



APRIL 15, 2008

President Ginny Rench
Vice President Steve Harris
Secretary Jenny Bellows
Treasurer Fran Whetten
Past President Milt Pate

Board Members:
Joe Williams
Nancy Allbright
Ann Smith
Diane Lovett

ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS On Saturday May 10, the Pates will again host VVHC's Annual Meeting. A slate of officers has been prepared and is as follows:

President	Steve Harris
Vice President	Nancy Allbright
Secretary	Jenny Bellows
Treasurer	Fran Whetten
Directors	Ginny Rench Past President Marlee Vanderbeck Craig Stevens Ann Smith Diane Lovett

A short ride will go out at 9:00 a.m. and return in time for lunch at noon. At 1:00 p.m. the meeting will be called to order during which nominations will be taken from the floor followed by voting.

The club is providing lunch. Riders and non-riders are encouraged to attend this annual important meeting. Please call Ginny at 928-634-9354 before Wednesday May 7th to reserve your spot for lunch and for directions to Pate's.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR DUES? This is the last issue of the Voice of the Horseman you will receive if you have not renewed your membership in VVHC. Please consider continuing to support a great organization that needs you to continue to be a voice in the community. You must fill out an application even if you are a past member. Applications are online at verdehorsemen.org.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS Janet Gabrielson
Jodelle French

THURSDAY RIDE POPULAR On March 13, a Thursday, Ginny Rensch led six riders to Ash Creek from off of Highway 169. They enjoyed lunch by the creek. The riders enjoyed perfect riding weather on this exploratory trip. It was great to have new members joining in the rides. New members Craig Stevens and Marlee Vanderbeck joined Betty Scroggins, Joe Williams, Nancy Allbright and Ginny.

ALCANTARA VINEYARD NOT ACCESSIBLE BY HORSEBACK After doing some pre-riding and checking, it was determined that Alcantara is not accessible from Cornville Road, so this ride was cancelled. Hopefully something can be worked out in the future.

NICE RIDE OFF OF BILL GRAY ROAD SUBSTITUTES FOR ALCANTARA RIDE Beth Blay led only two riders from the corrals off of Bill Gray Road. Three other riders that were expected did not show up. They rode to the tank up the first ravine and then climbed to the top. The views of the Verde Valley and Sedona area as always, were spectacular. They had lunch at the top of the Upper Raptor Trail out of Deadhorse Ranch State Park. They then went down and picked up the Thumper Trail and went on back to the trailers. The weather for the day was perfect with some wind on the return trip – a small price to pay for a very nice day.

ACCIDENT SIDELINES MEMBER Marlee Vanderbeck had an unfortunate accident while riding and suffered a broken leg. We wish her speedy recovery to get back in the saddle and ride!!

IMPORTANT TRAIL INFORMATION Beth Blay recently rode both the Brins Mesa Trail and the Hot Loop off of Jacks Canyon. She advises that Brins Mesa is definitely to be rated a 4 on our difficulty scale. She says the Hot Loop is way past a 4 and not suggested for prudent riders. It is possible to go to Woods Canyon but the trail is quite rocky, possibly a 3.

CONNECTIONS THERAPUTIC RIDING PROGRAM HAS SOME NEEDS Andy and Jordan at Connections are looking for horses for their program. Here is a list of their preferences:

1. Must like people
2. 15H or under
3. 15 years old or under
4. Can neck rein
5. Completely SOUND!

All donations are tax deductible. Andrea is also looking for a mare to personally purchase to breed and use in the program. It needs to be something special because they believe in responsible breeding. It needs to be a registered Paint, Quarter, Arab or TB.

They are also looking for part time barn help. Person needs to be fit and responsible. The position requires about 4 hours in the mornings and additional hours as needed.

Please call 928-639-0791 if you can help.

SHARING THE TRAIL WITH MOUNTAIN BIKE RIDERS Randy Victory, a professional mountain biker, shared some good information regarding augmenting good horse/biker education. One solution to ridding your horse of fright at a mountain bike, or a hiker, is to get an old bike and put a stuffed “rider “ on it outfitted with a helmet, of course. Put this in the middle of the horse’s corral or pasture. Also would be good to put a hiker with a huge orange backpack alongside the biker.

Randy tells other bike riders that nothing beats being polite on the trail, and even pet the horse if the rider says it’s ok. Next time the horse meets a mountain bike he will remember they aren’t so bad after all. This kind of education can build the kind of goodwill that is priceless. Horsebackers, take note – this can work both ways. Be polite and thoughtful on the trail. There is a great DVD available regarding trail etiquette.

ANY MEMBERS WHO CAN’T MAKE SATURDAY RIDES or want to ride other days, we have a group that meets regularly during the week to ride. Contact Fran Whetten at 928-634-6495 or Ginny Rench at 928-634-9354 to find out when and where they are going. This group usually emails back and forth and would be glad to add you on. These rides are not official club rides and often are exploratory.

AND THE SADDLES FIT PERFECTLY TOO -----

Two 90- year- old women , Rose and Barb, had been friends most of their lives.

When it was clear that Rose was dying, Barb visited her every day. One day Barb said, “Rose, we both loved riding horses all our lives. Please do me one favor. When you get to Heaven, somehow you must let me know if there’s horseback riding there.”

Rose looked up at Barb from her deathbed and said, “Barb, you’ve been my best friend for many years. If it’s at all possible, I’ll do this favor for you.” Shortly after that Rose passed on.

At midnight a few nights later, Barb was awakened from a sound sleep by a blinding flash of white light and a voice calling out to her, “Barb, Barb.”

“Who is it?” asked Barb, sitting up suddenly. “Who is it?” “Barb, it’s me, Rose.” “You’re not Rose. Rose just died.”

“I’m telling you, it’s me, Rose,” insisted the voice. “Rose, where are you?”

“In Heaven,” replied Rose. “I have some really good news and a little bad news.”

“Tell me the good news first,” said Barb.

“The good news,” Rose said, “is that there’s horseback riding in Heaven. Better yet, all of our old buddies who died before us are here too. Better than that we’re all young again. Better still, it’s always springtime and it never rains or snows. And we can ride all we want, and we never get tired. Best of all...our old horses are all here too, young and strong and beautiful as ever.”

“That’s fantastic,” said Barb. “It’s beyond my wildest dreams! So what’s the bad news?”

“You’re scheduled to lead the trail ride up here next Tuesday.”

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- APRIL 19 Annual Groom Creek Horse Camp cleanup. This facility, just outside of Prescott, is a valuable asset for horsemen all over Arizona. VVHC did a lot in getting it established. There is a lot of work to be done. Call Steve Rench for details, 928-634-9354.
- APRIL 19 Future Hope Equestrian Schooling Show Series. Wide variety of classes offered. Shows will be held at the Cottonwood Equestrian and Animal Event Center at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds. Call Ann Smith for Show premium and information 928-301-7588.
- MAY 1 A Thursday ride. Ann Smith will lead from Future Hope Equestrian. Be in the saddle to ride at 10:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. For more Information and directions call Ann at 928-301-7588.
- MAY 4 A Sunday ride. Call Eric Eberhard of CAAHA at 928-567-9577 for time and place.
- MAY 10 VVHC Annual Meeting and Election of Officers. See article on front page for details.
- MAY 17 A Thursday ride. Ride from the Deerpass Trailhead. Be ready to ride at 9:30. You should have a Red Rock pass. Connie Koff will lead. Call her for more information and directions 928-300-7523.
- May 17 Future Hope Equestrian Schooling Show Series. Wide variety of classes offered. Show will be held at the Cottonwood Equestrian and Animal Event Center at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds. Call Ann Smith for Show premium and information 928-302-7588.
- MAY 30 TO JUNE 1 Fund raiser ride for the Yavapai County Animal Disaster group at Groom Creek Horse Camp. A donation of \$120 per person includes 5 meals starting Friday evening. 3 days of riding and souvenir gifts. Non-riders \$50. Day riders are welcome. Make donations upon arrival. For further details call Spike Hicks at 928-778-1833 or Charlie Westbury at 928-710-5053.
- JUNE 5 A Thursday ride. Meet at the gravel pit off of Cornville Road. Be Ready to ride at 9:30. Call Nancy at 928-634-0952 for details.
- JUNE 7 Equifest sponsored by Olsen's Grain, at the old Rodeo Grounds In Prescott.

We are putting events on the schedule as far ahead as possible so they can be put on your calendar. If special events come up or you need reminding, we will email all of those with email and call others. Please remember to check your email for our messages.