



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Oct. 3 – 4

South Bay Gymkhana Series

Info: mphequineproductions.com
Ernie Howlett Park

Oct. 9 – 11

Cowboy Dressage Clinic

Info: joannbennett@cox.net
Ernie Howlett Park

Oct. 11

Vaulting Clinic

Info: Janna, 310-525-6870
Portuguese Bend Pony Club

Oct. 15

PVPHA general meeting

Empty Saddle Club

Nov. 19

PVPHA general meeting

Empty Saddle Club

Jan. 30

Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival

Empty Saddle Club

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

2015 Poker Ride a success

by **MELODY COLBERT**
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association annual Poker Ride on Sept. 26 was a success thanks in no small part to the many local businesses and equestrian supporters who donated prizes in the form of services, products, gift cards and cash.

Donna Hilgendorf ended up with the best hand, earning her \$500 in veterinary care services from Dr. Ruth Sobeck, while Heather Packard ended up with the worst hand and received \$10 for her troubles.

An especially big "thank you" goes to PVPHA Vice President of Fiscal Affairs Sean Martin of Martin Performance Horses, whose riders came up with some big ideas to make the ride

more fun. For example, the Fitzpatricks created oversized playing cards to serve as photo backdrops at the card dealing stations.

Martin Performance Horses also generously provided doughnuts, orange juice and water to the 60 or so riders who braved the early start and hot weather to come out and support the PVPHA.

About 75 people participated in the longest-ever poker ride, with PVPHA taking in about \$1,500 in proceeds. Half of the money raised will go to the PVPHA Trail Preservation Fund, while the other half will go to the city of Rolling Hills Estates' nonprofit Peppertree Foundation, which funds improvements to city recreation and equestrian facilities. U

NEXT PVPHA GENERAL MEETING: OCT. 15

Meeting: All about hay

by **TIFFANY CHIU**
DISPATCH EDITOR

Come to the Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association October general meeting to learn all about how horses have evolved to eat, digestive anatomy, how we feed them now, how much and what to feed, modern agricultural hay practices, water and salt's important relationship, minerals, and more! The meeting is scheduled for 7 p.m. Oct. 15 at the Empty Saddle Club in Rolling Hills Estates.

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

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NEWS BRIEFS

Date set for Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival

The 2016 Cowboy Poetry and Music Festival will take place Jan. 30, according to Bruce Harnishfeger, who is organizing the annual event.

More information about the event will be provided when it becomes available.

Upper Si's, Evan Shaw trails closed for utility vault installation

Upper Si's Trail and Evan Shaw Trail in Rolling Hills will be closed throughout September and October—possibly into November—while Southern California Edison installs six very large underground utility vaults along Portuguese Bend Road, according to Rolling Hills Community Association Manager Kristen Raig.

As part of the installation, SCE will have excavators and cranes operating along Portuguese Bend Road between Pine Tree Lane and Crest Road. U

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RHE Equestrian Committee considers improvements for Chandler Arena, shade structures at Ernie Howlett

by **MELODY COLBERT**
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

Editor's note: This is a brief summary of the events of the Sept. 28 meeting of the Rolling Hills Estates Equestrian Committee.

At Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association Recording Secretary Erin Ryan's suggestion, the idea of adding shade structures to the bleachers at Ernie Howlett Park was raised; Committee Chair Frank Zerunyan directed city staff to look into the cost of owning or renting temporary canopies that could be used as needed for various events at the park.

Rolling Hills Estates is looking into bids to conduct more frequent

grooming of the Chandler Arena due to increased use.

A subcommittee was formed to review the circumstances of overcrowding at Chandler Arena and to make recommendations for improving conditions.

Gil Houle reported that the Peter Weber Equestrian Center improvement project was ready for final inspection the week of Sept. 28. Now that the project is complete, he will raise the question with the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors about whether additional county land on the Palos Verdes Landfill site can be utilized to build a dressage arena.

Also, in response to an inquiry about allowing the general public to use PWEC riding arenas, Houle said

that because there has been a significant increase in the number of stalls and boarders, he is not inclined to open the arenas to the public to the detriment of use by boarders. Nevertheless, he said he is amenable to allowing the public to use PWEC arenas in the event that the public arenas are out of commission for extended times due to major renovations and the like. He wants to be a good neighbor and help out whenever possible.

Lastly, Houle reported that the trailers that were temporarily stored on landfill property will be returned to the stable property alongside the concrete wall. He will also make an inquiry to the County about utilizing former recycle center site for trailer storage. U

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PVPHA Board of Directors bids farewell to Betsy Schoettlin, Kelly Yates

Vice President of Education Betsy Schoettlin and Vice President of Fiscal Affairs Kelly Yates are succeeded on the Board of Directors by Tiffany Chiu and Sean Martin, respectively

by **MELODY COLBERT**
CORRESPONDING SECRETARY

The Palos Verdes Peninsula Horsemen's Association could not survive without the immense support and contributions of time and effort by members who bring their enthusiasm and talents to serve on the Board of Directors.

We were very fortunate to have had the services of two members who decided not to run for re-election this year and gave up the positions of vice president of education and vice president of fiscal affairs: Betsy Schoettlin and Kelly Yates, respectively.

Schoettlin, a horsewoman with considerable knowledge and experience in her own right, threw her creative hat into the ring and gave us so many new experiences. She brought us clinicians and practitioners such as clicker trainer Shawna Karrasch, Got Seat? creator Erica Poseley, Olympian Gil Merrick and more.

We had many informative general meetings that included topics like equine first aid; roping techniques and practice; how to draw and paint horses; slow feeders; saddle fitting; gaited horses. She also helped to ensure the next generation of horsemanship by mentoring the first PVPHA Junior Achievement Award winner, Alyssa Ross.

A human dynamo when it comes



COURTESY BETSY SCHOETT LIN

As PVPHA Vice President of Education, Betsy Schoettlin was responsible for coming up with topics for general meetings. She also organized clinics with Shawna Karrasch, Erica Poseley and Gil Merrick.

to getting horse people together to make things happen, Yates did so much more than just her job: she founded the Junior Drill Team and obtained PVPHA sponsorship for it; started the semi-annual Tack Sale at the Rolling Hills General Store; created and oversaw the biannual Horse Happenings on the Hill; taught a free Friday night horse camp for children who live in Dapplegray; and introduced us to Wylene Wilson, the V-6 Ranch, Cowboy Dressage and Mas-



COURTESY KELLY YATES

Kelly Yates, the former vice president of fiscal affairs, founded the Junior Drill Team, which is now sponsored by the PVPHA; introduced equestrians to Wylene Wilson and Cowboy Dressage; and much, much more.

erson Method equine massage.

Both Schoettlin and Yates also kept the board up-to-date on equestrian issues all over the Hill.

Luckily, both of these ladies plan to stay around these parts for a good long while, so although we may not have the benefit of their assistance on the board, we will certainly continue to enjoy their contributions as members of the equestrian community! **U**

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