



Newsletter for January - February, 2007

Website: www.verdehorsemen.org

Prepared by Ginny Rench

*President Jenny Bellow, 301-3015;
Vice President Steve Rench, 634-9354;
Secretary Denise Sciarrotta, 649-6151;
Treasurer Fran Whetten, 634-6495
Board Members: Milt Pate,
Joe Williams, Nancy Albright and
Steve Harris and
past president is Ginny Rench*

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2007



Top story for the club this year is the grand opening of the Cottonwood Equestrian & Animal Event Center. The dedication ceremony and ribbon cutting took place on December 16th. The Rio Verde Roverett Drill Team pleased the crowd with a beautiful demonstration and posting of the colors. Participants came from around the state to try their luck at the ladies breakaway roping and a 4-D barrel race competition. The tack swap meet was a big success; there were many club members in attendance and there are lots of pictures on the club's website taken by our webmaster, Diane Joens. The local newspapers gave us wonderful coverage. All of our members should be very proud

of the \$5000.00 contribution we made to this facility to help make it a reality.

Ginny Rench applied for an \$8500.00 grant from the Arizona Horse Lovers Foundation on behalf of the Equestrian Center and the club received the check this past week. No decisions have been made as to how to spend this money, the current wish list includes a warm up or practice arena, a new sound system, more dirt to finish off the footing in the arena and a piece of equipment to keep the footing worked up.

Anyone interested in scheduling an event should call Hez Allen at (928)639-3200; Hez is the events coordinator for the City of Cottonwood.

High lights of the December 28th board meeting:

Meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m.

Present were: President Jenny Bellows; Secretary Denise Sciarrotta; Past President Ginny Rench; Board Members Joe Williams and Nancy Albright; club members Diane Lovett, Steve Rench and Lyn Harris.

Minutes from September 15th meeting were read and accepted with 2 corrections
Treasurer's Report was not available in its entirety, we have approximately \$2600.00 in our checking account and \$1000.00 set aside in savings for the Copper Canyon Trailhead.

New Business

The Forest Service presented the club with a certificate of appreciation for its contribution to preserving the Lime Kiln trail. Members Diane Lovett and Fran Whetten are the two members who really deserve the credit for their years of commitment on this project.

The Board discussed ways of increasing our membership, by polling present and past members, and what there interests are. We also talked about expanding the kind of activities that the club would present and sponsor.

The coming year of 2007 is an exciting one for Verde Valley Horseman's Council:

Mission Statement for 2007

"To expand the scope of equine activity in the greater Verde Valley, to include Horse Clinics; Horse/Mule Shows; Gymkhanas; and Equestrian events of all kinds in addition to trail preservation."

Action items:

Diane Lovett & Steve Harris will contact the newspapers about submitting a "horse column" on a regular basis. Years ago the club did have regular articles of interest to the equestrian world in the paper and this would be another way to reach out to prospective new members. Other members would be welcome to work with them once the details are worked out.

Joe Williams, Steve Rench and Jenny Bellows will clean out, consolidate and inventory items in the storage shed and then move all salvageable items over to Gail and Milt Pates. The Pates have stored the jumps and trail course obstacles for several years.

President Jenny will be writing a membership letter to go to an enlarged data base, with the help of Diane Lovett.

The Board voted Steve Rench in as Vice President.

The next Board Meeting will be on Wednesday Feb. 7th at 6:30 at President Jenny's house.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:45.

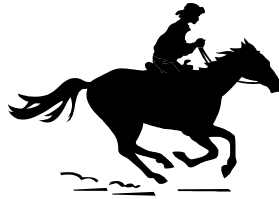
Minutes submitted by Denise Sciarrotta

DUES ARE DUE NOW FOR 2007

Included in this issue: Membership application Letter from President Jenny Bellows.

Longtime club member Jimmie Hunt recently passed away. All of us that knew her will remember seeing her driving her big wheeled cart at club activities.

UPCOMING RIDES & ACTIVIES



January 13 , 2007 Happy New Year Everyone! Come join us for good riding, good company, good food, and darn good fun! We're riding to Crusty's Italian Restaurant for lunch. We will plan on being in the saddle at 9:30. We'll arrive @ Crusty's @ the junction of I-17 and Cornville Rd around noon. We have permission to tie our mounts to stalls at the back of the property while we have a leisurely lunch. Everyone is responsible for their own cost of lunch; cash or credit card is accepted. This ride is open to non members too. We do ask that riders be experienced and young riders are welcome with an adult. Trail rating is a #3 meaning typical grades and rougher terrain along with sandy washes and a few minor obstacles. Please refer to website for trail rules. For inquires, reservations, and meeting place contact Chris Bromley @ 928-649-5811 or 928-821-2413. Visit the club website at: <http://www.verdehorsemen.org> .You have to call Chris to find out where the staging area is.

February 24th – Steve Rench will lead a trail ride from Dead Horse State Park. We'll plan on being in the saddle at 9:30 and back at the park around noon for a potluck lunch. This will be an easy ride and riders are welcome to go back out after lunch if they'd like. Non riders can sure come join us for lunch, just bring a potluck dish to share. Remember to call Steve at 634-9354 and let him know that you're coming.



Other Items of Interest

After changing the date of the ride a few times, thanks for your patience, we finally all got together for the S trail ride in Sedona. If you wanted to go and weren't able to make it feel free to call on me and we could go another time. Seven of us traveled up Sheurman Mountain and enjoyed a scenic, quiet ride.

We did have one incident, luckily only minor, just a bruise and soreness from a tree that decided to get in the way! Also a camera was lost but it was a disposable camera so the cost wasn't too bad! Except that Russ lost his photography position! I had to fire him. Thanks for the ride it was most enjoyable.

Chris & Russ Bromley

TRAIL NEWS re: THE KACHINA TRAIL SYSTEM aka THE K TRAILS

Having been in contact with the forest service I am pleased to present everyone with this information. As of 10/18/06 William Stafford, Recreation, Trails and Wilderness Staff Officer of the Red Rock Ranger district has sent me the following information.

Hi Christine,

We have authorization to place the trails on the FS System(that is the lettered trails A,L,P etc.). We also have a small bond we can cash to repair the trails into a condition to bring them onto the system. The bond is only for \$5,000 so we can't do much although we hope to use our SWECO (a small bull dozer like trail machine), to fix the trails. You can adopt a trail by working with our volunteer coordinator Justin Loxley or join the Friends of the Forest. It is probably best for you to join the FOF to learn trail maintenance (it gets a little complicated) and then branch out to adopting a trail. Thanks for your help!

Anyone interested in contacting William Stafford can do so at: wstafford@fs.fed.us or by calling him at 928-282-4119 or 928-203-7529.

If interested in Friends of the Forest contact Chuck Jenkins, the President, at cjenkins@npgcable.com

Regards, Christine Bromley VVHC member

November 11th - Many thanks to Joe Williams and Betty Scroggins for hosting the Sycamore Canyon ride. Riders were treated to hot chicken and all of the fixin's at the lunch break. We had Joe and Betty's granddaughter's along and what a treat to have some young people riding with the club again.

Verde Valley Horseman's Council (VVHC)
Membership Invitation
January 2007

The Verde Valley Horseman's Council has been in the Verde Valley for 25 years and been involved in activities over the years such as finding and mapping, thus preserving historic trails, presenting horse and mule shows, equine clinics, and most recently supported the new Equestrian and Animal Event Center at the Verde Valley Fairgrounds in Cottonwood. This brand new facility has a large arena with potential for a second warm up arena.

Recently the Council has focused on trail rides all over the greater Verde Valley. We have many members whom have been with the council over 10 years and a few for 25 years. I am requesting that anyone whom has a favorite ride in the area to write a brief description of the location from a main road, the parking location, a description of the trail, difficulty, terrain, and special features, and perhaps a personal experience you had on the trail. Try to be as specific as possible, especially how to get there and if there is parking for more than one rig, do you need a 4 wheel drive truck to get there, about how many miles over rough road. Submit as many as you like. This could be published for our personal use or potentially as a well respected manual (Favorite Rides of the Verde Valley Horseman's Council) for equestrians near and far.

The Council is looking for new and old ACTIVE members; teens and young folks welcome. Riders and non-riders alike are welcome to join the council. Organizing and staffing events, getting news letters out, etc., are great ways for non-riders to participate. We have the potential of providing and supporting many equestrian events and we need members to play at horsing around in the follow ways.

- Annual horse and mule show
- Gymkhana events
- Equestrian clinics
- Training clinics
- Trail development and preservation
- Annual Monument Valley ride

This past October we had a gorgeous ride to Havasupi Falls. **All we need are interested enthusiastic, good natured members and possibilities become reality.**

Contact Jenny Bellows with your interest in one or more of the above activities. Email @ jennysuecw@hotmail.com, or write 450 S. Happy Trail, Cottonwood, AZ. 86326.

Jenny Bellows
VVHC President

COME RIDE WITH US IN 2007 & Bring a Friend



VVHC
P. O. BOX 1597
Camp Verde, AZ 86322