



# Hoof Prints Newsletter

Pine Valley Mountain Riders

PO BOX 300 LAKESIDE, CA 92040

July 2024

## Calendar of Upcoming Events

- ★ July 4: Julian Parade (New update)
- ★ July 10: General Meeting at 6:30, Alpine VFW.
- ★ July 13: "Let's Get Cool" Santa Margarita-Fallbrook Ride
- ★ July 16 & 22: Parade Practice at Clark Ranch. 5:00-7:00 pm
- ★ July 24: Laguna Mountain Ride
- ★ July 27: Pine Valley Days Parade

*From the editor: Summer is officially here and there are rides planned to get your summer started in an enjoyable way. In this issue, you will find information about the Santa Margarita Preserve and Mount Laguna.*

*As always, you can keep up-to-date with the minutes from the General Meetings. This month, we had the required quorum to vote on club business and we hope for active participants at the July 10 meeting as well. Thank you to all who came and thank you, Susan Mena, for the appreciation gifts for all attendees.*

*Never forgetting our beloved horses, a message on bonding is included in this issue. Also, remember to read about hosting a trail ride (We need trail bosses! Please consider being one.) and "Member Notices" on page 13 so you don't miss out on helping out, selling items, or taking courses.*

*Enjoy July and happy hoof prints!*  
*Laura*

## Prez Says:

I would like to thank everyone who made the meeting in June so we could vote on several items and we now have them completed. Your participation in club meetings and activities is a very important part of the club and it is always fun seeing everyone.

Upcoming events are: July 10, meeting at VFW hall in Alpine. July 13, Santa Margarita-Fallbrook. Jodi Davis will be trail boss, July 24, midweek ride, Laguna Mountain. Diana Clark will be trail boss.

August is open for activities if anyone has ideas on what we can do or we can take a break in August before we get really busy in September.

Please be thinking about the tack sale and raffle items for the Poker Ride which is our biggest and only fundraiser for the year. You can start bringing them to the meetings.

Happy Trails, Susan

# SANTA MARGARITA RIVER TRAIL PRESERVE

In 2018, The Wildlands Conservancy acquired five miles of the oak- and sycamore-shaded Santa Margarita River, one of the last free-flowing wild rivers in Southern California and the southernmost range of steelhead trout. This 1,384-acre water-blessed property is part of the vulnerable South Coast Ecoregion that is recognized as one of the Earth's 25 global hotspots of threatened biodiversity. For several decades the Fallbrook Trail Council has maintained 18 miles of equestrian and hiking trails on this former water district property. The Fallbrook Trails Council and The Wildlands Conservancy are now partners in maintaining this trail, which was voted the number one trail of the best 50 trails in San Diego County. Visitors are often surprised to see so many broad water impoundments along the river that are the industrious work of the California golden beaver.

The beautiful 5.2-mile out-and-back trail meanders alongside the Santa Margarita river and has a 511 elevation gain. The trail is generally considered a moderately challenging route, it takes an average of 2 hours to complete. This is a very popular area for hiking, horseback riding, and running, so you'll likely encounter other people while exploring. The trail is open year-round and is beautiful to visit anytime. Dogs are welcome, but must be on a leash.

# LAGUNA MOUNTAIN

The views from Mount Laguna are spectacular as is the unique geography. The mountain is 6273 ft. above sea level which drops 2000 feet down cliffs to the Anza Borrego Desert. It is 45 minutes to the desert and an hour to the Pacific ocean. The terrain consists of Jeffrey pines, and grassy meadows with desert peaks on the eastern rim. Hikers, cyclists and equestrians enjoy the many trails, including the Pacific Crest Trail found at the rim of the Laguna mountains.

The area supports abundant wildlife and plants; such as mule deer, raccoons, coyotes, squirrels, bobcats, chipmunks and turkeys. Bird watchers can find several migratory birds that nest and breed there. Oaks and pine trees, elderberry, wild roses, nettles, and ceanothus are only a few of the plants on the mountain.

Mount Laguna



<https://wildlandsconservancy.org/preserves/santamargaritarivertrail>  
<https://www.alltrails.com/trail/us/california/santa-margarita-river-trail>

<https://mtlaguna.org/laguna-mountain/animals>

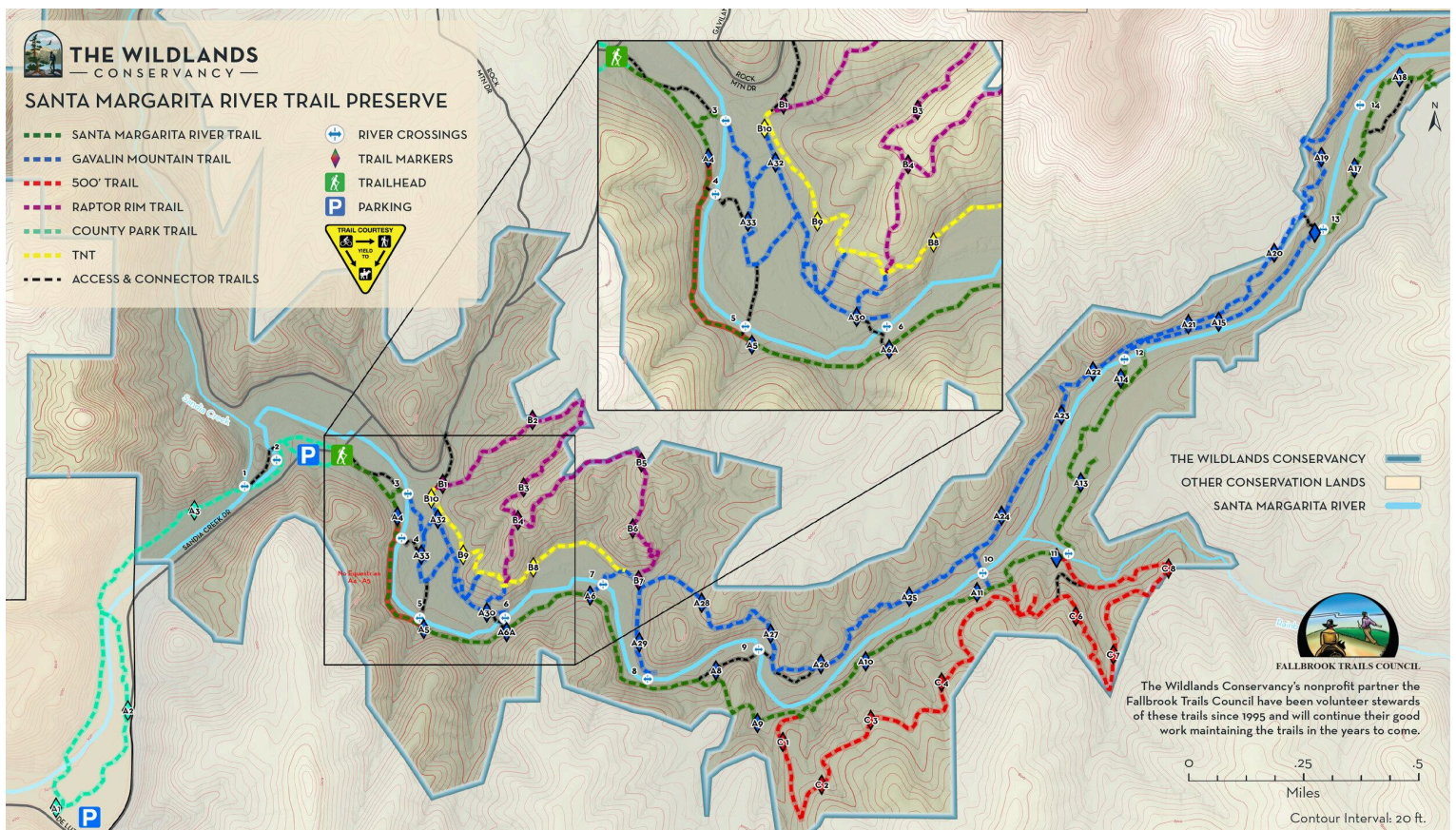




**Santa Margarita**



**Big Laguna**



## Santa Margarita River Trail Map

<https://fallbrooktrailsCouncil.com/trail-map>

The trail begins at Sandia Creek Road, off De Luz Road.

<https://www.facebook.com/FallbrookTrailsCouncil/>

**PVMR was recently invited to ride in the Julian Parade on July 4. 6 to 7 members are planning to ride so far. If you are interested, please contact Diana Clark and Jodi Davis for more information.**

**The Santa Margarita Trail Ride will be on July 13. Please see flyer or contact Trail Boss, Jodi Davis for more information. (619-802-3277)**

**The Laguna Trail ride will be on July 24. Please see flyer or contact Trail Boss, Diana Clark with any questions. (619-871-1140)**



## **Parade Practice Dates for the Pine Valley Days Parade on July 27 at 9:00**

**Where: Clark Ranch, 9927 Hulburd Grove Drive in Descanso.**

**Ride through and around obstacles to gain confidence in riders and horses.**

**Bring your horse and dress to ride.**

**TUESDAY, JULY 16: 5 PM-7 PM**

**MONDAY JULY 22: 5 PM-7 PM**

**Contacts for questions: Diana Clark (619) 871-1140 and Jodi Davis (619) 802-3277**

- ★ **Please attend at least one practice to be eligible for parade participation.**
- ★ **You do not have to participate in the parade in order to attend the practices.**
- ★ **Directions to Clark Ranch are in the June Newsletter. (Page 2)**
- ★ **The Staging location for the parade will be available a week before July 27.**

## **Pine Valley Days a Community Event Since 1970**

The 54th annual Pine Valley Days will be on Friday, July 26th and Saturday, July 27th. The fundraising event is organized by part-time volunteers of the Mount Empire Men's Club (originally the Pine Valley Men's Club) since 1970. Originally, the festivities consisted of a rodeo, horse events and parade. The parade continues on but there is now a BBQ and community "days in the park."

All proceeds benefit education and the Mountain Empire Community. This year, the MEMC donated \$13,000 in scholarships with a goal to award more in the future.

The Pine Valley Mountain Riders will participate in the parade this year on the 27th.

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### **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 619-922-6511  
Membership Services: Jodi Davis 619-802-3277  
Sunshine Lady: Jeanine Stacy 619-368-5584 [jeaninestacy@gmail.com](mailto:jeaninestacy@gmail.com)  
**Please notify Jeanine if you know of someone who needs a card sent.**  
PVMR Hoof Prints Newsletter Editor: Laura Precoda 619-733-9288  
**\*Photos and other items for the newsletter should be submitted to the editor no later than the 25th of each month. [lpredoda@gmail.com](mailto:lpredoda@gmail.com)**



**Pine Valley Mountain Riders  
General Membership Meeting Minutes  
June 12, 2024 Place: VFW Hall, Alpine (downstairs)**

**Meeting called to order at 6:33 PM by Susan Mena**

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Marty Parker

**Members present 17:** Jodi Davis, Susan and Dan Mena, Brenda Baker, Diana Clark, Laura Precoda, Marty Parker, Marie Culver, Suzie and Walt Kirkwood, Gail Mazzola, Cassie Brunner, Jamie Gassert, Susan and Bob Petersen, Julie Mummert, Danica Mummert

**Guests:** Julie and Danica Mummert - First time at PVMR meeting

**Minutes read from May 8 meeting:** Diana Clark

**Treasurer's Report:** Brenda Baker

**Beginning:** \$4,152.40

**Ending:** \$4,929.65

**Committee Reports:**

- **Web & Public Liaison:** Ernie Smith-no report
- **Membership:** Jodi Davis-102 members including 7 Honorary
- **Trails:** Bill O'Brian- no report
- **Newsletter:** Laura Precoda-reported H & A Livestock logo is no longer legible; needs replacing
- **Sunshine:** Jeanine Stacy-no report



**OLD BUSINESS:**

- A majority of 17 members present voted AYE on two \$500 donations, one to CLEEF (Camp Lockett Equestrian Event Facility) and second to CRSPIA (Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpretive Association)
- Majority of 17 members present voted AYE on membership dues increase of \$5
- Majority of 17 members present voted AYE to adopt addendum to our Bi-laws
- Annual BBQ at Clark Ranch yielded perfect weather and a great potluck of foods and desserts. Honorary Member, Rene Hajar, was present.
- Fiesta Island beach ride- Laura Precoda, along with a few family members were the only ones there.
- Susan Mena expressed a need for RAFFLE ITEMS at our November 2 fundraiser/poker ride
- Descanso Parade: 11 riders and 9 members, including Miguel Corona our photographer, joined in the fun

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- July 10 meeting, VFW Alpine, 6:30 PM
- July 13 Santa Margarita RIDE in Fallbrook; Trail Boss Jodi Davis • July 24 midweek Mt Laguna RIDE; Trail boss Diana Clark
- Susan Mena reported our club's tax status is updated and all taxes are paid.
- Susan Mena created and shared a new, PVMR letterhead for us to use as needed. Jamie Gassert suggested an available digital copy of the letterhead.
- Prepare for PVMR's TACK SALE October 19 at Renegade parking lot; Set-up starts 7:30 AM, Sell from 9:00 AM-1:00 PM You may use a 10X10 pop up for shade
- Susan Petersen volunteered to head up our 2024 Christmas Party
- Marty Parker shared information/flyer on:
  1. An upcoming desensitizing horse clinic in the Japatul area
  2. An upcoming COWBOY CHALLENGE event put on by the Victorian Roses
- Jodi shared that PVMR will participate in the Pine Valley Days Parade on July 27, 9:00 AM. Parade specifics will come later. Diana Clark will send out dates and information offering additional practice sessions at their ranch for anyone interested in group fun and horse riding experience.

**BRAGS/DRAGS**

- Susan & Bob Petersen are looking to purchase a horse trailer and 3/4 ton truck. Please contact them with sales information.

- Laura Precoda's horse, Annie, is ready for trail riding!
- Marie Culver shared that Skyline Church has an equine group. She rode in Bonita with 4 other riders and had fun!
- Walt Kirkwood announced he has Cedar, Jeffrey and Colter Pines for planting. Call him if interested at 619-993-4523
- Marty Parker shared that her daughter's beloved horse, Nippers, had to be put down.

Adjourned: 7:43 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Diana Clark

**A BIG THANK YOU TO OUR OFFICERS AND MEETING ATTENDEES!**



**PVMR embroidered shirts are available with or without your name added. Contact Susan Mena at 619-997-9138 to order.**

*If you would like to purchase your own long-sleeve denim shirt, you can order from: Fullsource.com, 904-296-2240. Look for Port & Company. Men's shirt #SM-SP10, faded blue, \$20.14 or Ladies shirt item #SM-LSP10, faded blue, \$20.14 (They run small so you may want to size up one size.) Once purchased, give the shirt to Susan Mena so she can send it to the embroiderer.*

**We will wear our long-sleeve denim shirts and green bandanas during the parade!**



### **Volunteer Ride Leader Responsibilities**

1. Check with Trail Boss (Bill O'Brien) on the ride idea.
2. Plan ride: Locate staging area, check for adequate parking, estimate miles and time length of ride, type of ride (easy, moderate, difficult) parking costs, parking permits, decide if members should bring lunches and what to expect on the ride.
3. Submit flyer or email information with clear directions to PVMR Hoof Prints Newsletter editor.  
one to two months ahead and no later than the 25th of the month before the ride.
4. Include your contact number and email on the flyer.
5. Pre-ride the planned trail to validate the timing of the ride and to check trail conditions.
6. Check, again, for adequate parking and email reminder to membership a day or two before.\*
7. Show up early for the scheduled ride to greet riders and help as leader for the day!

\* Get membership names and emails from president (Susan Mena) or membership person. (Jodi Davis)

### **Trail etiquette reminders**

- Check cinch/girth before mounting/during ride
- Keep kickers in back; identify them
- Riders should not pass at a different speed than the gait you are traveling at
  - Let others know when passing and what side you will pass on; choose a clearing
  - Keep at least a horse length back
  - If passing a branch, do not let it swing back into next rider's/next rider's mounts face – can lift it straight up
  - Do not hold onto a branch until you fall off!
  - If you hear a strange noise, turn your horse to face it [with side vision too] which will help the horse identify it and may prevent [the horse] from running off

- Hikers and bikers and vehicles should yield to you but may not: be prepared!
- Put riders with less experience in the middle of the group
- If you need an equipment adjustment, let lead rider know and stop the horses to fix it
- Never tie a horse with the bridle reins and tie only to safe/secure items on trail
- Lead horse should be well-trained
- Lead rider should be experienced and know where they are going
- Lead rider should block the trail with mount if in a safety situation or for tack adjustment while backup rider attends to situation
- Lead rider should alert other riders to gait transition, stops, wildlife, [and] hazards on the trail
- Stallions [are not allowed on PVMR trail rides.]

### ***Advice for crossing a road***

- *If riding on road, ride facing traffic*
- *Wear clothing that is visible*
- *Consider a reflective vest*
- *Have horse acclimated to traffic*
- *If riding in a group, have last rider come to front and stand on the yellow line, blocking road and stopping traffic for others*
- *Have everyone else walk directly across the road*
- *Be prepared for honking, stones flying, etc.*

***<https://horses.extension.org/trail-riding>***

# HOW TO FORM A LIFELONG BOND WITH YOUR HORSE

Studies are suggesting what many of us have known for years; a horse can be our most trusted, loyal companion. However, just like the relationships we develop with our own friends, it rarely happens overnight.

By cultivating genuine love and passion for your horse(s), and then channeling it into certain areas you can build an effective bond quickly between you and your horse. Just remember, your horse is not stupid and will not be tricked into caring, but by showing mutual respect to each other you can grow a bond that lasts a lifetime.

## Easy, essential rules

Straight away there are some basics that you must know in order to gain the respect of, and then bond with, your horse. These basics are the foundations that you build the relationship with your horse upon.

## Leadership

As it is a 'herd animal' your horse is innately drawn towards a group dynamic, which involves a leadership hierarchy. Once you and your horse are together, think of it as a two person herd, with your horse assessing where you stand within the group, if it doesn't see you as its leader, then it will not heed what you say. This is why you need to establish yourself as a leader right away.

Now this doesn't mean establishing dominance through intimidation or fear, that is not the way to build a bond with your horse. Rather you should show your horse that you are capable of being in-charge *and* keeping it safe all whilst making a calm horse your priority.

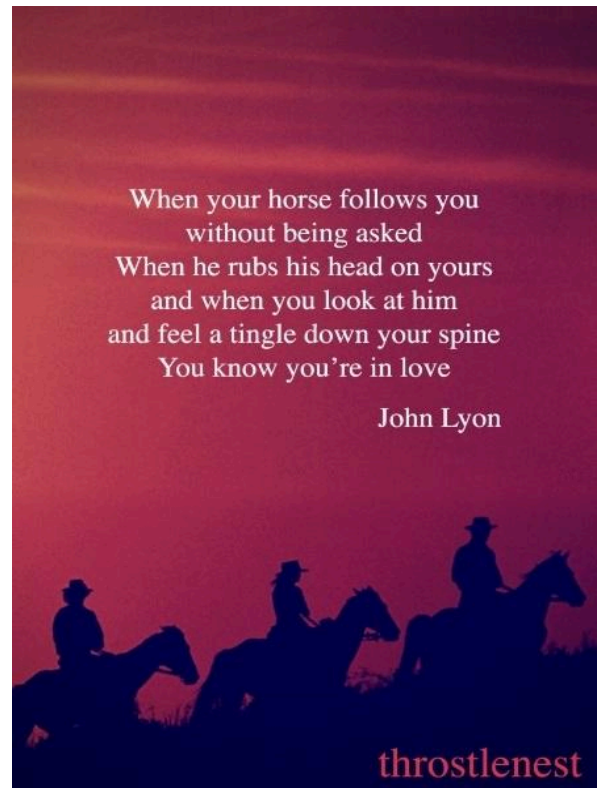
*Walk the walk.* When walking your horse be sure to walk straight and tall – display your comfort and confidence. Your horse will not only look upon you as a leader it may also begin to mimic your body language; confidence breeds confidence!

*Talk the talk.* Though we cannot know for sure it's highly likely that your horse doesn't understand your language and vice versa. What your horse can understand is tone, so the most important language point is how you talk to your horse, rather than what you say. Using a soothing tone and relaxed body language can put your horse at ease which we know encourages bonding.

## Embrace the sounds of silence

For those who are worried that *caring* about their horse might not be enough, reassurance is at hand! Research has suggested that just spending time with your horse helps form a bond between you. Going to see your horse and going to sit with your horse, whether in open air or in the stables, tells him/her that you *want* to be around them for things other than riding and training. It's a natural behavior and is appreciated by the horse as it shows you *want* to be in their company and garners a positive response from the horse. There is no time limit, just spend as much time as you are able to in this situation with your horse – there is no such thing as spending too much time with them (at least not from the horse's perspective!).

If you ever think that you are being boring, just remember that peace and quiet are two of a horse's favorite things. By being there but still letting the horse relax you are actually giving the horse a real treat.





Take a book with you to read and just while away the hours. Be sure to wrap up warm in the chilly autumn and winter months - that goes for your horse too!

Give your horse a toy or two to encourage some quiet bonding between the two of you. There are a few toys a horse will find enjoyable! Simply leave them with your horse whilst you sit doing your own thing (albeit still in your horse's presence).

## Groundwork

Put simply, 'groundwork' consists of exercises you do with your horse where your feet never have to leave the ground. It's a popular, essential training and bonding technique which lets you and your horse become close initially without the need for riding.

Groundwork is usually made up of:

### Leading

Leading will show you how strong the bond between you and your horse has become and how far you have still to go. For example, if you drop the reins and your horse walks away from you as quickly as their legs will carry them, then you aren't quite there yet! If your horse lingers around you, you can see that the bond is progressing well. A popular way of leading and teaching lunges is via the long leading method.



#### Long leading

This is the process of giving your horse more rein to move freely on its own, whilst you still retain overall control. Think of it as how a driving instructor teaches a pupil, they instruct, but the learner drives the car themselves, until a mistake is made and the instructor can correct it. This allows your horse to become more confident in their learning and leaves them more relaxed and calm. It's from here that you can begin to use other methods such as circle work.

### Circle work

Circle work helps you to calm down a nervous horse or will show a dominant horse that you are the one in charge. The basic method with circle work is to stand central and then encourage your horse to walk around you circularly. Calm horses bond faster, so by employing methods such as circle work (a calming influence on your horse), you are helping speed up the bonding process.



### Grooming

Most horses love to be groomed; it shows them that you care and it is a very relaxing process. The tactile nature of grooming encourages a closeness between rider and horse which when developed becomes the lifelong connection often seen in riding partnerships . . .

Source: <https://www.throstenestsaddlery.co.uk>



## *In The Spotlight*



*Descanso Parade June 1. Pine Valley Mountain Riders Parade Participants. See PVMR on Facebook for many more photos.*





***“In The Oaks”  
PVMR BBQ  
Socializing and  
sharing good  
times at the  
Clark Ranch  
June 8. Hosts:  
Diana and Ken  
Clark***





# History of the Cuyamaca Region Part II

## Mexican Rancho Period (Continued)

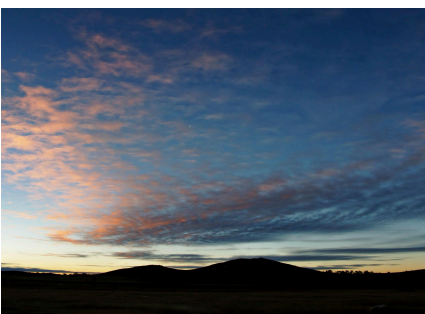
Eight years later, in 1845, Governor Pío Pico granted a “tract known as Cuyamaca [consisting] of 11 leagues, more or less” to his nephew by marriage, Augustín Olvera. Don Olvera, who never resided at his Rancho Cuyamaca, was more interested in exploiting the area’s timber. He sent his agent, Cesario Walker, to manage his affairs at the ranch. Walker lived in an adobe near the Indian village of Mitaragui, on the south side of Green Valley. Although Walker had begun lumbering operations, the local Indians managed to drive him away. Olvera, who would become a prominent figure in Los Angeles (Olvera Street in Downtown Los Angeles is named in his honor), allowed others to graze their cattle in the ranch’s meadows, which was known for its rich pasturage.



In 1846, Governor Pico also granted four leagues of neighboring land to Ramón Osuna, son of San Diego’s Alcalde, Don Juan María Osuna. Located due west of Olvera’s rancho, Rancho Valle de las Viejas, was a broad valley between present-day Alpine and Descanso. However, he was never able to substantiate his claim to the United States Land Commission after California became part of the United States of America.

## American Homesteading/Ranching Period

Olvera too began to have difficulty defending his claim. In 1856 James Ruler Lassator and his stepson, John Mulkins, “purchased” 160 acres of land in Green Valley from a local Indian. The land included the site of Cesario Walker’s adobe at the former Mitaragui Indian ranchería. To hedge off further squatters, in 1869, Olvera began selling off parcels himself. One third of what was left of his 35,501-acre ranch he sold to Isaac Hartman, while he sold the remainder to Samuel Stewart. Stewart later sold one-half of his portion to Robert Allison, one quarter to John Treat, and one-quarter jointly to Allison and Juan Luco. Treat, who homesteaded just south of present-day Cuyamaca Lake, between Middle and Cuyamaca peaks, established the Milk Cattle Ranch, where he raised prized Durham cattle and horses. Together, Treat and Allison operated a sawmill on South Cuyamaca Peak. Robert Allison and his family homesteaded the eastern half of the “Big Guatay Valley” along the Samagatuma Creek, while his son homesteaded the neighboring Samagatuma Valley. Allison, who also raised “a lot of fancy stock” on his ranch, reportedly planted the first ornamental poplar trees in the Guatay/Descanso area. He would go on to become a major land owner in San Diego County, owning most of what is now La Mesa, Spring Valley, and parts of Encanto. Between 1870 and 1884 he and his fellow ranchers Hartmann, Treat, and Luco, were co-defendants in a legal claim against their property. They had allegedly “floated” the boundaries of their land to include the nearby Julian Mining District to claim royalties on gold taken out of their property. The resulting court decision led in favor of the mining district. Only Juan Luco was ordered to disclaim his “right title” and interest to his one quarter section.



**Part III will be in the August Hoof Prints Newsletter.**

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. Jan, 2024  
photos by Michelle Hernandez, Cuyamaca Rancho State Park Interpreter



## Member Notices

**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.

**Susan Petersen** would like to purchase a gently used **endurance saddle** without a saddle horn. Also, she and her horse Galaxy (an 18 yr. old gelding TW, who trailers well) will **need rides** to trail group rides and camp. Susan's phone number is 619-772-8155.

**Marlene Boggiano** would like to buy a **saddle** with a round skirt, no more than 23" long with a wide gullet. 7.5 – 8, Ideally, she would like to find a Tucker Trail Saddle. Email: [marleneb@tbcccorp.com](mailto:marleneb@tbcccorp.com)

**Walt Kirkwood** has Cedar, Jeffrey and Colter Pines for planting. Call him if interested at 619-993-4523

**Sandra Cairncross** knows of a free lease for "Tango" a healthy, older Natl. show horse, about 16 hands. He needs a very experienced rider. Please contact Sandra at 619-944-6546

Consider being a trail boss. If you are interested contact **Susan Mena**.



## Member businesses in our PVMR community



27506 Old HWY 80  
Guatay, CA 91931  
(619) 377-9242  
[scshilltophardware@gmail.com](mailto:scshilltophardware@gmail.com)



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Alana (619) 345-1137

## 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

**PINE VALLEY HOUSE**

**LINE DANCING!**




**ALL Levels Welcome!!!**




*Free Lessons*  
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**Friday 6:30 to 8pm**

Fireside in the PV House Dining Room...



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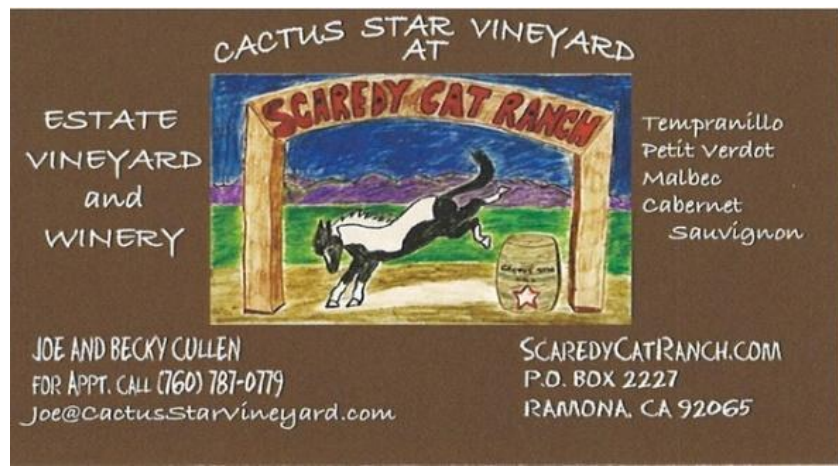
www.RobinsNestRamona.com

16603 John Henry Lane  
 Ramona, CA 92065





<https://www.facebook.com/TBCCCORP>  
<https://youtu.be/OtcZmh1BG5k>



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





