



VERDE VALLEY HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL
VOICE of the HORSEMAN
RESURRECT THE WEST

AUGUST 15, 2008

President Steve Harris
Vice President Nancy Allbright
Secretary Jenny Bellows
Treasurer Ginny Rench
Past President Fran Whetten

Board Members:
Craig Stevens
Marlee Vanderbeck
Ann Smith
Diane Lovett

BOARD MEETINGS ON A SET SCHEDULE. At their recent meeting, the Board of Directors voted to have a set time for Board meetings so members could plan ahead. The meetings will be held bi-monthly on the first Tuesday of the month. Time is 6:30 p.m. and the place will be Evelyn's Kitchen at 202 North Main Street in Cottonwood. Any member is welcome to attend the Board meetings. Thoughtful input is always welcome, or just come to be informed. The next meeting will be October 7, 2008.

BOARD DISCUSSES ISSUES ON HORSE ABUSE. The Board agreed that any type of horse abuse will not be tolerated on VVHC rides. Opinion on horse abuse is subjective, but the Board will instruct all trail bosses in their greeting before starting the ride to advise anyone if they are having trouble controlling their horse in any way, to ask for help. It will be up to the trail boss on that ride to take control and speak up if he/she thinks a horse is being abused.

MONEY RAISING OPTIONS. VVHC has not had a money raiser for two or three years. Several ideas were presented, along with the opinion that the new Equestrian Center in Cottonwood is not being fully utilized. With full knowledge that it will take a lot of volunteers and time, it was decided to present the idea of a Verde Valley Horsemen Festival to be held at the Equestrian Center. Ideas along the lines of Equifest in Prescott or Day in the West at Rawhide were discussed. It was decided to throw the idea out to the membership for opinions and ideas of what could be included. Please, take the time to contact any Board member with your opinion. They need your help!!!

JUNE CULTURAL PARK RIDE As usual a beautiful ride with six riders, one a guest. Comments were that starting the ride at an early hour in the summer is a great way to go – cool to start, back before it's too hot.

JULY 4 GOOD FOOD – GOOD PEOPLE. The joint VVHC and CAAHC party on July 4th at the home of Steve and Ginny Rensch brought approximately 25 members of both clubs together. The weather gods were very good to them and rain didn't spoil the outdoor gathering and the cooler temperatures were much appreciated.

Potlucks always produce a great variety of dishes and this evening was no exception. There was plenty for everyone to choose from and they all went well with the burgers and dogs prepared on the grill.

Some of the members stayed around to watch the fireworks that the City of Cottonwood sponsored at the fairgrounds.

THE BILL GREY ROAD RIDE was sparsely attended, but enjoyed by three riders that left the old "cattle pens" at 7:00 a.m. on a clear, warm morning, not too hot. They rode a portion of the lime Kiln Trail; saw a large buck and lots of rabbits. The ride took about 2 ½ hours, just long enough before it got too hot.

HAPPY WANDERERS RIDE AGAIN. The midweek ride for the Happy Wanderers took 5 riders on the Woodchute Trail on Mingus. The 3 members had 2 guests, neither of whom had ridden the trail before and it's always nice to take someone new along. There is down timber along the trail but it's still very passable. The smoke from the Crown King fire spoiled the view some but it was still a nice ride.

GRIEF HILL TRAILHEAD RIDE. August 9th Elaine McCants took eight riders in a rough figure eight ride from the trailhead. All agreed it was a great ride. When they came upon one of the markers for the Sheep Trail, Fran Whetten filled everyone in on the history of that trail and the efforts to re-establish it now.

Natural Horsemanship Group Forming

After talking about this for quite some time, we're finally officially meeting in the Cottonwood area. As of this week we are planning on our first meeting on Tuesday, August 12th at 6 p.m.; we'll also meet Thursday mornings at 7:00 to practice natural horsemanship techniques. The group will plan about 1 ½ hours to work on various things depending on our skill levels.

Our newest VVCH member, Terri Eagan is boarding her horses at River Run Ranch in Bridgeport and the owner has offered for us to use her facility. We will primarily be using techniques of Pat & Linda Parelli to do both ground work and riding training. Terri is currently working on her Level 3 with Parelli, and another member of our group, Lin Johnson is working on Level 4. Whether you're Parelli, Anderdon, Lyons or some other "natural horsemanship" student please join us.

We have all levels of riders and horses and we are there to support each other as we become better riders and trainers. If you're interested in joining us or learning more please call Ginny at 634-9354

Message from the past president; wow that sounds good.

First off, I want to thank all of the officers and board members that served with me last year; you were all so great to work with and always supportive. My thanks to Steve Harris and Nancy Allbright for stepping up to assume the leadership roles this year as president and vice president. I know they'll do a wonderful job and bring some new ideas to the club.

Longtime board members Joe Williams and Milt Pate stepped down this year after serving the club for several years. You guys were always there for whatever needed to be done, thank you. We now have two brand new members who have not only just joined the club but have agreed to serve on the board, thanks to Marlee Vanderbeck and Craig Stevens.

Secretary Jenny Bellows could always be counted on to have the minutes ready as could our treasurer, Fran Whettern with the financial records. Board member Ann Smith played an important role in coordinating joint activities with the CAAHA and VVHC. Last, but certainly not the least, is a huge thank you to Diane Lovett for taking over the newsletter and doing a great job with it.

Thank you too, for the gift certificate to the Cowboy Shop; it's always so much fun to shop with someone else's money.

See ya on the trail,
Ginny Rench

APPLESAUCE TO THE RESCUE

When traveling or camping with your horse, take a long a few snack-size sealed containers of applesauce in your first-aid or camp kit. Then if you ever need to give your horse medication orally you can mix it with the applesauce and then add it to his grain or administer it orally with a syringe. The same goes for pills or boluses if you can crush them first or dissolve them in a little warm water. The smaller the particles, the better they'll cling to grain and the more readily your horse will eat them.

VVHC Presidents message,

I am actually looking forward to leading the Verde Valley Horseman's council for the next year and see what we can accomplish. I would like to see what all events we can get started at the Animal event Center at the fairgrounds. One idea that I have started working on is to have an event for the National Day of the Cowboy, which will be the fourth Saturday of July 2009.

We will continue to schedule at least one trail ride per month that will be open to all members and their guests. We have so many beautiful places to ride here in the Verde Valley that I will hope to share it with new people who are sure to come in to the Valley in next year.

If any of you have any ideas that you would like to see the council work on feel free to contact me at info@cowboyschool.com

Steve Harris

Did You Know?

A horse's front legs support two-thirds of its body weight?

Milk hair is the term used for a foal's soft, wool-like coat.

There are over 350 different breeds of horses and ponies.

Horses often reach 80 percent of their height in the first year of life.

A foal's very long legs are nearly the length they will be when the foal reaches adulthood.

The placement of the eyes on the sides of the head allows the horse to have almost panoramic vision with only two small blind spots—directly ahead and directly behind.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- SEPTEMBER 13 Lime Kiln Trail from Sheepshead Tank. Ride a different section of the Lime Kiln. In the saddle ready to ride at 7:00 a.m. Call Steve Harris at 928-639-3089 for information and to tell him you are coming. RATED A 2 ½. ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS CALL THE TRAIL BOSS.
- OCTOBER 7 VVHC Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m. at Evelyn's Kitchen, 202 North Main Street in Cottonwood.
- OCTOBER 18 Trail Trials in Wickenburg – see enclosed flyer.
- OCTOBER 25 Cultural Park Color Ride. Ride this beautiful Sedona area when the fall colors are on the trees. In the saddle ready to ride at 8:30 a.m. Bring your lunch for lunch in the red rocks. Call Craig Stevens at 928-639-1867 for information and to tell him you are coming. ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS CALL THE TRAIL BOSS.
- NOVEMBER 15 VVHC annual holiday dinner ride. Ride through beautiful Copper Canyon to the top for a delicious "Saddlebag Turkey Dinner". Think carefully how you can put pumpkin pie, mashed potatoes, dressing, gravy, salad, rolls and butter, into your saddlebags. It can be and has been done. The club will furnish the turkey, plates, napkins, silver and drinks. You must decide which of the above you will bring as your share of the potluck. Hot things should be in thermos, cold iced. Be in the saddle ready to ride at 9:00 a.m. RATED A 2 ½. Non-riders welcome, just remember your potluck contribution. Be sure to call the trail boss, Steve Harris at 928-639-3089 for directions and what you will bring by Nov. 12. ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS CALL THE TRAIL BOSS.

ATTENTION TRAIL BOSSES It is extremely important that you have a "Ride Release Form" with you when you lead a ride. Everyone on the ride must sign it. It is on our website at verdehorsemen.org and can be downloaded from there.

ANY MEMBER 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.

YAVAPAI COUNTY DISASTER SERVICES WORK LANE 2 FIRE - The disaster teams were alerted by Yavapai County as soon as it was known there would be evacuations from the fire. Club members Milt and Gail Pate responded and spent several days helping staff the disaster center. The center ran three 8-hour shifts per day, manned by 2 to 3 people each shift. During the course of the fire they handled 15 dogs and cats. There were no horses rescued at this fire. One of the animals was diabetic and required insulin shots two times a day. During the Rodeo/Chedeski fire several years ago they handled 49 cats, 39 dogs, 7 horses, 2 birds and a bowl of goldfish. The officials of Disaster Services felt that the volunteers at the Lane 2 fire did a tremendous job and they were highly successful in their efforts.

Disaster Services cannot emphasize enough the necessity of being prepared if you live in an area that is susceptible to wild fire. **FOR EACH ANIMAL** you should have a kit packed that contains all-important information regarding the animal, a picture of you with the animal, any special medications or diet needs of the animal. Put in a favorite toy and blanket. The horses should each have a halter and lead one-half the normal length, and with your name and address on the halter. They too should have packed any special needs like meds, feed, etc. And remember – **NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THEM!!**

If you feel you could help in this effort, they are looking for good volunteers. This means when you get the call you waste no time getting to your car and getting to where you are needed. Extra clothes, overnight kit, etc. should be packed and in your trunk. If you are interested, call Nancy Vargas at 928-771-8736 or call and talk to Milt or Gail at 928-567-6378.

NEWS FROM AN OLD MEMBER. Jean Clark, long time VVHC member, was going through some old files and sent some information from newspapers and newsletters dated 1987 and 1988 on work VVHC was doing on local trails. She also included an article she wrote “14 Horsemen’s Groups Mark Verde Valley as Horse Country”. Her opening line is “Fourteen horse organizations call the Verde Valley home –“. Today that number is considerably less. VVHC is one of the oldest still remaining. Fran Whetten is listed as vigorously working on the Sheep Trail in 1987 and 1988 and Fran is still vigorously working on the Sheep Trail – VVHC has worked on the Sheep Trail for many years. All of those still involved hope that some day their efforts will be recognized by a wonderful trail that stretches from Phoenix to Flagstaff and is rich in the history of our state.

Jean says she wishes she were 80 again and could come ride with VVHC . She is now 91 and doing pretty well. Jean and husband Jim were loyal members of VVHC for many years and were responsible for maintaining a viable and vigorous club in the Verde Valley and Arizona. Jean now lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico. Anyone wanting to see the articles, contact Diane at 634-2767 or lovett@commspeed.net.

HOME MADE FLY SPRAY.

1-gallon jug
1 oz. Citronella Oil (Now brand)
32 oz. Apple Cider vinegar (not apple flavored-use the real stuff)
16 oz. Dawn dish washing liquid detergent
12 oz. Avon Skin-So-Soft bath oil

Fill the balance of the jug with water and always shake well!!!

Barefoot Trimming Clinic

On July 26th Steve and I attended an all day clinic in Parks presented by Dr. Tomas Teskey, DVM entitled "Exploring the Natural Hoof Care Advantage". This was the first clinic on this subject that we had ever attended and it was an excellent presentation.

Dr. Teskey started the morning off with a power point presentation along with his lecture about the anatomy and physiology of the hoof. He spoke about the skeletons of young horses being like plastic and talked about how horses that are around 1 ½ are too young to be racing or used as riding horses.

For horses to be healthy mentally and physically they need a lot of room. They are grazers and their digestion system is designed for them to eat grass at ground level and be able to move around while they're eating. Their hooves need movement to pump the blood throughout; having shoes on actually causes their hooves to become desensitized.

When a horse is always kept in shoes their hooves can't exfoliate and their heels can become contracted.

Unless you're working your animals very hard feed them for what you do; in other words, most equines would be much healthier if not fed alfalfa and molasses on a daily basis. Most of us keep our horse and mules too fat, and this is unhealthy as well.

In the afternoon Dr. Teskey had a fresh horse leg and hoof off an animal that he had euthanized that he totally dissected. He started with nippers cutting away the hoof wall and gave us all very detailed look at what our horses are actually standing on and how it all works.

Dr. Teskey lives off of the Dugas Road and I-17 and is a practicing veterinarian. For anyone interested in making the transition from shoeing your equine to having them go barefoot what Dr. Teskey told the group of roughly 30 people is that Natural Hoof Care goes hand-in-hand with Natural Horsemanship. If you're interested in knowing more about him there is information on the internet just type in Tomas Teskey, DVM.

Submitted by Ginny Rench

**SIXTH ANNUAL VULTURE PEAK TRAIL TRIALS
OCTOBER 18, 2008**

Are you and your horse in a rut? Trying to save money on gas? Staying home and riding the same trails? Why not come and join us in Wickenburg on October 18th for a fun day of riding, meeting new friends and maybe winning top place?

All it takes is a little bit of gas and about an hour or two drive. Another great thing is that the entry fee for our event is only \$55.00 for adults and seniors and \$50.00 for juniors. A much lower cost than you can expect these days. Lunch is included in your entry fee so you don't have to worry about lugging that cooler along.

We have a large awards program that includes saddlebags, bridles, halters and leads, etc., not just ribbons. Each Division is awarded plaques through sixth place.

The course is ten miles long with six judges positioned along the trail. Each judge will have a different obstacle challenge for you and your horse. There are a lot of sand washes, hills and climbing. Please condition your horse.

Horse water is provided at the staging area and half way through the course. This is not a timed event. There is no jumping or running. It is ridden at a walk. You must be on the course by 9:00 a.m. If your horse walks slowly you should leave by 8:00 a.m. Rider check-in begins at 7:50 a.m.

What to bring along: A wristwatch and a hat are a must. No dogs please. If you must bring your dog, please keep it in a kennel or tied securely. There is very little shade. You will need to be finished and back to lunch no later than 12:30 p.m.

Entry information: Call Barb Kriel at 928-684-7736 or you can email rdtmtto@commspeed.net. You can visit our website for photos of our trails and information at www.vulturepeakfieldtrials.freesevers.com.

C.C. Callaway – As he penned the past in ‘rime’

*In the eighties I started riding with John Hicks,
Henry Wingfield and old Bill Dick.*

*Bill was the leading cowboy of the west
I was a tender foot but was only doing my best.*

*The range was wide open and free to roam
With tent and slicker we were at home.*

*Where we found water for horse and man
We baked the bread and opened the can.*

*With other punchers, Charles Harbeson and Morris
We were ranging on the Mogollon forest.*

*Later John Bristow came on the scene
He baked the bread and I warmed the beans.*

*Charley Wingfield was always called the Kid
When there was work on the farm he always hid.*

*But out on the range he went with speed
And if riding old Croppy he was in the lead.*

*During the drouth and Depression many herds were
sold*

And the moss covered punchers had gotten too old.

*Then Ed, Bill and Frank came on the drive
With this younger generation things began to thrive.*

*We shipped the herd in ninety-eight
They went to Kansas clear out of the state.*

*It lightened the grazing and we had better feed
And better still they improved the breed.*

*Some of the best business men of the western land
Once were cowboys that handled the brand.*

*Some have passed on to another range
Spirit never dies they have just made a change.*

*With range allotments and better prices for cattle
The cowboy of today hasn't got such a battle.*

*Handling and marketing has changed all around
His stock is now fattened and sold by the pound.*

*The Hollywood cowboy with guns ablaze
Is not the puncher of the early days.*

*He is imitating the outlaw of the mining town
Where opposing factions were often found.*

*The early punchers always ready for the round up
call*

And worked together for the benefit of all.

*We still have a feeling that will depart
To all those old punchers, down in our hearts.*

VOICE OF THE HORSEMAN
VVVHC
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**COME RIDE WITH US IN 2008
& Bring a Friend**

