

Newsletter for October - December, 2003

Officers

Patricia Costilow, President; Steve Rench, Vice Pres. 634-9354
Diane Lovett, Treas. 634-2767

Board Members

Ginny Rench, 634-9354; John Wischmeyer; Elaine Eaton-McCants;
Dale Duncan and Cheri Wischmeyer, past president

At long last here's your newsletter. Sorry about the delay!

Pinedale Ride

The catered ride in July at Pinedale was a great success thanks to the hard work of Dick Hileman. With the forest restrictions regarding no fires and our caterer dropping us at the last minute, we were in a last minute pinch to say the least. The facility Dick located was wonderful, we ate inside in a beautifully finished barn, there were restrooms with hot showers and the food was fantastic and plentiful. Thanks to our members for their flexibility with the last minute changes. We couldn't have pulled this off without email. Thanks again Dick and thanks also to non member Dave Audsley for helping with the rides.

Monument Valley

Hats off to Diane Lovett and Steve and Ginny Rench for putting this year's ride together. A special thank you to board member Elaine Eaton-McCants too, and also some great volunteers, for making sure that approximately 40 people had a wonderful time in Monument Valley. No doubt they had some great stories to share when they got home.

Even with rain and wind Thursday evening a creative crew wasn't stopped from serving a hot barbeque beef dinner and ice cream and cookies to the participants. The Rench's camper became the "cook station" and people were pleasantly surprised as they came up to the back door. Each was handed a plate of hot food and then they all headed back to their rigs.

All of the hard work is worthwhile when you hear first time participants raving about the scenery, camaraderie and food. There's just no better way to see country than on the back of your favorite horse or mule.

Verde River Days

VVHC had a booth at this year's Verde River Days at Dead Horse State Park. The booth was set up next to the Trails Coalition and our new brochures were given out. The trails coalition produced a trails etiquette video that was played continuously throughout the day. Several of our members participated in the video with their horses and mules demonstrating proper trail etiquette. Thanks to Fran Whetten, Elaine Eaton-McCants and Steve and Ginny Rench for manning the booth.

Special thanks go out to longtime club member Fran Whetten for all of the hard work she has done over the years to help make the VVHC a great club. Unfortunately for us, Fran has found it necessary to resign from the board in order to devote time to other commitments. If anyone is interested in filling the secretarial position on the board please contact one of the board members.

Website – check out www.horse.com for a Horse Health Newsletter online. Thanks Cheri Wischmeyer for sharing this.

Get well wishes go out to new member Yvonne Borish, We missed you at Monument Valley and hope you can make it next year.

Welcome to new members: Janis Endsley 841 Lisa, Clarkdale, 86324; Joan Dewbre P.O. Box 3398, Cottonwood, 86326; Lin Hall Box 792, Paulden, 86334; Peter Peters 37321 Goldshot Creek, Mountain Center, CA 92561

Address change: Walt & Jean Cox 235A E. Paula Circle, Cottonwood, 86326

ARIZONA TRAILS 2005 – Last month, Arizona State Parks held a workshop in Flagstaff to gather information from all trail users. Every five years they update their State motorized and non-motorized trail plans. These workshops were held to gather current information for the 2005 plan. The purpose of the plan is to provide information and recommendations to guide Arizona State Parks and other agencies in Arizona in their management of motorized and non-motorized trail resources and specifically to guide the distribution and expenditure of the Off Highway Vehicle Recreation Fund; Arizona Heritage Fund trails management and Federal Recreational Trails Programs.

Previously, the VVHC had received a rather extensive questionnaire to respond to, which we did. At the workshop in Flagstaff, the survey coordinator from Arizona State University presented some very preliminary figures regarding the demographics of trail users, their needs, most important issues, etc.

Preliminary figures indicate that approximately 68% of Arizona population use non-motorized trails. About 25% are motorized users, and the remainder is nonusers. The information also goes into favorite recreation activities of trail users, how far from home they will go for trails, what kind of experience they are looking for on trails, and many other good bits of information.

We will receive a copy of the 2005 report when it is finished. The main thing this report does for us is to point up the necessity of keeping current trails open and useable, but also the importance of establishing new trails. Trails are a “hot button” now for many people seeking a quality of life. The VVHC has long been involved in trail maintenance and trail management, and it is more important than ever to be active in this area.

We were the only equestrian group represented, and we feel that our input was very important to the outcome of the 2005 trails plan, as is so often the case, if there is no equestrian representation, horses are completely forgotten about. Submitted by Diane Lovett



***UPCOMING RIDES &
ACTIVITIES***

October 25th - Pecks Lake ride lead by Dale Duncan and Patricia Costilow. Lunch will be provided by the club for members on this ride. Call them for details at 649-1021 by the 22nd so they'll know how many to plan on.

November 8th - Dry Beaver Creek ride lead by Steve & Ginny Rench. Meet at material storage yard on Cornville Rd, approximately 2.3 miles west of I-17 on the north side of the road. Ready to ride at 9:30 for about 5 hours. Call 634-9354 if you're coming.

November 15th - Second annual Olsen's Equifest – educational seminars & demonstrations with horses and dogs. See enclosed flier for more information.

November 15th - Annual Camp Verde Marshal's Toy Ride in Camp Verde. Registration at 9:00 with coffee & donuts. Ride out at 9:30 call the CVM office at 567-6621 for more information. This is a great event and the proceeds benefit many area youngsters. If you can't make the ride your donation would be much appreciated.

December 6th - Cottonwood Christmas Parade. The club has vests, banners and flags if anyone is interested in riding in the parade. Call Steve Rench at 634-9354 a.s.a.p and he'll get the items out of storage and have them ready to go.

December 7th – Holiday Party at the Ranch House Restaurant at the Beaver Creek Country Club in Lake Montezuma. Social hour is at 4:00 p.m., dinner at 5:00 p.m. with a short meeting to follow. See reservation form for details. Hope to see all of you.

December 13th - Bull Pen ride will start at 9:30 across from the Verde Park Road. Ride for approximately 5 hrs with lunch. Call John Wischmeyer at 567- 2458 for more information.

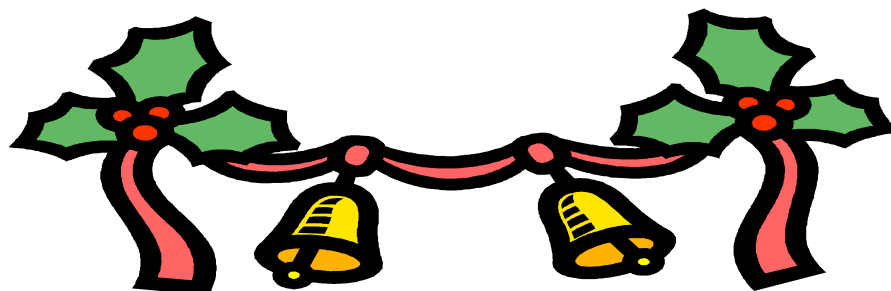
MEMBER ADS:

For rent, one bedroom (1 or 2 adults) 10x50 mobile on Oak Creek for \$450.00 per month, water included. References required & one horse negotiable. Contact Beth at 634-1234 or email her at bbinaz@earthlink.net

For Sale:

Registered, black T.B. 15 yr. old, 16.2H mare. She's an excellent broodmare, is sound to ride but needs an experienced rider on the trail. Call Elaine Eaton-McCants evenings at 928-567-3219 for more information.

Have something to sell or want to buy something horse related? Ads are free to members. Email Ginny at verdeweeds@commspeed.net. or mail your ad to VVHC, 3650 Penny Lane, Cottonwood, AZ 86326. No phone calls please.



Reservation Form for the Holiday Party

December 7, 2003

Ranch House Restaurant at the
Beaver Creek Country Club
Lake Montezuma

Please reserve a spot for:

Name _____ Member or Non-member (circle one)

Name _____ Member or Non-member (circle one)

Dinner choices are: Salmon _____ Roast Beef _____ or Turkey _____

Charge for **non-members** is \$18.00 per person. Amount enclosed is \$ _____

Mail to Diane Lovett at P.O. Box 1341, Cottonwood, AZ 86326 or call Diane at 634-2767

Reservations must be received by November 29th.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY RELEASE
VERDE VALLEY HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL
P.O. BOX 1341, COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326

I hereby apply for membership and in consideration of acceptance to participate in activities and ride on trail rides with Verde Valley Horsemen's Council, and my being able to participate in those events, I, for myself, my heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns, waive, release and discharge all claims for damages resulting from death, personal injury or property damage which I may have, or which may hereafter accrue to me as a result of my participation in these events.

I understand this release is intended to discharge and release in advance the VERDE VALLEY HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL, its member and their respective agents, officers, officials, employees and representatives from and against any and all liability arising out of or connected in any way with my participation in these events, even though that liability may arise out of negligence or carelessness on the part of the persons or entities mentioned above. I further understand that horseback riding accidents have resulted in serious injury or death.

Print name of applicant _____

Signature of applicant _____ Date _____

Print name of Spouse _____

Signature of Spouse _____ Date _____

Print names and ages of minor children covered by this application and release

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Name _____ Age _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State & Zip code _____

Family membership () \$30.00

Single membership () \$20.00

Please make check or money order payable to Verde Valley Horsemen's Council and send with signed application/release to P.O. Box 1341, Cottonwood, AZ 86326

**If anyone joins the club after June 30th, the membership dues for the remainder of the year are reduced by 50%. Membership year is from January 1st to December 31st.

Revised 5/22/2002

West Nile Virus in Verde Valley Submitted by the Wischmeyer's

For those of you who have not heard, it is now confirmed that West Nile Virus is in the Verde Valley. Last Saturday Cheri Wischmeyer's horse, Mister, started acting strange. He was sluggish and was not defecating. At first glance it appeared to be a simple case of colic. The following day the symptoms progressed and he stopped urinating, began to have facial twitches, was grinding his teeth, and was having difficulty walking. He became progressively worse over night and the following day Dr. Delaney was called. He too initially believed that it might be colic, but as the symptoms increased he came to the house. After an examination he diagnosed a possible case of West Nile Virus. Mister had not been vaccinated because the mosquitoes had not been a problem at the Wischmeyer home. Dr. Delaney catheterized Mister, drew blood, and gave him an injection of antibiotics and suggested that he be taken to Chaparral Animal Hospital on Cave Creek and Union Hills.

The next morning Mister was even worse and he was transported to Phoenix. By this time his vision had been affected and he was having difficulty with his depth perception. More blood was drawn and as the day progressed he became more and more lethargic, falling asleep while standing and then falling down. West Nile Virus affects the brain and prevents it from sending necessary signals throughout the body. It also affects the spinal column and causes weakness. It was decided to give him a new serum. For several days it was touch and go, and as of Sunday he is still in the Horse Hospital in Phoenix. It is felt however that he may be coming home soon – much lighter and weaker, but alive none the less.

Dr. Rahal at Chaparral Animal Hospital treated Mister with DMSO, antibiotics, IV fluids for treatment of dehydration, and antacids for stomach upset. All of this was done even prior to having the test results since with the exception of the serum it would have been the same for any other diagnosis with these same symptoms.

In the last week there have been three confirmed cases of West Nile Virus through Chaparral Clinic alone and it is suspected that there are others that are going undetected. There is a wealth of information on the internet about West Nile Virus. The makers of the serum have a web site and there are many links from that site. The site is www.equinewestnile.com.

The list of symptoms is extensive and the animal need not be exhibiting all of the symptoms. Mister never lost his appetite or quit drinking, which probably saved him. This is a serious illness. According to the literature, one in three horses who contract the disease does not make it. The symptoms are:

- Stumbling or tripping
- Muscle weakness or twitching
- Partial paralysis
- Loss of appetite
- Depression or lethargy
- Head pressing or tilt
- Impaired vision
- Wandering or circling
- Inability to swallow
- Inability to stand up
- Fever
- Convulsions
- Coma
- Death

There is an immunization that is available. It is a two series immunization and the local veterinarian's have it available. It is not guaranteed, but highly recommended by equine medical personnel. If you suspect that your animal may have contracted this virus, don't wait, contact you veterinarian immediately. In addition, if your area is prone to mosquitoes, spray to eradicate them if possible.