

Hoof Prints Newsletter

Pine Valley Mountain Riders

PO BOX 300 LAKESIDE, CA 92040

December 2024

Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ★ There will be no General Meeting this month
- ★ December 14: PVMR Christmas Party



Letter from the editor,

After a fun-filled year of events, we get to end the year with cooler days and perfect weather for riding.

In this issue, there is a reminder about the festive Christmas Party this month where we can talk about rides of the past, present and future. Hopefully, without the chain clanging of Marley's ghost. Speaking of the opposite of Scrooge, our members continue to be generous by supporting and donating time and finances to our club. Thank you! (Please send in your Christmas party payment and form by Dec. 4.)

You will find information about the Christmas raffle and camping reservations. Also, articles about the Poker Ride and etiquette on the trail. There is much more throughout the pages and to put a smile on your face, there are some photos of merry horses!

Happy Holidays and Happy Hoof Prints,

Laura

Prez Says: Well, with the Christmas Party being the only event left for the year, I believe we have had a mighty fine year, a couple of bumps, but overall, a fine year. 2025 will be even better with help, support, and participation from our members.

Board Meetings for 2025: January 14, April 22, July 15 and Nov. 4 (All to be held at the Denny's off of Los Coches Rd. at 6:30pm. These meetings are all scheduled for Tuesdays and all PVMR may attend.)

The first event for 2025 is the Membership Brunch at the Clark's Ranch. (More details to follow.) I have a list of food related items that, as members, we need to get. If you have any questions or concerns about anything please contact me.

Respectfully, Susan Mena Prez. 2024-2025



Officers and Board of Directors for 2024 Thank you for all of your diligent work and commitment

PVMR OFFICERS

President: Susan Mena 619-997-9138 Vice President: Jodi Davis 619-802-3277 Treasurer: Brenda Baker 619-855-2172 Secretary: Diana Clark 619-871-1140

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Bill O'Brien 619-977-7098
Denise McKay 619-729-1631
Marty Parker 619-508-4198
David Sommerville 619-754-5555
Tracy Whitlow 619-933-7671

OTHER POSITIONS

Trail Boss: Bill O'Brien 619-977-7098

Public Liaison & Web Administrator: Ernie Smith 619-992-6511

Membership Services: Jodi Davis 619-802-3277

Sunshine Lady: Jeanine Stacy 619-368-5584 jeaninestacy@gmail.com Please notify Jeanine if you know of someone who needs a card sent. PVMR Newsletter Editor: Laura Precoda 619-733-9288 *Photos and other items for the newsletter should be submitted to the editor by the 25th of each month. Iprecoda@gmail.com

Pine Valley Mountain Riders General Membership Meeting Minutes November 13, 2024 Place: VFW Hall, Alpine (downstairs)



Meeting called to order at 6:32 PM by Susan Mena

Pledge of Allegiance: Marty Parker

Members present 22: Susan Mena, Diana Clark, Laura Precoda, Marty Parker, Marie Culver, Gail Mazzola, Ken Clark, Jim King, Kathy King, Belinda Marasso, Jodi Davis, Simone Schad, Alexandro Henao, Walt Kirkwood, Suzie Kirkwood, Winnie Hennessy, Pandora Horn, Christina Walker, Susan Petersen, Bob Petersen, Bill O'Brien, Dan Mena Minutes read from October 9 meeting: Diana Clark, Secretary

Motion to approve minutes as corrected by Marty Parker, 2nd Winnie; approved.

Treasurer's Report:

Beginning: \$ unknown (treasurer absent) Ending: \$6.851.75

Committee Reports:

• Web & Public Liaison: Ernie Smith - none

• Membership: Jody Davis - Updated membership: 121 active members; 7 Honorary

• Trails: Bill O'Brian - none

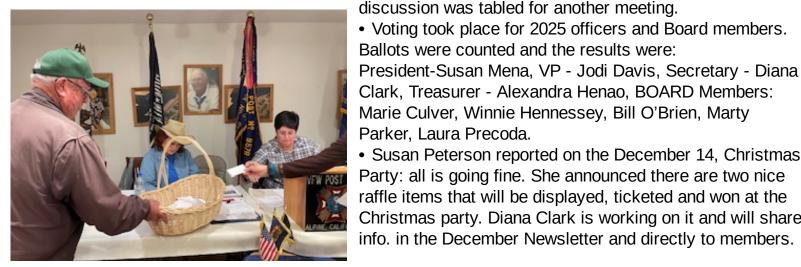
- Newsletter: Laura Precoda Laura made a request for Christmas horse photos to be submitted for the December Newsletter.
- Sunshine: Jeanine not present. Jodi reported a sympathy card was sent to Jodi's husband, Miguel.

NEW BUSINESS (upcoming events):

- SAM reported her intention to send out to the Membership a copy of the updated PVMR Bi-Laws which reflects the change in Membership Dues.
- Membership Breakfast Brunch will be at Clark Ranch in Descanso on January 25, 2025.
- SAM initiated a discussion on creating a 3-person Phone Tree instead of one member doing most of the calling when needed. Marty Parker made a motion to establish it, Jodi Davis 2nd, approved
- SAM read a thank you letter from Partners for Public Lands, an informal group of volunteers to whom the club donated \$500.
- SAM shared a need for obtaining a Club-owned Box/Trailer (about 7'X12") to organize and maintain club-owned equipment and files so it can all be moved or accessed as needed in one place. Further
 - discussion was tabled for another meeting. • Voting took place for 2025 officers and Board members. Ballots were counted and the results were:

Clark, Treasurer - Alexandra Henao, BOARD Members: Marie Culver, Winnie Hennessey, Bill O'Brien, Marty Parker, Laura Precoda.

• Susan Peterson reported on the December 14, Christmas Party: all is going fine. She announced there are two nice raffle items that will be displayed, ticketed and won at the Christmas party. Diana Clark is working on it and will share info. in the December Newsletter and directly to members.



OLD BUSINESS:

 Camping Rules in our California State Parks were handed out.

BRAGS/DRAGS

- Bob Petersen finished his 3-sided, covered shelter at home.
- SAM's grandson finished 3rd in his Jiu Jitsu competition.
- Christina Walker has an Airbnb in Pine Valley available for bookings; includes horse accommodations and a riding tour in the Pine Valley area if you so choose. Call her for info.

Adjourned: 7:44 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Diana Clark



Officers and Board of Directors for 2025 Thank you for volunteering to lead in the New Year

PVMR OFFICERS

President: Susan Mena 619-997-9138 Vice President: Jodi Davis 619-802-3277 Treasurer: Alexandra Calderon 619-715-1287

Secretary: Diana Clark 619-871-1140

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
Marie Culver 619-244-0009
Winnie Hennessy 619-787-6156
Bill O'Brien 619-977-7098
Marty Parker 619-508-4198
Laura Precoda 619-733-9288

OTHER POSITIONS

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jeaninestacy@gmail.com Please notify Jeanine if you know

of someone who needs a card sent.

PVMR Newsletter Editor: Laura Precoda 619-733-9288 *Photos and other items for the newsletter should be submitted to the editor by the 25th of each month. Iprecoda@gmail.com

PVMR Members: Please do not hesitate to call any of the above with your ideas and opinions that can benefit the club and its members.

Trailer Box or Horse Trailer is Needed for PVMR Supplies.

PVMR is looking for someone who will donate or sell, for a very reasonable price, a storage trailer (or something that can be converted) so that all PVMR club belongings can be organized in one place.

This will save time and lessen the strenuous work of loading and unloading items for events. A safe storage place will also keep items safe from weather or rodent damage and facilitate accurate inventory.

Please spread the word to anyone who may have a trailer that they can donate to our non-profit club.

PVMR CHRISTMAS PARTY RAFFLE

The Art Of Pickling This Gift Certificate Invites

You and 10 FRIENDS in your home for a hands on Pickling Class

Fill your pantry with delicious pickled Frits and vegetables that you can be proud of.
Whether you're a seasoned gardener or newbie..
This class will teach you and your guests a pickling technique to choose the perfect method for your palate.
The Art of Pickling is the perfect place to start if you are new to home canning.



Class Provided by. Christina Walker 858-775-7299 - Valued at \$250.00
All seasonal Fruits, Vegetable and Jars are provided

Here is a chance to learn how to can healthy garden vegetables at home!

Are you ready to win a relaxing weekend escape and farm tour?

A special raffle with these two amazing prizes will be won by two very lucky Winter Wonderland Party attendees on Dec. 14, 2024. Don't miss out!

RAFFLE TICKETS WILL BE SOLD AFTER DINNER AND THE WINNERS WILL BE CALLED DURING THE BAND'S BREAK AT ABOUT 8 PM. BUY AS MANY TICKETS AS YOU WANT AND GOOD LUCK!

All proceeds go to PVMR!*



Robin's Nest invites you – and your horse! – to a complimentary Farm

Tour & weekend getaway in our premier vintage accommodation:

The 1975 Airstream Sovereign.

Contact us via website for details and booking

Expires 11/2/25



www.RobinsNestRamona.com

*The proceeds will go towards the purchase of an enclosed box trailer to store the property of the club.

Christmas Party Time! A Winter Wonderland Awaits PVMR Members Come enjoy an evening of good cheer and fine friends Saturday, December 14, 2024 Time: 5:00pm-11:00pm Location: The Descanso Town Hall Cost: \$30 per person. There will be friends a delicious dinner, music and dancing. Join in on the festivities as part of your memorable holidays. Please bring an appetizer or dessert for eight people. Mail your, payment and form to: PVMR PO box 300 Lakeside, CA. 92040 by December 4. Please see the email attachment flier for more information.

Winter Wonderland

Song by Brad Paisley

Sleigh bells ring, are you listening, In the lane, snow is glistening A beautiful sight, We're happy tonight, Walking in a winter wonderland. Gone away is the bluebird, Here to stay is a new bird He sings a new song, As we go along Walking in a winter wonderland. In the meadow we can build a snowman And pretend that he is Parson Brown He'll say: Are you married? We'll say: No man But you can do the job When you're in town.

Later on, we'll conspire
As we dream by the fire
To face unafraid,
The plans that we've made,
Walking in a winter wonderland.
In the meadow we can build a snowman,
And pretend that he's a circus clown
We'll have lots of fun with mister snowman,
Until the other kiddies knock him down.
When it snows, ain't it thrilling,
Though your nose gets a chilling
We'll frolic and play, the Eskimo way,
Walking in a winter wonderland.
Walking in a winter wonderland.
Walking in a winter wonderland.

PVMR Membership Brunch at the Clark Ranch

Saturday, January 25, 2025 10:00 am- 2:00 pm

Clark Ranch 9927 Hulburd Grove Drive

Let's start the year socializing with time honored and new members. Renew your membership and bring friends to become members and receive a welcome packet.





Happy New Year PVMR 2025!



Directions: I-8 East to Japatul Valley Rd. (79) exit. Turn left at the stop sign. Continue to Descanso Junction. Turn left on Riverside Drive. Continue to Viejas Grade Road. (Perkin's Store) Turn left and then a quick right on Oak Grove Drive. Stay on Oak Grove Drive for a mile. Turn right on Hulburd

Grove Drive (9927 Hulburd Grove Drive, Clark Ranch) Watch for posted signs. Plenty of parking available.

SEE YOU THERE!

Note: Photos are from the January 2024 PVMR Membership Brunch.



California State Parks have a "rolling window" reservation period. The public can reserve campsites six months in advance from the current date. Camping inventory will become available each day at 8:00 am.

You may now make reservations for Vern Whitaker but NOT Green Valley. Green Valley has only walk ups showing on the reservations site and the Reservation Center can not make reservations for you at this point. Ernie Smith will call a park administrator to find out more information. The camp dates for Vern Whitaker are February 20-23 and Green Valley, camp dates are May 9-11. Consider signing up for PVMR camps as early as possible. Use reservecalifornia.com for Anza-Borrego Desert SP and select Equestrian. You will be directed to Vern Whitaker. Green Valley will be under Cuyamaca Rancho SP (When and if available.)

Vallecitos Is a county park and you can make reservations now for November 7-10 2025. Call 858-565-3600 or online at reservations.sdparks.org

Chihuahua Valley is a private camp and will take reservations any time. Camp dates are April 11-13. Call 951-377-3479 and speak to Joy or Dave Pierceall.



Vern Whitaker, Feb. 2024



Green Valley Horse Camp

The PVMR Poker Ride Event

The Poker Ride event at Windfall Ranch had the potential of being a grand event with entertainment, prizes, trails rides and obstacle challenges for horses and riders. The weather was perfect and the many volunteers were ready and excited but unfortunately, the event took on the air of a lonely, rich kid's birthday party with sparse attendance. So much food and flare and so few people there. Regardless of the tepid showing, the people who did participate had a wonderful time.





Lynn Snyder Harrington was there to guide horse and rider through each of the obstacles. There was a mailbox that opened with a creaky sound and inside was a bottle full of rocks and pebbles. The sturdy teeter totter surprised a few horses as it tipped after the first off-center step.

In the spirit of the spooky holiday, a gate was decorated with halloween decor, located next to a horizontal pool-noodle gate. A short wooden bridge seemed to be an easy obstacle for most horses but close by was a square shallow pool that looked like a bottomless pit-not so easy.

Lynn's gentle reminders to breathe, look forward, and sit firmly in the seat with relaxed legs helped each horse and rider to navigate the course.

The trials were precisely marked with signs and pink ribbons and short cut trails were marked with yellow ribbons. Terry Howe, the owner of Windfall Ranch did the work of clipping all those ribbons in strategic places so no one would get lost. The trail ascended and descended in many places with a few rocky areas that were just enough to be challenging for the rider. There were also flat areas where one could choose a faster pace. The trees, shrubs and grasses were healthy and beautiful as were the mountainous views in certain spots on the trail. The air was fresh and clean

which caused one to breathe deep and enjoy the ride.



Lunch time was a relaxing time of eating with Bob Peterson at the grill and people self-serving themselves with condiments of their choice. The variety of chips and cookies made for a fun addition to the picnic. People socialized and "talked stories" about rides and other adventures.



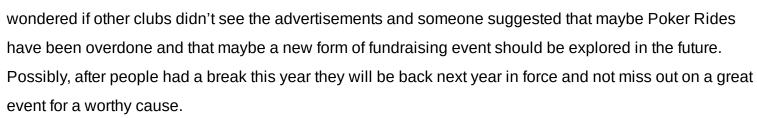
Bill O'Brien (who, by the way, happened to be the winner of the poker ride) sold raffle tickets with his side-kick grandson.

Barbara Minton's grandchildren were also there to help out by picking tickets out of raffle jars and handing out the winnings. All the kids did a great job keeping the raffle organized with Susan

Mena and Jodi Davis running the show. Many people won fantastic, generous gifts that filled over four

large tables. The baskets were beautifully displayed with cellophane wrapping and bows and there was so much variety of items. Winners hooted and hollered, made a fun raucous (even a few little jigs) when their numbers were called which caused smiles and laughter.

Later, members questioned why there were so few people in attendance. Some thought the weather forecast of rain might have detoured people. Others







In The Spotlight



















PVMR Poker Ride at Windfall Ranch. November 2



















PVMR Poker Ride at Windfall Ranch. November 2

Easy Etiquette, Equine Excellence

Part 1: Trail Boss, Etiquette & Safety

THOUGHTS FROM THE TRAIL by Bill O'Brien, Trail Boss for PVMR

After many years of being the trail boss for Pine Valley Mountain Riders, I am excited to "share the joy" with those of you volunteering to function in the role of Ride Host and Trail Boss. Sharing your favorite rides with our members is a fun experience.

Group rides are a horse of a different color compared with everyday rides that all of us do. When we ride on our own, we can leave at any time, go fast or slow, stop when we want and even do some schooling at water crossings. We can do whatever our small group of friends wants to do. When leading a group ride, safety is foremost and you never know what riding skills anyone has-horse or rider. General rule: You must pace to the slowest rider!

Some horses (and their riders) are calmer than others. Horses being herd animals, will want to follow a faster horse as they fear the herd is leaving them. This is a natural response that may or may not be easily managed by their rider. The horse needs to feel that they are a herd of two (you being the alpha horse) rather than being a herd of 5 or 10 or 20. All this takes time! Thus, horses leaving and running off from the herd, just will not work in a group ride.

When leading a group ride, it is impossible to please everyone. Do not take it personally; this is just the nature of the task that you are volunteering for. Once again, safety is foremost. Prepare/expect to mentor the least capable group rider and their horse. Take the time to pre-ride, make the flier, be prepared to be available to answer phone calls about "rider and horse readiness" Be prepared to make the hard decision to recommend to a rider – not ready to go.

When participating in a group ride, you will not be able to ride in the same way as when you ride with friends, in a familiar group/trail/speed etc. You will need to read the trail boss's flier carefully, and determine: Are you AND your horse ready for the terrain? The obstacles? The water crossing? Bridge crossing? Physically fit enough for the proposed miles, elevation gain, and length of the ride? Is your horse able to relax at a pace not normally his usual pace? (Faster or slower.) Is it a beginner's ride or is it for an advanced horse and rider? You MUST RSVP to the trail boss of your intention to join the group ride. RSVP is the only way to notify you if the ride is canceled or there are unexpected changes.

Finally: PVMR insurance DOES NOT COVER your injuries to you or your horse. Neither PVMR nor the trail boss is the "responsible party" for your behavior, your horse, or your decision to participate in the group ride. THIS IS ALL YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

We all have three other weeks in that month to ride as we please. Group rides inherently have a different feel, different energy, different learning experience, and different risk points. Keeping all this in mind, here are some *trail boss guidelines* that promote leading a safe and fun group ride!

Part II will be continued in the January Hoof Prints Issue Article submitted by Winnie Hennessy

A Christmas Gift Idea

The Breyer Horse Stirrup Christmas Ornament was released in 1999, which followed shortly after the Breyer's Holiday Horse Series that debuted in 1997. The ornament has since become a companion piece to every Holiday Horse as a smaller version encased in a Stirrup.

The Christmas tree decoration is a keepsake with the year of its release embellished on the bottom of each one and has a different name each year. This year, 2024, the name is Apres Ski. This 25th edition is now available and would make a nice gift for your horse loving family members or friends.



Renew And Gift a Membership

The January Membership Brunch is just around the corner, on January 25.

Although new members are welcome to join the club year around, January is the start of the new year with a new calendar of events that may be interesting and enticing to your family and friends. If you would like a membership form to renew or give membership applications to family or friends, print out the PDF sent to you as an attachment each month.

Christmas Gift Idea: If you would like to give a membership as a Christmas present and receive a gift card and calendar, please contact Jodi Davis at 619-802- 3277 or marijo.jodi.davis@gmail.com

Last Cuyamaca/Descanso Historical Feature Page (Continued from the September Hoof Prints issue)

The natural beauty of the place is set off by the background of Guatay Mountain, eastward, and by Cuyamaca Mountain and the Cuyamaca Range to the north and east. At the west of Descanso Park runs the Sweetwater River, flooded in the winter season. A smaller stream, which is said never to run dry, Agua Blanca (now known as Descanso Creek), traverses the Park through ravines of granite boulders, shaded by old oaks and pines.

Jacobs and his sons reportedly designed and built between fifteen to twenty cottages within the tract to "fit in with the natural contour and scenic beauty of the surrounding hills". One of these cottages, located a half mile to the east of the study site at 25133 Oak Lane, was listed on the San Diego County Register of Historic Places in August 2006.



Both Jacobs, and Hulburd before him, were motivated to develop Descanso into a mountain resort by real estate speculation during economic boom times. The first, between 1887 and 1915, had been stimulated by hopes of San Diego becoming an entrepot for transcontinental shipping. The second, between 1920 and 1930, was in response to an increase in the area's economy due to military and tourist-oriented development. This was especially true regarding the latter, which offered greater profits for rural landowners than agriculture.

The decade of the 1920s represented a period of phenomenal growth throughout Southern California. As more and more motorists came to rely on the automobile as their means of primary transportation, they demanded new and improved paved roads and highways. The result was a network of county and state highways branching out from urban centers into nearby mountain communities like Topanga, Lake Arrowhead, Idyllwild, and Descanso. Expecting an increase in automobile-oriented tourism, real estate speculators purchased and subdivided agricultural land into smaller lots on which they built rustic rental cottages. Others, like Los Angeles industrialist Ralph M. Dyar, who purchased the majority of the adjacent Rancho Cuyamaca in 1924, hoped to build mountain or lakefront resort lodges with rental cottages amid golf courses, equestrian trails, polo fields, and private airports. Here, they would entice tourists to buy lots in nearby tracts so that they could "realize the delights of a whole summer spent in the mountains or the advantages of having a place to run out to for weekends . . . [by building] rustic cottages of their own".



Source: Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Equestrian Facilities Project Historic Land Use Study and Analysis
Prepared by: Alexander D. Bevil, Historian II
California State Parks, Southern Service Center, 28 January 2010. February and June, 2024 photos by Michelle Hernandez, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park
Interpreter.

Lucky Jack An (Early) Christmas Miracle

By Simone Schad



I found out about the Texas livestock auction/ kill pen through a friend during a beautiful fall ride. She explicitly said, "Do not look at their website, it'll break your heart, the slaughter dates are right below the horses' pictures."

That evening, I just couldn't help myself. My fingers typed almost as if guided by an unseen force "Texas Kill Pen" and I landed on the Bowie Horse Sale website. And there they were: Draft horses, minis, foals (too young to be away from their mothers) retired broodmares, Amish cart horses and on the last page, an emaciated black, 22 year old, 16 hands tall gelding with the most defeated, heart broken and confused look on his face. The slaughter date was listed as 11-22-24. (Only four days away!)

His image haunted me all night long and by the morning it was clear to me, I cannot let this horse die. I prayed to God and His angels to show me how to save this horse, after all I am on a tight budget and I don't even own a trailer or truck to pull one with. It didn't help that Bowie was 1365 miles away from San Diego.

So I called, texted and emailed several friends, horse rescues and family members, seemingly, without much luck, but the following morning I got a text from my friend: "Your gelding is on the trailer to California (Bakersfield) and we have room in our trailer to pick him up (along with three other kill pen horses) and bring him to San Diego." I had tears of joy streaming down my face when I got this message that the black gelding was safe. Next, my kind and generous friend from Tucson texted that she would cover the cost for the horse and the transport and yet another kind soul agreed to give him a chance as a therapy horse for autistic children at her ranch once he gains 400 lbs and is settled in.

Wow! A big THANK YOU to all the kind souls that made this happen. For me, this is an (early) Christmas Miracle and proof that prayer, faith in God and a will to do good in the world can move mountains.

Merry Christmas to all of you!



From, Simone and "Lucky Jack".



Season's Greetings!

May your holidays be filled with love and friendship and your New Year be abundant with happiness, success, adventurous trails and wonderful explorations. Peace be with you and all whom you hold dear.



Deana Sommerville's Sedona



Simone Schad's Koa and Dunn



Laura Precoda's Anniebell



*Send photos of your horse's name plates and/or humorous or inspiring signs found around the barn for the January Issue of Hoof Prints. (Please send the photos before December 25th.)

Member Notices

Marty Parker is organizing Desensitizing Clinics with Lynn Snyder Harrington. You can strengthen your partnership, gain confidence and build trust between you and your equine partner. Cost is \$60. The location is in Alpine off of Japatul Road Contact: Marty Parker, text, at 619-508-4198 or mparker6@cox.net for more information.

Danica James, of Alpine Creek Ranch L.L.C. will be offering online **equine and canine first aid training courses,** for dates, times and more information call 619-339-0906. Danika James will present how to get certified in equine first aid in February.

Contact Susan Mena if you would like to **lead a ride.** Consider being a trail boss if you have a ride you would love to share. You will need to pre-ride, provide a flier and update your knowledge on trail riding safety, etiquette, and guidelines.

Member businesses in our PVMR community



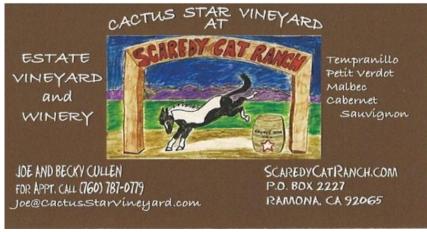




27506 Old HWY 80 Guatay, CA 91931 (619) 377-9242 scshilltophardware@gmail.com PVMR members receive a 5% discount at Double S Tack and Feed and SCS Hilltop Hardware!

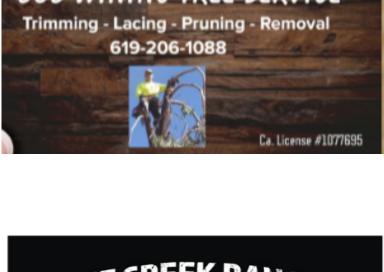






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Outlaw Corrals & Covers



Quality Animal Housing Systems at Affordable Prices.

David Sommerville 619 792 6440 ddsommerville@gmail.com





Cathy King

Line Dance Instructor 619-339-6475

hopsranch@yahoo.com

Dancing for over 29 years. I'm still learning new dances every week.

Call for Group events, Private lessons or to find out where I'll be teaching









VAULTING LESSONS
Contact PVMR member Patti Karcher for more info. on lessons for all ages! Sunday afternoons at Triple S Ranch in Lakeside 2hr lesson only \$40! patti.karcher@yahoo.com (619) 905-1337

Your professional business card will be added to this page for members to support and recommend.



Note: If you would like to include your own business card or small logo, please provide a jpeg or photograph of the item. Send to: lprecoda@gmail.com