

Hello Vista Palomar Riders!

What a thrill to know this wonderful club is still going strong after all these years! On one of my endurance lists it was mentioned about a woman that rode the Palomar Trail in 1974. The writer thought this was part of the AERC endurance race competition and I wrote back that my memory of the ride in the fifties was of a group of dedicated trail riders going from the old Sante Fe arena up Vista Grande drive past my house onto the trails which now I believe is Eldorado Hills and over the mountains to Hoxies ranch in Gopher Canyon onto Pala Indian Reservation then up the grade to Palomar Mountain. But never was it a race.

I spent my youth as a member of the Vista Palomar Riders club. First on my pony Snowflake from about age 6-10 then I got my first "real horse" an off track TB mare at age ten, me that is, a 17 hh mare that was near impossible for this little girl to mount up on. Boy she was a handful but she sure taught me how to ride!

I remember riding to Fallbrook with the VPR to go in parades, Camp Pendleton to do drill team in the Rodeo there, so many fun times. Gymkhana at the old arena. Or just riding to the arena anytime I felt like it to work my horse and have the fun with other riders and club members. This was all back in the 1950's and early 1960's.

As I grew up I got away from horses and went on to other endeavors in life but never lost my love of horses that I started at age four with the little pony Snowflake.

I got back into horses about ten years ago and now I compete in AERC Endurance racing here in the Pacific Northwest. I ride Gaited Horses and am proving that they are very worthy opponents against our Arabian counterparts.

I also am a breeder, train my own horses, sell my stock and stand three stallions at present. You can see what I do by going to my website at www.applegaitnendurancehorses.com

It all started for me with the Vista Palomar Riders Club! I am so tickled to see this fine club has moved to the Gopher Canyon site, I lived not far from there and it is a splendid place for such grand activities.

I saw the mention of Tom Ramoss. Gosh, he was our farrier way back when I was just a little kid. Such memories your site has given to me. Oh! I just remembered *MA BROWN!* anyone remember that remarkable woman? She was older than dirt and rode the ride every year. Simply amazing!

I wish everyone involved with the club the very best of luck and may this great tradition bring the wonderful memories and good times to future generations.



Amber and Snowflake, me age 4 in Oceanside, Calif.

Happy Trails!

Amber Applegate

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