

# Bridle Path News

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June 2007

## Events Committee News

**Old West Poker Ride, Saturday June 16th** -- Join us for a day of fun and card playing! We invite everyone to participate in this event, either on foot or on horseback. If you have Western attire, please wear it! Sign-ups begin at First St. at 9:30 AM. The first ride (or walk) begins at 10 AM on the **secret route**. (Don't worry – you'll get a map!) As you travel the route, you pick your cards at designated stations. The route ends at the starting point where you will turn in your cards to the croupier who will record your hand. Then you can relax and enjoy the no-host BBQ. At the end of the day, the House will announce the winners and give out prizes. ♠♥♦♣

**Bridle Path Homes on Parade, Sunday, June 10 (12noon-4PM)** -- If you are interested in sharing your remodeled home with your neighbors, please contact Kathy Bradford so that she may add you to the tour! (Kathy will place door hangers with a tour map on your door prior to the tour.) For more details see [www.wespoil.com](http://www.wespoil.com) or 805-277-0051.

### Events Scheduled for July:

- Astronomy Night, July 7
- Kids' Scavenger Hunt, details to follow

**The Greater Los Angeles Paint Horse Club** -- proudly announces that the St. Jude Trail Ride raised over \$2,000 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. 24 horses with riders from Bridle Path and neighboring communities participated. Thanks goes to Birgitta "Gita" Glad for taking on the role of Trail Boss and thanks goes to the Kelly family for bringing so many horses and their riders. Everyone enjoyed the ride. The G.L.A. Paint Horse Club is planning an even larger ride for next year. Big Thanks go to Sue Flecok and Bridle Path for a job well done!

*Events Committee News courtesy of Jennifer de la Torre, Sue Flecok, Lee Murray, Nancy Reeves, and Janene White.*

## Arena & Trails Committee News

**Arena Tractor Work Nearly Complete** – No doubt you have noticed the extensive work underway in the Bridle Path arenas. This is the first time in several years that the community has put forth such effort to maintain and preserve some of the assets that make our community unique. This work has made the arenas safer for both horses and their riders. We have a bit more work to do to complete the Meander Round Pen. Thanks go to all those Bridle Path Homeowners who donated their weekends, sweat, and sinew to accomplish these feats.

Work on the following arenas is complete and they are ready to use:

- 1st St. Round Pen
- Middle (Arena #2)
- Gymkhana (Arena #3)
- Dressage
- Jump
- Sunnydale

Thanks go to the Homeowners who supported our efforts, even in small ways such as:

- Being understanding about the temporary loss of use of their favorite arenas.
- Donating bottles of ice-cold water to thirsty workers.
- Waving, smiling, or just saying "Hello".

Many of you got a chance to expose your horses to tractors up close for the first time. It was a good bomb-proofing opportunity.

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### Rattlesnake Warning

One of our residents just reported an encounter with a baby rattler at the corner of Rocking Horse and Meander. It was out in the open on the bridge path. One baby seen usually means there are many more yet unseen. Most of us are not nearly as alert outside the

Mountain Park as we are within. We do not generally expect to run into rattlesnakes on our lawns or on the bridle path in front of our residences. Additionally, there were several sightings of a large rattler(s?) near the bridle path side of the Meander Gate (gate #4) in the last week.

Did you know:

- ...there exists a vaccine for dogs that enables them to better survive a rattlesnake bite? Ask your veterinarian for details.
- ...snakes commonly bite horses on the nose? Unfortunately, horses cannot breathe through their mouths. For specific strategies for helping a horse survive such a strike, consult your veterinarian and/or research your first-aid options on the web. There is a good article by K. Marcella, DVM at [tinyurl.com/2lwknw](http://tinyurl.com/2lwknw)

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### Sand/DG bags Gone for the Season

The season of Flood has once again passed with the arrival of the season of Fire. With the passing of Flood, so have the white woven-plastic bags that protected the bridle path from washing away in torrents of rainwater.

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### Are Those Gnats?

You may have witnessed small clouds of gnat-looking insects hovering around piles of horse manure. What you saw were probably not gnats, but fly-predators. Many horse-owners in Bridle Path purchase and use fly-predators as a means of controlling flies spawned in our semi-agricultural milieu.

Fly-predators are miniature, gnat-sized wasps. They lay their eggs in same media in which flies lay their eggs. As fly larvae pupate (encapsulate themselves inside a cocoon where they grow wings and become adult flies), fly-predator larvae burrow into the pupating fly and consume it from the inside out. Because fly-predators consume flies before they can become egg-laying adults, fly-predators greatly reduce the number of annoying, adult flies.

Fly-predators are stingless, biteless, and seldom, if ever, light upon human skin. They prefer to remain

close to the ground and generally close to their host's food-sources of choice. There are many species of parasitic wasps, and common, commercially available species include *Spalangia cameroni*, *Muscidifurax zaraptor*, and *Muscidifurax raptorellus*.

If any of your horse neighbors have fly-predators, it is likely that they have migrated to your yard, as well.

At least two companies sell fly-predators on the web:

- Arbico [store.arbico-organics.com](http://store.arbico-organics.com)
- Spaulding [www.spaulding-labs.com](http://www.spaulding-labs.com)

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### Clarification Regarding Driveway Hedge Trimming

**Corner lots** -- Hedges may be a maximum of 36 inches within the Traffic Safety Sight Area or TSSA - the area within the right triangle created by connecting the corner with 2 points 45 feet down each curb from the corner. ([tinyurl.com/3d35rp](http://tinyurl.com/3d35rp))

**All other lots** -- May have no hedges more than 42 inches and may have only see-through fences up to 5 ft within the 20 foot setback from your property line.

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### Useful BPHOA Phone Numbers

<b>Jim Pantaleo - President; landscaping, bridlepath</b>	<b>522-0613</b>
<b>Eric Allen - Vice President; newsletter, web site</b>	<b>582-2152</b>
<b>Ken Nies - Treasurer; Architecture Committee Chair</b>	<b>527-0124</b>
<b>Juli Weltsch - Secretary; Mountain Park Chair</b>	<b>823-3099</b>
<b>Russ Pungrchar, Assistant Secretary; CC&amp;R Chair</b>	<b>583-2954</b>
<b>O'Neill Associates, Bookkeeping</b>	<b>522-0292</b>
<b>Simi Valley Code Enforcement</b>	<b>583-6753</b>

"It's easier to push a horse than to pull one."