
- Dogs, horses or other animals on beach
- Users not staying on trails
- Misuse of trails (e.g. bicycles on pedestrian only trails, horses on pedestrian only trails)
- Reckless use of Preserve trails
- Paragliders in Preserve
- Motorized vehicles or aircraft
- Homeless encampments
- Removal or destruction of flora or fauna
- Removal, destruction or modification of Preserve signage
- Illegal dumping (after the fact)
- Littering

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Report the following violations to CalTIP from the California Department of Fish and Game at 888-334-2258, as well as to MRCA rangers.

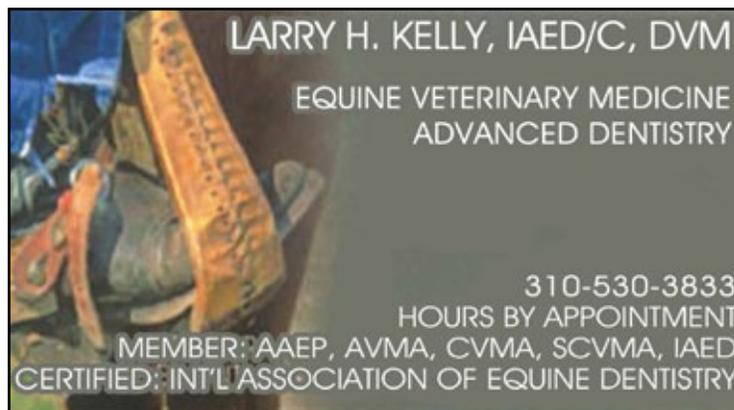
- Poaching
- Illegal Fishing
- Hunting
- Water polluters

Report miscellaneous concerns in RPV to the following.

- Alive injured or sick marine mammals: Marine Animal Rescue, 800-39-WHALE

- Stray, injured, or dangerous animals: Animal Control, 310-523-9566
- Graffiti removal: Public Works, 310-544-5270
- Peafowl complaints: Matt Waters (Finance), 310-544-5218
- Private property maintenance: Community Development, 310-544-5228
- Other: RPV City Hall, 310-544-5200.

If a ranger is not on duty in Rancho Palos Verdes, report violations to the Lomita Sheriff Station CORE Deputy at 310-891-3227. U



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# South Bay schools, riders earn top spots in Orange County Interscholastic Equestrian League

by **DAN WALLACE**  
SPECIAL TO THE DISPATCH

A number of South Bay schools have equestrian teams that compete each year in the Orange County Interscholastic Equestrian League.

OCIEL consists of 42 schools—both public and private schools ranging from elementary to high school level—from south Los Angeles County to San Diego that compete in various equestrian disciplines, including English equitation, jumpers, western and dressage. Each of these disciplines are divided into levels of novice, freshman, junior varsity and varsity. Riders are divided into levels based on their expertise and past performance at horse shows.

Each of the schools sends student riders to compete in the various disciplines and levels at the eight horse shows held during the year. Awards are given to the top riders in each discipline and level. There is also a high point award for the top schools.

At least six South Bay Schools compete in OCIEL: Chadwick School, Dapplegray Elementary School, Mira Costa High School, Palos Verdes High School, Peninsula High School and Redondo Union High School.

Halfway through the season, here are the standings for our local schools and students:

## Overall School

- 1st Peninsula High School
- 2nd Palos Verdes High School
- 6th Chadwick School
- 20th Dapplegray Elementary
- 27th Mira Costa High School
- 39th Redondo Union High School

## English Novice Level

- 1st Peninsula High School
- 6th Chadwick School

## English Freshman Level

- 1st Peninsula High School
- 2nd Chadwick School
- 7th Palos Verdes High School

## English Junior Varsity Level

- 3rd Palos Verdes High School
- 5th Peninsula High School
- 14th Mira Costa High School
- 27th Redondo Union High School

## English Varsity Level

- 1st Palos Verdes High School
- 5th Chadwick School
- 14th Peninsula High School

## Western Novice Level

- 1st Peninsula High School

## Western Varsity Level

- 2nd Dapplegray School
- 4th Palos Verdes High School

## INDIVIDUAL STANDINGS

### Freshman Equitation

- 1st Maria Pacifico, Chadwick
- 7th Isabelle Garcia, Peninsula
- 8th Anastasia Fish, Peninsula
- 9th Alexis Nicki, Palos Verdes
- 10th Michelle Geller, Chadwick

### Junior Varsity Equitation

- 7th Sarah Dyer, Palos Verdes
- 22nd Victoria Friend, Redondo Union

### Varsity Equitation

- 2nd Alex Klaassen, Chadwick
- 5th Nadia Innab, Palos Verdes
- 6th Emily MacLean, Palos Verdes

- 8th Isabelle Collins, Palos Verdes
- 18th Summer Osborn, Peninsula

## Junior Varsity Jumper

- 3rd Amy Young, Palos Verdes
- 5th Lara Minder, Peninsula
- 11th Paige Strockis, Palos Verdes

## Varsity Jumper

- 1st Terra Wallace, Palos Verdes
- 2nd Danielle Lean, Palos Verdes
- 5th Elyse Inferrera, Palos Verdes
- 7th Gemma Geist, Chadwick

## Gymkhana

- 2nd Tessa Springer, Peninsula
- 3rd Alyssa Ross, Peninsula
- 4th Corey Lyle, Peninsula
- 7th Sabrina Davoudzadeh, Peninsula
- 8th Frankie Foltz, Palos Verdes

## Western Novice

- 1st Ellie Oldroyd, Peninsula

## Western Varsity

- 2nd Erin Wolf, Dapplegray
- 4th Juliana Farrow, Palos Verdes

## Novice Dressage

- 1st Hannah Klain, Peninsula
- 3rd Sierra Ryan, Peninsula
- 4th Joslyn Chu, Peninsula

## Freshman Dressage

- 1st Kirsten Luedde, Peninsula
- 4th Hannah Glaser, Peninsula

## Junior Varsity Dressage

- 2nd Nicole Gibson, Peninsula U

# ON TARGET TRAINING:

*Shawna Karrasch teaches the power of positive reinforcement.*

by **MELODY COLBERT**  
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

If you want to become a hero to your horse, I highly recommend you take up the “On Target Training” method developed by Shawna Karrasch!

A big “shout-out” to Betsy Schoettlin (vice president of education for the PVPHA) for bringing the engaging, down-to-earth, knowledgeable and vastly experienced Shawna Karrasch into our neck of the woods for two days of education that had the potential to become life-changing for those of us who attended.

## The basics

In a nutshell, clicker training can be explained as using an animal’s very primal need for food as a motivator. The clicker is employed as a “bridge” to fill the gap between behavior and reward, and pinpoint the exact moment of the desired behavior. Eventually, the mere sound of the click becomes the reward. For a very interesting and brief scientific explanation, visit Shawna’s blog page at [shawnakarrasch.com/blog/?s=right+start](http://shawnakarrasch.com/blog/?s=right+start), and watch the video by Robert Sapolsky at the bottom of the page.

## History

Karrasch began the clinic by telling her life story in animal training: a born animal lover, she went from being a student of zoology in Encinitas to a job at Sea World in San Diego as a marine mammal trainer, where she first employed clicker and whistle training techniques. When new owners invited the trainers to attend a high-level jumping event, Karrasch decided that jumping five-foot walls on horseback looked almost as exciting as diving off the nose of a giant killer whale, so she decided to learn show jumping.

Eventually, after learning to ride, jump and train horses in the traditional manner, Karrasch wondered if the same method of positive-reinforcement training she had used to train marine mammals could be applied to horse training. Time after time, the “experts” tried to discourage her, claiming that “horses are too dumb” to be trained that way. Finally, Karrasch came across Tom Dorrance, who immediately recognized the potential and encouraged her to explore the possibilities. Karrasch soon left



PHOTOS BY RUTH SOBECK

Clinic participants teach their horses how to touch their targets—a water bottle and a whiffle ball on a stick.



PHOTO BY RUTH SOBECK

**Trainer Shawna Karrasch rewards Betsy Schoettlin's horse Godivan after a successful training session.**

Sea World to begin working with two-time Olympic gold medalist Beezie Madden and her husband, developing the clicker/target training program.

### **The clinic**

As with most clinics, the purpose of this one was to teach some new concepts and to give participants some hands-on experience with the guidance of the clinician. It began with each owner, one at a time, observing Karrasch work with their horse, showing how to “condition” the horse to learn to associate the “click” sound with the food reward.

The behavior that Karrasch starts this training with is one that almost everyone can find helpful: the horse is taught to turn its head away when food or treats are offered by hand. When the horse learns he cannot get the reward by “mugging” the owner, he eventually gives up and moves his head away—*that* is the moment to click, and immediately the food reward is brought to the horse's head to feed. This is done “at liberty” with no lead line; in fact, most of this training is done at liberty.

An important point at the end of each training ses-

sion is to give the horse a “jackpot reward”—lots of tasty treats—to reinforce the whole experience and to ensure the horse comes away with a positive attitude toward the session. It takes eight or nine 5- to 10-minute sessions over time to solidify the clicker-conditioning step before the next step: target training.

### **Target training**

Once the horse is conditioned to associate the click sound with a reward, the training can advance to having the horse touch a “target” with his nose. Shawna uses a pole, which is about the length of a crop, with a white plastic boat bumper or plastic float on the end to serve as the target. The horse is presented with the target and given the command, “Target.” At some point, curiosity usually causes the horse to reach out and touch the float with his nose to investigate. As soon as he does, *click* and reward. This is repeated in several sessions until the horse reliably touches the target with his nose on command.

This can be turned into a game where two people send the horse back and forth between two targets—even

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over a jump! To demonstrate, Schoettlin and Karrasch sent Schoettlin's horse Godivan back and forth over a pole—something Godivan apparently dislikes—at liberty!

On the second day of the clinic, Karrasch focused on various issues the participants had with their horses. She demonstrated clicker techniques for dealing with the usual gamut of trailer-loading, attitude while saddling, vet procedures and food aggression. Of course, as in any clinic, no horse was cured of its issues, but everyone was given an idea of the approach to help solve their problems.

Karrasch offered to provide guidance via the web if participants needed help as they continue to learn target training and work to help their horses overcome particular obstacles or fears. People can ask for help online by visiting [on-target-training.com/ask-shawna.php](http://on-target-training.com/ask-shawna.php), but keep in mind that Karrasch is often travelling and may not be able to reply right away.

Karrasch also pointed out that horses can learn vicariously through watching the behavior of other horses. She explained how she tested this theory on her own horses: in a stall with spaces between the wall slats that neighboring horses could look through, she approached a horse with clippers and the horse proceeded to dodge and weave before finally allowing his ears to be clipped. Karrasch noticed the young horse in the next stall observing closely. Sure enough, when she brought the youngster in and approached with the clippers, the colt dodged and weaved as he had observed the other horse doing.

The next day, she performed the same task, again while the colt watched, but used a horse that was not afraid of clippers. The horse did not avoid the clippers, nor did the colt when it was his turn!

I think I am going to employ this technique with my own two horses because one of them has always been quicker to learn tricks. If I let one horse watch while I am training the smarter one, perhaps some of the work will rub off on the “less motivated” horse. I can always hope!

An extremely helpful aspect of target training comes in the form of teaching the horse to go to a target mounted in his stall. When you want the horse to stay away from you or the door, you can command him to go to the target and stay there until he is released with a click. Karrasch has found that horses will identify the target as a source of comfort; she told of target-trained horses who were observed standing quietly at their targets in their stalls in the middle of a hurricane, while other horses in the barn were upset and rambunctious.

There are caveats as well: horses can learn unintended behaviors if you aren't careful and observant. You may end up having to “un-teach” a horse unwanted behavior



PHOTO BY RUTH SOBECK

### **Shawna Karrasch**

if you aren't careful to reward only the desired behavior. Karrasch told the story of how one dolphin learned that he had to swim a complicated circuit of travel before executing a back-flip, so the trainers had to figure out how to adjust the timing of his performance because he took longer to come up and flip! On the other hand, animals can also “raise the bar” on their own through intermittent rewarding, but that comes later in the training.

If you think you might like to try clicker/target training for your horse, you can purchase DVDs, clickers, targets and more at Karrasch's website, [on-target-training.com](http://on-target-training.com).

You can also purchase a clicker at pet supply stores. Karrasch recommends the metal kind rather than plastic because they are louder for outdoor use with horses, and the plastic ones are easier to click accidentally. I made my own targets out of old crops and Styrofoam balls from Michael's. I plan to learn how to clicker train my dogs, too.

As with any successful training method, this is not a “quick fix” substitute for spending time with your horse and taking the time it takes to teach him or her a new way of thinking and behaving. For me, the idea of being able to have my horses *want to* do what I ask of them, rather than thinking they *have to do it or suffer the consequences* is enough to make me want to invest the time and effort to improve our relationship and make problems a thing of the past. U

# Give your horse tasty treats this holiday season

*Let's face it—horses don't care if their holiday treats look Betty Crocker-perfect.*

by **CARLA LAKE**  
HORSENATION.COM

I know, I know, it's not even the weekend before Christmas yet. But starting to think about holiday horse treats now could save you some scrambling later—and could spark some ideas for gifting to barn friends. Here are three recipes that don't even require you to fire up the oven.

## Bran Mash

A traditional and tasty treat, most bran mashes are made with a combination of the following ingredients. You can mix and match depending on any dietary restrictions your horse may have or include other treats your horse loves.

Bran mashes shouldn't make up a

big portion of your horse's diet, but your horse will love the occasional warm treat in cold weather.

### Ingredients:

- Applesauce
- Bran
- Oatmeal
- Cheerios
- Molasses
- Your horse's normal grain
- Crushed peppermint candies
- Apple slices
- Carrot slices

To prepare, mix it all up in a bucket with hot water. Yum!

You can even gift bran mash by putting your signature mixture of dry ingredients in a jar with a ribbon.

## Stuffed Super-Apples

It looks like an apple and smells like an apple, but is way, way better.

### Ingredients:

- Apple

- Applesauce
- Carrots
- Grain

Chop the top off an apple, hollow it out, and fill with the apple bits, applesauce, carrots and a little bit of grain. This is not easily gift-able because it won't keep long, but it's definitely worth a try to watch your horse's mind be blown.

## Meta-Carrot

This Pinterest concoction uses Cheetos as fake carrots, but your horse will probably like it much more if you use real baby carrots. Just fill up some icing bags, tie with green ribbon, and share with barn friends for a super cute gift! U

*A version of this article was originally published on horsenation.com. It is republished here with permission.*

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**Portuguese Bend Riding Club**

Upcoming Clinics and Events

Hunter/Jumper  
Patrick Spanton: Call or email for December dates

Dressage  
Louise Koch: December 4, 5, 11, and 15

Trainers:

Hunter/Jumper: Jen Hannink      Riding School: Mary Hirsch  
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Please indicate how much you would like to donate; checks should be made payable to PVPHA:

Household membership \$ 35.00

Tax-deductible contribution to Trail Protection Fund \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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The *Dispatch* is always looking for volunteer writers and photographers to help fill its next issue. Contact the editor at pvpha2010@gmail.com for more information.

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Full Page (approx. 8" x 10")	\$150
Half Page (4" x 10" / 8" x 5")	\$75
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 PVP, CA 90274

Any additional printing costs must be paid by the advertiser.

**DEADLINE for the receipt of ads is the 20th of the month.**

### NEED AN AD DESIGNED?

*Dispatch* editor Nicole Mooradian can help. Email her at nicole@nicolemooradian.com for rates.

## PVPHA Board of Directors

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Melody Colbert, Corresponding Secretary	310-427-4378

*Dispatch edited by Nicole Mooradian.*

# COWBOY POETRY AND MUSIC FESTIVAL

SATURDAY JANUARY 18, 2014 AT 7PM FREE CHILI DINNER STARTS AT 6PM  
AT THE EMPTY SADDLE CLUB

**FUN!**

**FREE CHILI DINNER!!!**



**MUSIC!!!**

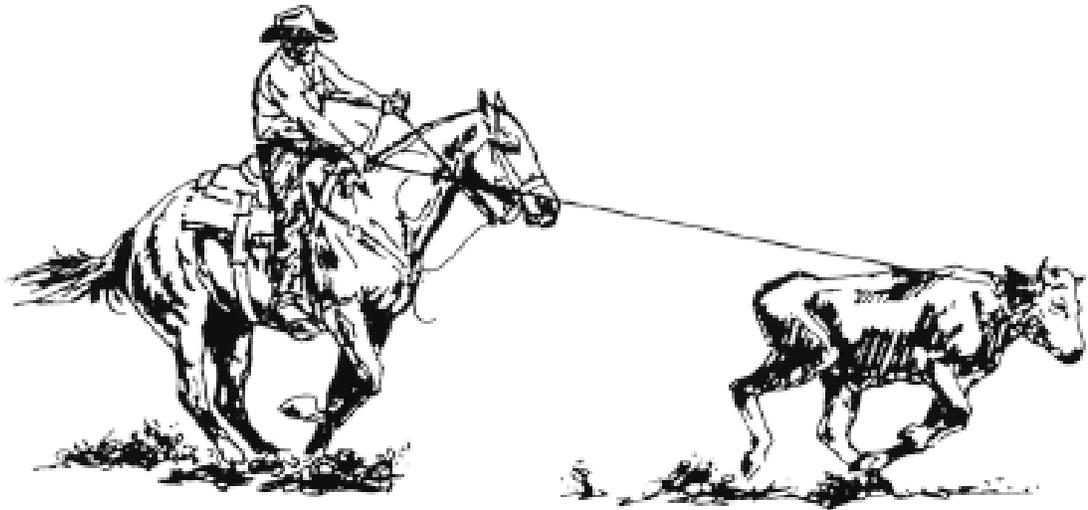


**POETRY!!!**



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