



Newsletter for October – December, 2006

Website: www.verdehorsemen.org

Prepared by Ginny Rench & President Jenny Bellow

President Jenny Bellow, 301-3015; Vice President is currently vacant so please apply;
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

Notes from your President Jenny Bellows

August 19th a group of us rode with John Wischmeyer's gifted GPS guidance Northwest of Flagstaff to the Lava Cave. It was about 80 degrees outside and nearly 50 degrees inside the cave, very cool. We enjoyed our lunch under the tall pines in the shade, a most pleasant day.

September 15th we had a board meeting and discussed the new Cottonwood Equestrian Center with Ginny Rench's guest from the City of Cottonwood, Hezekiah Allen. Hezekiah is working with involved groups to plan for the Grand Opening of the new facility, from which the Horseman's Council generously donated monies and expertise.

September 19-21 was the diverse ride up Mt. Elden from the horse camp. Joe Sciarrotta capably lead the Wednesday ride in 20-30 mph winds with higher gusts, in about 55 degree weather--remember wind chill?? Fortunately all were dressed well, the horses didn't sweat that is for sure. Russ and Chris joined us from Lake Mary where they were spending some time. It was beautiful, we rode up to about 9300 feet to a dense grove of young aspens, white trunks glistening in the sun (when it peaked out). Even without GPS Joe got us back to camp in good shape. Thursday Joe, Denise and I rode a different trail and it was in the 70's, sunny, and a light breeze--go figure.

The editors apologize for the delay in getting this issue out. We've been waiting for the opening date for the new Equestrian Center and finally have one, it's December 16th.

Havasupai Ride

Nine riders had an incredible trip down to see Havasupai Falls on October 23rd with perfect weather and a great group of riders, many were there for the first time. We started out with 11 people signed up, one member got sick at the last minute and had to stay home. Unfortunately for Steve Rench, his mule Jasper came up lame Monday morning and he had to stay with the rigs all day; thank goodness for XM radio and lots of good reading material. The weather was picture perfect and the day couldn't have gone better. The club catered dinner Sunday and Monday night for a small fee so riders were only responsible for their own breakfast and lunch. As we left our camping spot headed home Tuesday morning, actually to a hot breakfast in Seligman, a light rain started to fall, is that good timing or what?

Upcoming Rides

November 11th, the famous Joe Williams will lead a ride in the Sycamore Canyon area. Joe rated the ride 1 through 4 in difficulty. A savory lunch of burgers, chips and beverages will be served on Buckboard Road for a \$5 donation. Plan to saddle up by 9:30am; take Sycamore Canyon Road, cross the second cattle guard and turn right. Call Joe @ 634-5906 to reserve your burger. If we don't have very many sign up for this ride or if the weather is bad we'll have lunch back at the trailers.

November 18th – Dead Horse State Park Mark your calendars to attend the dedication of the Lime Kiln Trail. Longtime members Fran Whetten and Diane Lovett have been dedicated workers on this project for so many years and it would be wonderful if some of us could be there on the 18th to show our support. The ride will start at 9:00 and will be about 2 hours with lunch back at the park at 11:30. There will be someone directing riders to the staging area. The park is charging \$25.00 for lunch and entertainment. For more information call Diane at 634-2767.

NOVEMBER 24TH RIDE

GET YOUR RED ROCK PASSES OUT..... Travel to Lower Red Rock Loop Rd, just past Emeryville Rd. there is a turnout on the right for parking. This ride will be 2 to 2 ½ hrs. We will plan to ride out at 9am. Please note this is a Friday morning date. Bring your camera!!! The views are what a photographer would die for!!! We will be going onto Scheurman Mountain by following along the "S" Trail. This is just about the top of all mountains around. One sheer bluff, but I got off my mount and walked her around, then used a bench to mount safely back up. We go behind the high school and ascend up the mountain. There is an obstacle of rock in the trail on the downhill side for the mounts to maneuver...if they are surefooted they will do fine. This ride must be rated a 5, for the reasons mentioned. We will stop for a break at the best pristine area. This isn't a ride not for the weak-hearted. Chris Bromley will be leading. If interested please call 649-5811 or 821-2413.

December 2nd is the Cottonwood Christmas Parade

December 16th GRAND OPENING OF THE COTTONWOOD EQUESTRIAN & ANIMAL EVENT CENTER.

After years of work by many people the new center is ready to use. On the 16th there will be a ribbon cutting and a gymkhana with classes for all ages. Posters are being made at this time and will be distributed around the valley, on our website and hopefully in the Bridle & Bit. VVHC, 4-H members and others will be sponsoring this event. For more information or the sign up to help please contact Ginny Rench at 634-9354 or email her at verdeweeds@commspeed.net.

PLEASE KEEP AND POST THESE FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

FOR THE SAFETY AND ENJOYMENT OF ALL RIDERS WE FOLLOW THESE RULES

1. Never pass the trail leader without permission.
2. A parent or guardian must accompany riders under 18.
3. Non-members are welcome but must be the guest of a member.
4. No stallions on rides.
5. No alcohol on the trails.
6. No smoking on the trail while in the saddle.
7. No firearms carried on the trail, other than by law enforcement personnel, except by people authorized by the trail boss.
8. No dogs on trail. Dogs are allowed in camp but must be on a leash at all times.
9. Do not lope or run your horse. Do not pass another horse on the trail without permission and then only when it is safe to pass.
10. Maintain your position – about a horse length behind the horse in front. Do not lag back and lope to catch up. On very steep climbs or descents, it is proper to wait for a clear distance for safety.
11. If you need to stop anywhere on the trail, tell the trail boss – the whole group will wait.
12. No littering on trails. Pack it in, pack it out!
13. Horses that kick should have a red ribbon on the tail.

TRAIL RATING GUIDE

#1 EASIEST – Flat, smooth, well traveled. Obstacles limited to minor step-ups or downs. Best for beginners.

#2 FAIRLY EASY – Reasonably smooth, some grades, more ups and downs. Minor obstacles (shallow water, minor drop-offs, step overs, etc.)

#3 MEDIUM DIFFICULTY – Definite grade, obstacles, rougher terrain, rocks, narrower trails.

#4 DIFFICULT – Steep, rocky, narrow, major obstacles. Horse must be trail smart, sure footed, and sensible around other horses. There is no room for error on trails of this difficulty. Horses must be in good condition.

#5 CHALLENGING – Climbing, rocky and/or shaley, difficult hazards (deepwater, open mines, quicksand, steep drop-offs, etc.), very narrow, steep, little or no room to maneuver. Rider and horse must be experienced trail riders. NOT FOR BEGINNERS.

Accepted at Annual Meeting 5/12/2000