

VISTA PALOMAR RIDERS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2024

President's Message

Dear Members,

Fall is finally here, and I hope you're getting plenty of time to enjoy horseback riding on your favorite trails or in the arenas. It's been a busy summer at VPR, filled with numerous events. We recently wrapped up our annual Wagon Wheel event, which was a great success thanks to the members who attended and supported us. A special shout-out goes to Julie Brown, our WW event chair, and her dedicated team of volunteers.

We also held our first fundraising event, Kids for Country, benefiting both VPR and the Boys & Girls Club of Vista. Thanks to the generous contributions from our members and friends, we were able to raise and donate \$10,500 to the Boys & Girls Club. Additionally, the club raised funds for our clubhouse patio roof remodel and new stairs. We're incredibly grateful to our event chairs, Stephen and Jocelyn Dunham, for their hard work in making this significant fundraising event a success.

In August, we had a productive work party led by Robyn Schoelkopf. A special thanks to Fred and Cherylin Clark of CRC Engineering, who provided an excavator, truck, and large dumpster trailer, allowing us to haul away four trailer loads of junk and trash. A big thank you to all the members who came out to help!

Casino Night was another fun and well-attended event, with everyone raving about the great time they had. Thank you, Teri Ardito for organizing such an enjoyable night!

Looking ahead, our VPR Annual Member Meeting and election for the 2025 board will be held on November 13th at the clubhouse. It's encouraging to see so many members, including younger ones, stepping up to run for board positions this year. Be sure to check out the candidate bios and come out to vote!

See you on the trails or at the club!

Mario Denys
President

IMPORTANT DATES

Board Meeting

Nov 6 @ 6:30 pm

Potluck

Nov 13 @ 6:30 pm

Dec 11 @ 6:30 pm

Elections

Nov 13 @ 6:30 pm

Trail Ride

1st Saturday of the month

Leave the club at 10am

SCHC Show

Nov 9 – 10



2025 VPR Board of Directors Ballot

(Circle your choices)

President

Mario Denys

Vice President

Susan Miranda

Secretary

Jocelyn Dunham (Board waived 1 year previous board experience)

Treasurer

Kasey Bennett (Board waived 1 year previous board experience)

Board Members (Circle 5 names for 5 positions)

Gina Thomson

Stephen Dunham

Julie Brown

Jagger Denys

Doug Goad

Mario Denys - President Candidate

Dear Members,

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as President of the Vista Palomar Riders this year. We've made great strides in achieving our fundraising goals and have successfully grown our membership to over 300. However, there is still much work to be done, and I'm excited about the opportunities ahead.

Hence, I've decided to run for President again in 2025. I'm encouraged by the enthusiasm and commitment of our younger members, who are stepping up to take on leadership roles within the Board of Directors. Their involvement inspires me to continue working towards the club's growth and success.

I would be grateful for your support and the opportunity to continue serving as President of the 2025 Vista Palomar Riders Board of Directors.

Sincerely,
Mario Denys



Susan Miranda - Vice President Candidate

Howdy Members of VPR:

I have been in the equestrian world for 15 years now. After allowing my six year old daughter to ride, and getting her first horse, I wanted to learn too. Well, you all know how that goes. I haven't stopped riding.

I would be honored to continue to serve as Vice President for VPR. It's a great experience for me to make new friends and support such an amazing historical organization! I have been serving as Treasurer for 3 consecutive terms. Thank you for your ongoing trust and support.

In my role as Treasurer for VPR the past few years, I have set up the club on QuickBooks Online (easily transferred to any VPR Treasurer), providing full accounting for the years I served as well as for the year prior to my beginning as Treasurer. Additionally, after over a year of effort with the IRS and California Treasury, we are now tax exempt under 501(c)(7)! It has already been a huge help to plan for larger needed improvements and repairs. I have worked with the Board and Budget Committees to create and maintain budgets and financial projections to aid in planned expenses and projects to continue to improve the club, as well as implemented a few key procedures in day to day practices to aid in protecting the Clubs Assets.

In my over 25 year career as a CPA, I have served numerous entities of all sizes and stages of development, in various industries, including but not limited to: manufacturing, real estate, technology, not-for-profits, government contracting, and hospitality. My focus throughout my career has been in audit and assurance services as a public accountant working with KPMG, as well as two OC firms. I began my own practice in 2001 serving clients in Orange, Los Angeles and Riverside counties on matters related to accounting, financial reporting, assurance services and compliance under Federal Acquisition Regulation. In 2021, I effectively retired. So now I work for fun supporting what I love. Thank you and Happy Trails & Rails



Jocelyn Dunham - Secretary

Professional:

- Recognized as a Top 1% Real Estate Broker in San Diego County
- Recognized as a Top 4% Real Estate Broker in the US
- Recognized as the Top Real Estate Broker in Vista
- Career Sales Exceeding \$500M
- Over 23 years' experience as a Real Estate Professional

Philanthropy:

Co-Founder and Co-Chair (with Stephen Dunham) Kids for Country which netted over \$25,000 to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Vista, VPR, and to support community education. My passion is rescuing dogs and have volunteered at the Polinsky Center for abused children.



Personal & Horsemanship:

I was raised in Southern Utah and moved to San Diego at 17 years of age. I grew up riding horses and cheering on my aunt who was a rodeo cowgirl in Wyoming. I married Stephen in 2017 and have ridden horses consistently since we met in 2011.

Kasey Bennett - Treasurer

I am writing to formally express my interest in joining the Board of Directors for VPR. As a passionate equestrian and having been showing at this facility since I was 10, I am eager to contribute my skills, experience, and dedication to help further the group's mission and goals.

Throughout my 30 plus years of involvement in the equestrian community, I have gained a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities we face. I have been managing Ocean Breeze Ranch since 2017 and have been working on the property since 2008 when it was Vessels Stallion Farm. Horses have been a huge part of my life since I can remember, and I am so blessed that my career is focused on them. I grew up showing at the local shows hosted here at VPR, went to ride for the Fresno State Equestrian team and continue to own horses at Ocean Breeze Ranch where my family and I enjoy riding all these amazing trails in this beautiful area.

After breeding horses for the past 16 years, I finally decided to breed my own mare and now have a three-year-old filly named Tally that I have been riding and putting miles on. My future goal is to show her in the working cow horse. My kids have also shown interest in my favorite hobby and Braxton rides his horse Doobie and Kollins has a mini named Gaston. Phantom, Charlee, Grey Dawg, Harley and Snickers are also all part of our horse pack at home!

Being a mom of two kids, I am particularly interested in focusing on youth programs, equestrian education, horse welfare, and coordinating fun trail riding events off-site so members can experience all the great trails we have here in San Diego County. I believe that my experience in hosting numerous horse-related rides, campouts and fundraisers will bring added value to the organization.

I am confident that I can offer fresh insights and a strong work ethic, while working collaboratively with the current board to continue building a positive future for the group. I would be honored to be part of your efforts to promote and protect the interests of the horse community.



Gina Thomson - General Board Candidate

Dear Members

My name is Gina Thomson. I have been a member of Vista Palomar Riders since 2015. I own two horses and love trail riding the most. I have two daughters (Arlyn 12 and Onyx 10) who ride as well. One is into ranch riding and the other does 3-day eventing and found her recent passion in cow sorting thanks to this year's Wagon Wheel event. My husband Soly and I really enjoy taking our girls to the potlucks and to VPR in general to have fun with the obstacles and play around the arena. My husband and I own a swimming pool service and repair company that services north county San Diego. We also homeschool our daughters, which allows us the freedom to spend more time doing what we love.

In addition to being a general board member, I would like to take on the role of leading the Youth Riding Program. I hear stories of how VPR used to be, when our friends Stacey Brown and Jagger Denys were my kids age, and they had wonderful memories which made them the riders they are today. I want my kids to get that same experience. Not just to come to Wagon Wheel once a year, but to make it a more common place to enjoy our families, and horses. I have a vision of playdays with obstacles followed by a cookout, Fun gymkhana events, and even more frequent campouts! Of course, fun planned adult playdays need to happen more often as well. Maybe a monthly/biweekly happy hour sunset ride on a Friday, or a Sunday funday with cattle sorting (seems like everyone really enjoys that and we get a great turnout with the help of Gail).

Lastly, a more structured potluck! A simple signup on a google doc, or to RSVP on the VPR Facebook page with your headcount and food item or dessert you plan to bring. I think it would be a good starting point for knowing who is involved as well as letting others know what to expect. I would love to see more people getting involved and be excited/happy to do so. A club cannot be successful without the participation of its members. I believe VPR needs a change to get it back to how it used to be in those wonderful stories I heard from years and years ago. I believe the way to do that is to welcome the next generation of riders. In doing so, VPR can continue to create future cowboys and cowgirls for years to come.



Thank you for this opportunity, Gina Thomson

Julie Brown - General Board Candidate

Hello fellow VPR Members,

My name is Julie Brown, I've been a member for 12 years. I've served on the board as a general board member in 2018, and the next year I served as Vice President. I have planned many play date weekends for the club which were always a hit. I have planned, and helped run our biggest fundraiser of the year, Wagon Wheel as well as the recent one. I love this club's history, and everything it has, and can offer.

As a little girl I took jumping lessons, then moved on to western. Took a long break, then got back into horse's when my daughter took an interest at the age of 11. What a great way to share the love of horses with my daughter.

I will promise to help get more of the events YOU would love to see at VPR. Let's work together on having fun filled events, camping here on the property, and share the Equestrian lifestyle we all love. I'm looking forward to serving all of our wonderful members.

Giddy-up
Sincerely,
Julie Brown



Stephen Dunham - General Board Candidate

Professional:

- President/CEO Professional Water Technologies 1991-2009
- President/CEO Neotech Aqua 2010-2013
- Co-Founder (with Jocelyn Dunham) and President/CEO Poker Rodeo, Inc. (now Play Globally, Inc.). Play Globally pivoted to focus on digital game development for global distribution. Poker Rodeo is scheduled to restart with digital crowd participation in 2025

Philanthropy:

Co-Founder and Co-Chair (with Jocelyn Dunham) Kids for Country which netted over \$25,000 to benefit the Boys and Girls Club of Vista, VPR, and to support community education.

Personal:

Married to Jocelyn of course with two adult kids. I'm an avid outdoorsman, big game hunter, fisherman and love to cook for charities, friends and family.

Horsemanship:

I grew up riding horses. I've been an active member of Rancheros Visitadores and Santa Barbara Trail Riders since 1998 and currently keep our two horses in Carlsbad. I enjoy trail riding with friends, packing in the backcountry, sorting, penning and occasionally tossing a rope in the general direction of a cow.

Education:

UCSD - Communications



Jagger Denys - General Member Candidate

My name is Jagger Denys, and I'm excited for the opportunity to run for a seat on this year's board. Let me share a little bit about myself: I'm a proud California native, currently living just across the street from VPR in Vista. As a long-time member of the VPR community, my family and I have enjoyed over 15 years of membership, during which I've participated in countless events and embraced all that VPR has to offer. I own two horses and enjoy camping, roping, sorting, and trail riding.

The Vista Palomar Riders club is a cornerstone in preserving the Western way of life in North County, and I am committed to carrying on its legacy for years to come. One area where I believe we can make a significant impact is by increasing youth involvement. Bringing in fresh energy and ideas is essential to our club's future. As a board member, I aim to inspire younger members to become more engaged by introducing exciting new events throughout the year. With the right board members in place, we can achieve this in a financially responsible way.

It would be an honor to serve on the board and help shape the future of VPR. I look forward to building on the traditions established by past leaders while creating new opportunities for our community. I appreciate your consideration and would be grateful for your vote for the 2025 VPR Board.

Respectfully,

Jagger Denys



Doug Goad - General Member Candidate

Having filled a vacant position on the VPR Board, I am now seeking to be elected to the Board of Directors for a full upcoming term. I would appreciate your support to serve on the Board as a General Director. Thank you.

My equestrian pursuit really started in grade school for two years on rental horses. Six hours a week was all I could get. Then there was a long gap until 1985 where I bought my first horse and began the journey. Trail riding, horse camping, Team Penning, and sorting have been my favorite activities. Also, very much enjoyed attending a Ray Hunt Clinic on developing a riders feel and trust for his horse. Years later my horse and I qualified for the 1997 AQHA World show in Open Team Penning. Where my horse earned an AQHQ Register of Merit. Currently enjoy the Sorting, clinics, and trail ride events at VPR and San Pasqual Valley Ranch.

Military Service - 1969 to 2005. 1 year enlisted and 5.5 years Commissioned Officer in communications. Tour in Vietnam and Okinawa with Honorable Discharge as Captain.

Education - BA Economics U.C.S.D. 1975, MBA National Univ 1978.

Volunteering - Helped establish Trails Master Plan for City of Encinitas (plan in ongoing build-out), 20 years on Encinitas Parks & Rec Commission, Coordinated no cost to City buildout of Little Oaks Equestrian Park thru volunteer contributions, 20 years on San Diego County Parks Advisory Committee (Chair).

Employment - 1978to 1986 Construction Sales, 1986 to 2010 Dean Willer Reynolds/now Morgan Stanley as Associate VP Investments, and Assistant Branch Manager.





NFR Finals Watch Party!

Sat. Dec 14th

5pm

VPR Clubhouse.

Join us for the last night of the National Finals Rodeo. We will livestream the Finals @ 5:45pm, Cowboy BBQ/dessert/drinks will be provided.

**\$25 per person/\$40 couple/\$10 for 13-17
kids 12 & under free. (members only)**

RESERVATIONS/PAYMENT REQUIRED BY 12/11

Cindy Rota for more information. 760-518-8536

Hello VPR Members,

A few updates about the clubhouse:

New Look: A new patio cover that shades the entire deck and new deck railing were installed in early May along with new concrete steps that go from the clubhouse down to the announcer's booth. The new deck railing has a 2x8 on top so you can set a plate and drink while watching riders in the arena or catching a beautiful sunset. In late September, patio lights and metal bar stools were added to the patio area for everyone to use.

Clubhouse Rentals: Did you know that **members** in good standing can rent the clubhouse for a private event for a very nominal fee? Contact me about more information or log into the members only section from the website and click on the folder labeled Clubhouse Rental. There is an application and links for special event insurance. This process is super easy, and we would love for you to use the clubhouse for a birthday party, family reunion, wedding or special private event.

I NEED YOUR HELP! Random items appear inside the clubhouse and there are no names on them. I think most of these items have been donated to the club in hopes that they will find a new purpose, but in most cases, they are old, broken or damaged beyond repair, which leads to their visit to the dumpster....if you are considering an item for donation to the club, please call me and let's talk about the purpose of item. Thank you.

Potlucks: Please note the dates for the last two potlucks of 2024. Nov 13 is our annual member meeting and election. Please plan to attend and cast your vote for the 2025 VPR Board. Dec 11 will be our Christmas potluck. Potlucks start at 6:30

NFR Watch Party: On Dec 11, please come early at 5pm and enjoy a **FREE** showing of the National Finals Rodeo at the clubhouse during potluck. The NFR starts at 5:45. On Sat. Dec 14th, we are hosting the final night of NFR with a cowboy BBQ, dessert and drinks. See the attached flyer for pricing and to make your reservation.

ADMIN HELP: If you are interested in helping scan historical documents regarding our club, please let me know. Lots of photos and newspaper articles are collecting dust in our office/attic. Contact me for more info.

See you around the club!

Cindy Rota

760-518-8536

csrota@gmail.com



©DESIGNALIKIE

Wagon Wheel 2024



Welcome to the VPR Wagon Wheel 2024
"Let's Ride"

Friday

- Check in and get seated 11:00
- Explore VPR & Free ride
- Practice Sorting 2:00
- Gamblers Choice sign-up with Test
- Dinner at 6:00
- Saddle up for our "Mini Rodeo" 7:30

Saturday

- Breakfast 8:00
- Trail Ride 9:30 (from trail box)
- Gamblers Choice begins 9:30
- Beginner Sorting 9:30
- Practice Sorting 1:30
- Dinner and dessert bar 6:00
- Awards & Prizes for Mini Rodeo & Gamblers Choice
- DJ and Dancing after dinner

Sunday

- Breakfast 8:00
- Trail Ride 9:30
- Practice Sorting 9:30
- Competition Sorting for a Buckle 1:00
- All items will be a draw - Top 10 go to finals (awards at Clubhouse afterwards)
- Packup and Time to go home!



Thank you to our Sponsors

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YOUR TRAILS
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Vista Palomar Riders
Lorinda Quatrale



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We eat weeds for breakfast!
Local Disabled Veteran Owned
1-760-936-7790

RECYCLING!

In 2024, the County has mandated that all businesses need to recycle into proper containers, or they can be fined. This is tricky for us since we don't have anyone at the club facility to be putting out the garbage!

Well - it appears that our members need a little help in this area anyway! I recently had two garbage cans side-by-side at our last event - A blue recycling can, and a regular garbage can with liner. The regular garbage can had a handful of garbage, but was 3/4 full of recycling containers! We are designated "self-haulers" for our recyclables, so it isn't like your home recycling bin. We can only put in glass, aluminum, and plastic that we can bring to the recycling center.

The dumpster by the barn is only for green waste, and the one at the clubhouse is only for regular trash.

--

Gail Cantrell



BULLETIN BOARD:



Western saddle for sale

16-inch seat, full quarter horse bars. \$250 OBO.

Call Linda 760 583-7181 or email Gail
at gailgallops@gmail.com



Hi All, Bob & I are selling all our English Tack, we have 3 very high-end Dressage saddles listed on Marketplace. We will have more items available on Marketplace and other sites on Facebook. If you are looking for a tack; please text me at 760-533-4184 if you are in need of anything English. I do also have a few Western items I will be selling. Thank you, Donna Hein, text to 760-522-4184, let me know you are a member of VPR.

Custom Saddlery Advantage Dressage saddle 17.5 **\$1800** #36

Soft supple buffalo leather, saddle is like new. 17.5 inch seat. This saddle is made in England. This saddle has an adjustable tree. Steffen Peters has been riding in Custom Saddlery saddles for more than a decade. His own signature series saddles includes the Steffen's Advantage, Steffen's Advantage buffalo, and Steffen's Advantage Monoflap. For more information mysaddle.com. Custom Saddlery Cover included.



Otto Schumacher Contoured Dressage Saddle Girth 68cm **\$100**. #13

Dressage short girth anatomically shaped with elastic. Made in Germany. 68cm or 26.77 inches. High end leather contoured dressage girth, like new condition. For more information os-sattlerie.de/en/item#8061



Passier Grand Gilbert Dressage saddle 17" price **\$1500** #12

17 inch seat, this saddle is like new, made of soft extremely durable leather. The gullet plate of every Passier saddle is adjustable to ensure a perfect fit for the horse. This saddle is made in Germany by Passier & Sohn Hannover. For more information Passier.com #233399.



Black Leather Dressage 28 inch Girth **\$65.00** #1

Padded Contoured Dressage Girth 28 inches, like new.



Passier Grand Gilbert Dressage saddle 17.5" price **\$1500** #15

17.5 inch seat, this saddle is like new, made of soft extremely durable leather. The gullet plate of every Passier saddle is adjustable to ensure a perfect fit for the horse. This saddle is made in Germany by Passier & Sohn Hannover. For more information Passier.com #290541.



More English Tack: girths, and saddle pads, stirrup straps, bridles, reins, breastplate, etc.in a variety of sizes, colors and manufactures.

**Western Tack: Cinches, saddle pads, in a variety of sizes, colors, and manufactures.
Bridle with reins to match.**



Passier Lined Leathers 150cm Stirrup Leathers \$80.00 #14

Passier Velvet Touch Stirrup Leathers with Nylon Insert # 052025. Meticulously hand-sewn to ensure that the seams hold. By using the quality Passier technique of placing the grain side of the leather on the inside, the leathers feel incredibly soft without being as susceptible to stretch and wear providing long life when cared for properly. Leathers are in Like new condition. Product Details: 25 Holes closely placed for perfect adjustment, Curved Buckles, Leather: European Cowhide with nylon insert, Lengths: 150 cm (59"), Width: 2.5 cm (1")



Riverside County Sheriff's Mounted Posse

Troop L
Lake Elsinore

Annual Fundraiser



Win A Buckle • Arena Obstacle Challenge

NOVEMBER 9th, 2024



Murrieta Equestrian Park

Riders Meeting at 8am • Jr Novice Will Start at 9am • Followed by Novice & Advanced



10 Arena Obstacles in Main Arena

Under 18 Must Wear Helmet

Divisions

- Advanced (all ages)
- Novice (must not have placed higher than 3rd in any competition on the horse you enter)
- Jr Novice 16 and under no lead line (same rule as above)
- 3 additional obstacles set up in the small arena for extra points - these will be very difficult. No refusal will be allowed and is open to all divisions.



T-shirt and Catered Lunch is included in your entry fee...

- \$50 entry (must be prepaid & registration closing October 30th 2024)
- \$15 grounds fee • \$5 Optional extra points obstacles
- Buckles for 1st place. Awards to 3rd. • Raffle



SCAN ME

Register @ <https://form.jotform.com/ereese911/posse> or scan the QR code

Murrieta Equestrian Park 42670 Juniper St, Murrieta Ca 92562

We are an all-volunteer non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. Funds raised support training & equipment for our members and their equine partners. Sponsors welcomed.

Members supporting our trail access.



WANT TO GO CAMPING WITH YOUR HORSE?

You can camp almost anytime. There are just a few weekends when there might be a grounds rental. Just let me know if it's a day when you wish to stay over.

Gail Cantrell 760 519-0628



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Website: www.vistapalomarriders.com

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Facebook: [Vista Palomar Riders](#)

Newsletter: Lynknits2@gmail.com