

## Equestrians embark on trek



Phil McCarten/Daily News

Ruth Gerson leads Linda Palmer, Kim Fuess and Marcia Harmon on Tuesday during their ride in the Santa Monica Mountains.

# 4 are first to ride Backbone Trail

By Suzan Bibisi  
Daily News Staff Writer

POINT MUGU — Equestrian Linda Palmer packed her saddle bags Tuesday and set off on horseback with three other women on a four-day trek she has wanted to take for 15 years.

The group is the first to ride the 65-mile

Backbone Trail, a 4-foot wide path crisscrossing ridges and valleys in the Santa Monica Mountains that will take them from Point Mugu to Pacific Palisades.

For Palmer, president of the private Santa Monica Mountains Trail Council, saddling up at La Jolla Canyon in Point Mugu State Park was the beginning and end of a quest that began in the 1970s.

*"Dave Brown*  
I got petitions going 15 years ago to significant trail pieces finished," says Palmer, 58, of Calabasas. "It's important for people to have trails to enjoy the outdoors and get a new perspective on life."

The trail, which is owned and operated by the National Park Service and the state

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