



## *Los Viajeros Riding Club*

*P.O. Box 620171*

*Woodside, CA 94062*

### Information for Members and Prospective Members

*Los Viajeros* (“The Travelers”) is a non-profit equestrian riding club for adults who live in the San Francisco Bay Area and outlying environs. The primary functions of *LV* are to sponsor organized trail rides for its members and their guests during the spring, summer, and fall of each year and to foster interest in trail riding and the preservation of riding trails and facilities in the Bay Area. Approximately 12 *LV* rides occur each year. Some are one-day local rides, within an hour’s drive of Woodside, CA, whereas others involve significant travel time and overnight camping. Access to a horse trailer and towing vehicle is essential for members and guests. *LV* membership is limited to 70 active equestrians who own or lease a trail-savvy mare or gelding. There are usually a few membership vacancies each year as some less active members rotate to inactive status. Those interested in becoming a *Los Viajeros* member are encouraged to contact someone they know who belongs to *Los Viajeros*, or **Anthony Lazzara**, *LV President*, 707-253-2179. Email: [ajl1037@aol.com](mailto:ajl1037@aol.com)

The best way to become familiar with the *LV Riding Club* is to attend a *Los Viajeros* ride or social function as the guest of an active member.

This brochure is intended to provide members and prospective members with information about our club, including a little of our history and organizational structure, rules for members who are sponsoring a guest, the criteria and procedures for becoming an *LV* member, and *LV* Safety and Courtesy Rules of Trail Riding. A **Membership Application Form** is also attached. For more information, you can

Visit our Web site at **[www.losviajeros.org](http://www.losviajeros.org)**. *LV* members who sponsor guests on rides should familiarize themselves with the information in this brochure, as they are responsible for informing their guests about the trail riding rules of the *LV Riding Club*.

#### **A Little *LV* History and Organizational Structure**

The *Los Viajeros Riding Club* was formally organized in Patroni’s Lunch Room at Princeton-by-the-Bay in 1944, but its actual birth took place in 1941 when a group of horsemen decided to ride from the Mar Vista Stables in San Francisco to Boulder Creek for Boulder Days. Eleven men and women set out for Boulder Creek, riding Skyline Boulevard all the way. They stopped at Billie Condron’s Ranch overnight and made Boulder Creek the second day.

The ride met with such enthusiasm that the participants decided to make it an annual event and extend the riding days to four. In the following years, the number of riders increased, reaching more than 80 members and guests in the late 1940’s. The logistics of moving camp for so many people and horses became unmanageable, and the present format of basing the “Four-Day Ride” at one location was instituted. A detailed account of the first *LV* rides can be found on our Web site at [www.losviajeros.org/firstride.htm](http://www.losviajeros.org/firstride.htm).

*Los Viajeros Riding Club*, now incorporated in Woodside, CA, is still known for its annual Four-Day Ride, which is usually held the third week in June. *LV* also offers day rides as well as multiple-day rides for its members and their guests from March through November. The rides

are structured to insure safety. On most rides we offer a choice of paces in different ride groups, including traditional walk, brisk walk, and walk/trot groups. Because most of our rides are catered, we require reservations that are guaranteed even for no-shows. Cancellations are accepted, however, if a member or guest calls the ride chair before the reservation cut-off date.

*LV* is an all-volunteer organization, with 11 members elected annually to serve as officers and board members. *LV* members plan and coordinate our rides, organize our four annual social events (Sign-Up Night for the 4-day ride in early June, Christmas Party on the second Saturday in December, Business Meeting on the first Saturday in January, and Installation Dinner/Dance on the first Saturday in February), maintain our Web site, and do our accounting. The officers and board members elected to serve in 2000 are listed below. Election of a new *LV* Board of Directors takes place at our annual business meeting.

*LV* has close ties with the Jack Brook Horse Camp in San Mateo County, CA, with many of our members volunteering to maintain trails and make repairs and improvements to the camp and paddock area each year. *LV* also enjoys close ties with several sister equestrian groups in the Woodside area, including the San Mateo County Horseman's Association, the Mounted Patrol of San Mateo County, and the Shack Riders. The variety of riding opportunities in the area surrounding Woodside and within a several hour drive of Woodside is truly amazing. We are fortunate to live in an area with some of the best riding trails in the U.S. and year-round access to many of these trails.

Today, the *Los Viajeros Riding Club* is at or near the maximum number of 70 active members allowed by its By-Laws. Therefore, those interested in riding for membership might have to wait a year or two to be accepted as members. However, sponsored guests are always welcome to join us on our rides.

### **Information for *Los Viajeros* Members**

1. To remain active, members must complete at least eight days of *LV*-sponsored rides during a two-year period.
2. To receive ride credit, *LV* members are required to complete one of the regular group rides (traditional, brisk walk, etc.) on an *LV*-sponsored ride. If for any reason you do not complete the official ride each day, you will not receive a ride credit for that day.
3. You are encouraged to bring guests on *LV*-sponsored rides, and are responsible for informing your guest(s) about the guidelines listed below and about the criteria for membership (see following page) if your guest(s) is riding for membership.
4. Rude or physically threatening behavior by a member toward anyone on *LV*-sponsored rides will not be tolerated.

### **Guidelines for *Los Viajeros* Members Sponsoring Guests**

1. You must accompany your guest on his/her first *LV* ride, and if possible, on subsequent rides. If you are unable to accompany your guest on a subsequent ride, please ask another *LV* member to accompany them.
2. You and your guest **MUST** ride with the traditional-paced group his/her first time out with the club, and you and your guest may be asked to ride with the traditional-paced group on subsequent membership-qualifying rides.

3. Advise your guest of the *Los Viajeros* Safety and Courtesy Rules of the Trail (see attached list.)
4. If you plan to take your guest(s) out alone or with a small group on an *LV* ride, you must obtain permission from the ride organizer in advance due to insurance requirements (preferably the night before on an overnight ride). You should also inform your guest(s) who is riding for membership that this ride will not count as a membership-qualifying ride, and no ride credit will be recorded for you or your guest(s) **unless the ride group consists of three or more people and is approved as a qualifying ride by the LV ride organizer.**
5. To avoid confusion, it is recommended that you make ride reservations for your guest(s). Be aware that you assume financial responsibility for the ride cost if your guest is a "no show".
6. If for any reason your guest must return to the staging area prior to the completion of a ride, you should accompany him/her or find another *LV* member who will accompany your guest back to the staging area.

### **Criteria and Procedures for Becoming a *Los Viajeros Riding Club* Member**

- The *Los Viajeros Riding Club* does not discriminate on the basis of ethnicity, gender, sexual preference, political persuasion, or old age. However, we do discriminate on the basis of horse sense and horsemanship, and we don't allow members or guests who are younger than 21.
- The criteria for membership in the *Los Viajeros Riding Club* include the following:
  1. A reasonable level of horsemanship
  2. A safe gelding or mare that can be controlled by the rider
  3. Good trail manners
  4. Access to a horse trailer and towing vehicle
  5. Compatibility with *LV Riding Club* members
  6. Completion of *all four days of membership-qualifying rides* on an annual Four-Day ride or, alternately, completion of *five full days of membership-qualifying rides* including at least one overnight ride (other than the Four-Day ride) plus a combination of any other *LV*-sponsored rides totaling five days. If you attend the Four-Day ride and for any reason don't complete all four days of membership-qualifying rides, you will not receive ride credits for any of the days ridden.
- If you wish to be considered for membership in the *Los Viajeros Riding Club*, you must declare your interest by filling out the attached **Membership Application Form** and turning it in to your sponsor, who will endorse it and give it to the *LV* Secretary. The Membership Committee, consisting of three *LV* members appointed by the *LV* President, is charged with observing prospective members, their horsemanship, and their horses on membership-qualifying rides. This committee presents a list of qualifying prospective members at the November meeting of the *LV* Board of Directors each year. The full Board discusses each prospective member at that meeting and votes on applicants who have fulfilled all membership requirements. Therefore, it is important to submit your completed membership application form early in a calendar year and to begin attending *LV* rides as the guest of your sponsor early in the year of your application.
- *Los Viajeros* is known for being safety conscious. Being a safe and courteous rider is one of the prerequisites for membership.

- You and your sponsor **MUST** ride with the traditional-paced group your first time out with the club, and you may be asked to ride with the traditional-paced group on subsequent membership qualifying rides.
- When riding for membership, it is your responsibility to follow as closely as possible the *Los Viajeros* Safety and Courtesy Rules of Trail Riding. A list of these rules is attached. Please read them.
- When riding for membership, please ride in the group with your sponsor if at all possible. If your sponsor is not able to ride with you, it is his/her responsibility to find another *LV* member to accompany you on the ride.
- When riding for membership, the more members who observe you, your horse, and your riding abilities, the easier it will be for them to get to know you and your horse. Thus, guests riding for membership should ride in larger groups during membership-qualifying rides to interact with as many *LV* members on the trail as possible.
- When riding for membership, it is recommended that you supply your sponsor with cold beer following each ride and that you volunteer to clean his/her horse as well. Just kidding!

### ***Los Viajeros Riding Club*** **Safety and Courtesy Rules of Trail Riding**

These rules apply to all *LV* members and their guests. Members are responsible for ensuring that their guests read and understand these rules **BEFORE** going on an organized *LV* ride.

1. No stallions are allowed on any *LV*-sponsored ride.
2. No ponying of horses is allowed on any *LV*-sponsored ride.
3. No dogs or other pets are allowed on *LV*-sponsored rides.
4. Check all tack carefully before starting on a trail ride.
5. Appropriate footwear (boots or shoes with heels) and saddles must be used on all *LV* rides. Although not required, helmets are recommended.
6. **FOLLOW ALL INSTRUCTIONS OF THE RIDE ORGANIZER AND TRAIL BOSS** as they are in charge of your trail ride.
7. Never pass the trail boss unless you have his/her permission to pass. The trail boss must be a *Los Viajeros* member and always rides in front of other riders in the group.
8. Never fall behind the drag rider. He/she is appointed by the trail boss of your group or ride organizer and is responsible for maintaining safety and closing gates. The drag rider must be a *Los Viajeros* member.
9. Never purposely separate yourself from other riders in your riding group or drift off the trail.
10. **DO NOT RIDE NOSE TO TAIL.** It may make the horse and rider in front nervous, and could result in a kick. Maintain at least one horse length between horses. Known kickers must wear a red ribbon on their tail. All riders should endeavor to keep their horse up with the group in order to avoid the "rubber band" effect. Try to stay within three to four horse lengths from the horse in front of you. If the lead rider is going too fast for the group, please let him/her know.
11. Be aware of the rider behind you.
12. No member or guest shall ride a horse in a manner that might endanger limb or life of any other person or animal.
13. No loping/cantering or galloping is allowed on *LV* rides, unless it is approved by the trail boss, and then only under very

- limited circumstances, such as when avoiding bees or hornets, etc. in an emergency situation.
14. No rider shall allow his/her mount to stand improperly attended or improperly tied.
  15. Each rider must have proper equipment for tying his/her horse (lead rope and halter), and the horse must be tied short to a substantial tree or post. No hobbling or "ground tying" is allowed on *LV* rides.
  16. No excessive disciplining of horses is allowed on *LV* rides (e.g., spinning). If your horse is misbehaving, take him/her to the back of the group, but stay in front of the drag rider.
  17. Pay attention to your riding and to the trail conditions.
  18. When crossing a road, use common sense. When traffic is present, one or more persons designated by the trail boss are usually asked to block traffic while the group crosses the road. **DO NOT RIDE ACROSS THE ROAD IF THE WHOLE GROUP CAN NOT CROSS WITHOUT A BREAK IN LINE.** Otherwise, the horses left behind may panic when separated from the horse in front of them. Remember that horses are herd animals, have very small brains, and may panic unexpectedly if separated from horses in front, putting you, your horse, and your riding companions in danger.
  19. When a slower-moving bicyclist or hiker is encountered on the trail, and the trail is wide enough to safely accommodate both the ride group and the biker/hiker, alert the riders behind you to form a single-file line and walk slowly past the biker/hiker.
  20. When an oncoming bicyclist, hiker, or runner is encountered on a trail that is too narrow to allow safe passing, ask the biker/hiker/runner to stop and move off the trail to the downhill side, if at all possible, while the riding group passes slowly in single file.
  21. When a biker/runner approaches a ride group from behind and wishes to pass, ride ahead until a safe passing area is found, then stop and let the biker/runner pass.
  22. When another riding group or a group of hikers or bikers is encountered on a trail that is too narrow for safe passing, the horse group riding in the uphill direction has the right of way, in general. The uphill group should retreat to a safe passing place if practical. However, this suggestion is a judgment call and should depend on the number of riders in each group and trail conditions. When a slower riding group is encountered going in the same direction, ask permission to pass if practical, then pass them carefully.
  23. Walk down into gullies or inclines at a safe distance from the horse in front of you. Avoid trotting into or out of gullies/inclines.
  24. When riding uphill, follow a zig-zag course if possible to save the hill and your horse. When you reach the top, keep moving to make room for the horses behind you.
  25. When passing through brush or beneath trees with low limbs, do not grab a branch and then let it go, as the branch might smack the horse or rider behind you.
  26. If your horse balks at crossing a stream, log, or other object, let a more trail-experienced horse and rider cross in front of you, then follow. If this doesn't work after several tries, ask for help.
  27. Call back any trail hazards you see, such as a hole, wire, low branch, knee knocker, car, etc., and make sure the message is passed on.
  28. All riders using a riding trail shall respect the rights of the property owners along the trail and shall not trespass on their property/privacy in any way.
  29. Take care of the trail. Don't cut corners. Stay on the trail unless it is impassable due to a fallen tree, landslide, etc. In that case, follow the trail boss' instructions.

30. Do not litter trails with paper or trash. If you stop for a meal or snack, always leave a clean area.
31. **NO SMOKING WHILE RIDING OR LEADING YOUR HORSE ON THE TRAIL.**
32. Any rider opening a closed gate shall close the gate after passing through it. All other riders in the same group shall pass through the gate, then wait for the gate to be closed by the designated gate closer – typically the drag rider.
33. No rider shall bother livestock encountered along or adjacent to riding trails or when crossing ranch land with permission of the owner.
34. When watering your horse during a ride, let him/her have only a few sips at a time. Please move your horse away from the watering area as soon as possible, but do not ride on until all horses in your group have had a chance to drink.
35. Trailer areas must be clean before leaving, and any campfires must be completely extinguished.
36. **HAVE AN ENJOYABLE AND SAFE RIDE!**

## *Los Viajeros* Membership Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

In the space below, please describe how long you have been riding, the type and level of your riding, a little something about your horse (name, age, breed, etc), and any other riding clubs to which you have belonged.

Riding Experience and Level: \_\_\_\_\_

Type(s) of Riding: \_\_\_\_\_

Description of your horse (name, age, breed): \_\_\_\_\_

Other Riding Clubs to which you belong or have belonged: \_\_\_\_\_

Your Recent Picture  
(required)

Yes, I have received and read a copy of the *Los Viajeros* "Safety and Courtesy Rules of Trail Riding" and "Information For Members and Prospective Members".

Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor's Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_

(Sponsor should submit completed form to *LV* Secretary)

### For Club Use:

Jan.  Feb.  Mar.  April  May  June

July  Aug.  Sept.  Oct.  Nov.  Dec.