



APRIL 15, 2009

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**WHEN I WAS 10 MY PARENTS BOUGHT ME A 13'2" PINTO PONY NAMED TRIXIE AND I HAVE TO SAY IT CHANGED MY LIFE.** Acting Secretary Ann Smith grew up in Northern New York on a farm with city folks who wanted to move to the country. My Mom and Dad were both music teachers, so you can imagine that our home was filled with music wherever we went. When I was ten my parents bought me a 13'2" pinto pony named Trixie and I have to say it changed my life. Before that I rode stick horses and was really glad to give them up! Trixie and the saddle cost \$250.00.

Through my school years I raised two foals from Trixie. The first one, Apache, was a surprise. One day we had one set of ears in the pasture and the next day two! It took me about a week to catch them and then we were off. We fixed a stall in the barn so I could go riding and leave the little guy home. In High School my parents bought me a half Arabian Saddle bred mare named Tammy who gave me a good education in a horse that didn't want to load in a trailer. When I went to college I sold the two shortest ponies and kept two horses. After a year of college I got married and after a year or so had to part with my other two. Somehow they didn't fit in the budget and the Grandparents didn't think too well of me keeping the horses and finding homes for the children.

After a number of horseless years we moved to Arizona and eventually I went to work at Oasis Arabians for Dr. Allen and Donna Clemenger. Those were wonderful years of learning, training, foaling, breeding, you name it, and we did it. I had a knee injury that also changed my life and now that I'm older I'd rather walk than ride. The highlight of my Oasis career was training, riding and showing VooDoo for the owners. We showed hunter, dressage and a little saddle seat. After all, if you have an outfit and a saddle you need to use it. When Oasis sold I continued with my business, Future Hope Equestrian ([www.FutureHopeEquestrian.com](http://www.FutureHopeEquestrian.com)) which I am currently doing with Danielle Keesey. We do riding, training, boarding, lessons and anything else that people need done (well, almost). We always have openings in these areas. Also, another area of expertise for me has been working with gaited horses.

I'm also involved with the Central Arizona Arabian Horse Association ([www.caaha.org](http://www.caaha.org)). I especially enjoy

working with children and helping people become comfortable with their own horses.

**ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTION OF OFFICERS.** The annual membership meeting and election of officers will be held on Saturday May 2, 2009 at the home of Gail and Milt Pate in Middle Verde. There will be a short ride – be in the saddle ready to ride at 9:00 a.m. The ride will be back by noon for lunch and the meeting and election of officers will start after lunch or around 1:00 p.m. The proposed slate of officers and board members is: President, Steve Harris; Vice President Marlee Vanderbeck; Secretary Nancy Allbright; Treasurer Ginny Rench. Board Members: Craig Stevens; Judi Avery; Connie Koff; Barbara Braun; Fran Whetten.

The club will provide hot dogs and hamburgers with the fixins' and something cool to drink. Members are asked to bring a potluck dish to finish off the menu. Members may bring guests. There will be a \$5 charge for guests for lunch.

Please call Steve Harris at 928-639-3089 by Tuesday, April 28, 2009 to let him know you are coming. Leave him a message if you are going to ride or just come to the lunch and meeting.

Directions to Pate's place: Take Exit 289 off of I-17 (Middle Verde road) and go west 3.7 miles to Spirit Wind Arabians on the right side of the road. Anyone with a trailer, unless it's a really big one, should continue down Middle Verde Road, take the first right and then the next right and pull into the large area behind Pate's barn. Anyone attending who is not riding can either park where the trailers are or go in by the house. The gate will have to be opened and closed each time going into their residence. Their address is 3302 West Middle Verde Road, Camp Verde, phone 567-6378.

**ATTENTION THOSE WHO HAVEN'T PAID YOUR 2009 DUES!!!** This issue of the Voice of the Horseman will be your last if you don't pay your dues. There will be a \*\* by your name on the mailing label of this newsletter to remind you. The Verde Valley Horsemen's Council wants and needs you. Please consider paying your dues and if you feel you want something to show for your money, get active, ride with the club, meet some great people and see some great country.

**POKER RIDE CANCELLED.** The Poker Ride that was scheduled for April 25 on lower Oak Creek was cancelled. Pre -riders reported deteriorating trails, rocks and trees in the trails and generally unsafe conditions. There was also very little interest by the public. It is hoped to reschedule this ride or a similar one for next fall.

**VVHC TO CONTINUE WITH BUCKLE SERIES.** VVHC will continue to help the City of Cottonwood to run the popular Buckle Series at the Equestrian Center. If the City is interested in continuing this, VVHC will continue to help. Contact Ginny if you are interested in helping.

**SERVICES FOR LONG TIME VVHC MEMBER CATHY HUBBARD.** VVHC member and active horsewoman Cathy Hubbard passed away on March 30<sup>th</sup>. Services were held at the Hubbard residence on April 9 and were attended by some VVHC members. Cathy will be missed by all of Arizona's horse community.

## **COFFEE CREEK RIDE – By Judi Avery**

On March 14 Janie Agyagos led a group of about 15 riders on a great ride to Coffee Creek. Several of us who've lived in the Verde Valley a long time hadn't even heard of Coffee Creek before, adding a sense of exploration and discovery to the fun. Riders met at the gravel pit on FR 9571 and then headed mostly North through some beautiful country with great views all around. It was a perfect day for a ride, mostly sunny and windless with just enough clouds in the distance to make the big, blue sky even more interesting to look at. Janie led us to the site of the old Coffee Creek Ranger Station which was in use from 1924 to 1948. All that remains now are the rock foundations of a few buildings, remnants of a yard fence, a little dam and a cistern. Janie brought along pictures of the site when it was still in operation, to show us.

Along the way we were blessed with a fairly close-up look at a herd of about a dozen antelope. We stopped for lunch on a little slope just North of the site before heading back on a different loop. We watered the horses at a cattle trough on the way back and admired the cow-calf herd with the adorable baby calves all around.

Most of the footing on the ride was great, even for those of us with barefoot horses, with just one rocky stretch. There were a few knuckleheads out there practice -shooting in a dangerous way, but thanks to the sharp eyes and ears of Janie and Connie Koff we were alerted to the situation while still at a safe distance. We were able to get the shooters' attention with waves and a whistle and averted any potential mishaps. All in all, it was a lovely day and a most enjoyable ride.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- MAY 2 VVHC Annual Membership Meeting and Election of Officers at the Pate's place in Middle Verde. In the saddle to ride at 9:00 a.m. Lunch at noon and meeting at 1:00 p.m. See details in the article in this newsletter.
- JUNE 11 VVHC Board of Directors meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Craig Stevens' home. Call Craig at 928-639-1867 for directions to his home.
- JUNE 13 Black Tank Ride off of FS 525. Be in the saddle ready to ride at 8:30 a.m. Depends on the weather whether lunch will be on the trail or back at the trailers. For details, information, ride rating, etc. and to let her know you are coming, call Marlee at 928-649-3999.
- JUNE 26 – 28 Animal Disaster Services Annual Trail Ride at Groom Creek Horse Camp. Reserve your space asap. Catered ride beginning with dinner Friday night. Cost is \$120 per person. Call Spike Hicks for information 928-778-1833.

**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](http://verdehorsemen.org) and can be downloaded from there.

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