

DECEMBER 15, 2008

President Steve Harris  
Vice President Nancy Allbright  
Secretary Ann Smith  
Treasurer Ginny Rench  
Past President Fran Whetten

Board Members:  
Craig Stevens  
Marlee Vanderbeck  
Diane Lovett

**A NEW FEATURE FOR VOICE OF THE HORSEMAN.** Starting with this issue of the “Voice of the Horseman” there will be a biography of a member of the current Board of Directors. Kicking off this new series will be Steve Harris, VVHC President.

Steve was born December 4, 1940 and was raised on a dairy farm in Camp Verde. He started working summers on local cattle ranches until he graduated from High School in Flagstaff in 1958. He bought 17 head of dude horses and rented horses for the summer until his father accepted the foreman job on a big cattle ranch in Montana. He worked with his father on the cowboy crew helping to care for 20,000 head of cattle. Steve worked on cattle ranches for a total of 25 years and was the manager of the Pronghorn ranch in Williams, Arizona and Ellensburg, Washington, the Stuart Anderson Black Angus Cattle Company also in Ellensburg, and lastly the Diamond A Ranch for Ralph Burbacher in Camp Verde.

After a short period of building fence and selling real estate, Steve returned to ranch management at Oasis Arabians in Cottonwood. In 1986 he bought 10 acres of irrigated property and operated a horse boarding and training facility. In 1988 he invented the Porta-flex Safety Round Pen and began to manufacture the pens, using them to demonstrate his Touch of Love training techniques in clinics and private work.

Steve has traveled throughout the United States and Europe teaching people to communicate with their horses. He is scheduled to return to Europe in May and June of 2009.

In addition to being President of VVHC, Steve has been appointed to the Yavapai County Trails Committee and is getting involved in trail planning in the Verde Valley.

**ANOTHER NEW FEATURE** to start is a “Letter to the Editor” section. VVHC has been a large and vibrant club with a respected presence in the Verde Valley since 1980. For a couple of years now, we have struggled to keep membership up and activities going, and the struggle is still very much ongoing. If anyone has anything to say about VVHC, or the horse industry, or anything else that would be interesting to the horse community, here’s your chance. Send your letters via email to [Lovett@commspeed.net](mailto:Lovett@commspeed.net) or by mail to P. O. Box 1341, Cottonwood, AZ 86326.

**BOARD APPOINTS NEW SECRETARY.** Jenny Bellows, VVHC Board secretary, has kept inviting the Board to meet with her in Ganado where she now lives and works. Much as the Board would like to, Ganado is a “fur piece” away, so they have respectfully declined. Addressing the need for a local secretary, the Board appointed Ann Smith to fill that position until the next election of officers.

**BOARD STILL EXPLORING HORSE FESTIVAL EVENT.** The Board of Directors spent some time discussing the possibility of VVHC sponsoring an event similar to the Festival of the Horse, which is on now at West World in Phoenix. More exploring will be done by computer and it is hoped that some can attend the event in Phoenix to get a better prospective on what it entails. This is a big event and would certainly put the Cottonwood Equestrian and Event Center on the Arizona map. The Board would really like comments from the membership on this subject. Give Steve Harris a call or talk to any Board member about it. Although dates late in 2009 are mentioned, if we are to do anything, planning has to start now.

**2012 IS ARIZONA’S 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY.** Even though it seems like 2012 is a long way off, again, any planning for events to celebrate should start now. The Board discussed briefly the idea of sponsoring a significant trail ride including the whole state. We have many long and historic trails that would lend themselves to celebrating our centennial. Again, any thoughts or comments, please contact a Board member.

**CULTURAL PARK COLOR RIDE** was beautiful as advertised. Eight riders joined Steve Harris on the ride through the red rocks of Sedona. The group included a new rider from the Phoenix area, always enjoying new riders with the group. It was a nice day, enjoying lunch on the trail.

**ANNUAL HOLIDAY DINNER RIDE** had eleven riders on the trail up Copper Canyon to a windmill on top, with a total of 15 enjoying the meal. The day was perfect for riding. The riders were greeted for lunch by tables set with cloth napkins, candles and good food. Turkey with all the trimmings was served. This event is the only holiday celebration VVHC will have. See the Schedule of Events for the CAAHA party news.

**LOWER OAK CREEK RIDE CANCELLED.** Because the Cottonwood Christmas Parade was scheduled for December 6, the ride was cancelled and will be held on another date.

**WELCOME TO NEW MEMBER** Maggie Knapp of Peoria. When Maggie comes to ride with us, be sure to welcome her to VVHC.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- JANUARY 3 Join CAAHA for their annual meeting and “late Christmas” party. The food is potluck. The party starts at 6:00 p.m. at the Willows Club House in Camp Verde. Call Ann Smith at 928-301-7588 for more information and directions. Please call her by December 28 to reserve your place.
- JANUARY 10 Cherry Wash Ride. Meet at the Grief Hill Trailhead in the saddle ready to ride by 10:00 a.m. Bring your lunch. Call Craig Stevens to let him know you are coming, and for directions, at 928-639-1867. RATED A 2. ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS CALL THE TRAIL BOSS. Mark Feb. 17 as a backup date in case of rain.
- FEBRUARY 3 VVHC Board of Directors meeting, 6:30 p.m., at Diane Lovett’s house. The address is 116 East Beech Street. Call Diane at 928-634-2767 for directions.
- FEBRUARY 7 Natural Hoof Care Clinic. 8a.m to 5pm in Camp Verde. \$75 includes lunch, snacks, drinks. See enclosed flyer for details.
- FEBRUARY 14 Camp Verde White Hills ride. East of Camp Verde on 260 to “Old Church Road” (used to be Park Verde) on the right, staging area across 260 on the left. Bring your lunch. A nice scenic ride, RATED A 2 ½. In the saddle ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Call Elaine McCants at 928-567-3219 to tell her you are coming and for directions. ANY CONCERNS OR QUESTIONS CALL THE TRAIL BOSS. This should be a “sweetheart of a ride” . Pencil in February 21 for a rain date.
- MARCH Plans are being considered for a De-spooking Clinic/Tack Sale. See the February Voice of the Horseman for further details.
- APRRIL 11 Groom Creek annual cleanup. Mark your calendar. More details in the Next Voice of the Horseman.

**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.

# NATURAL HOOF CARE CLINIC

Sponsored by the Verde Valley Horsemen's Council



Are your horse's feet killing him or her?  
Are you struggling to understand your horse's laminitis?  
Has your horse foundered and you don't know what to do?  
Are you curious to understand what this barefoot mumbo jumbo is all about?

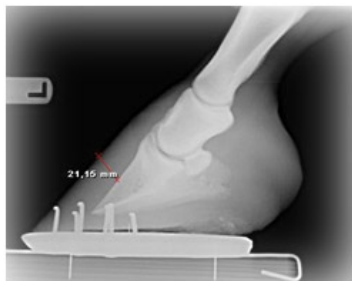
Find out the **TRUTH** about horses and their hooves at a one day  
**Natural Hoof Care Clinic Featuring:**

## **Dr. Tomas G. Teskey, D.V.M.**

Leading veterinary authority on the  
equine hoof and barefoot horses



## WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?



- Equine Laminitis, Founder and Navicular diagnosis, prevention & recovery without shoeing or nerving
  - Thin soles, club feet, contraction, cracks, bacteria and thrush
  - Natural hoof care and its successes over conventional hoof care
  - Trimming, lifestyle, hoof boots
  - Transition to barefoot
- Learn hoof anatomy and function (Dr. Tom will dissect a hoof cadaver)
  - Live horse demonstration (Live horses will be used as learning tools for understanding different hoof types, natural hoof care, and trimming methods)

**When:** Saturday February 7, 2009 8am – 5pm

**Where:** Camp Verde, Arizona

**Cost:** \$75 early bird sign-up (before January 24<sup>th</sup>)  
\$100 after January 24<sup>th</sup>

**Contact:** Ginny Rench (928) 634-9354

**Email:** [verdeweeds@commspeed.net](mailto:verdeweeds@commspeed.net)

*Lunch, Snacks and Drinks will be provided*

*Please bring your own chair*

# Registration Form

**Dr. Tomas G. Teskey, D.V.M**

## **NATURAL HOOF CARE CLINIC**

Sponsored by the Verde Valley Horsemen's Council

February 7, 2009 Camp Verde, AZ

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP CODE: \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_ (Day) \_\_\_\_\_ (Eve) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell)

E-MAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

### Check the appropriate box:

- Sign me up for the Early-Bird Discount.  
Enclosed is my full payment of \$75.00 Check No. \_\_\_\_\_
- I missed the Early-Bird Discount Deadline of January 24<sup>th</sup>.  
Enclosed is my full payment of \$100.00 Check No. \_\_\_\_\_

### PAYMENT INFORMATION

Cost: \$75 --If sign-up prior to January 24, 2009  
(save \$25 for the Early-Bird Discount)  
\$100 --If sign-up after January 24<sup>th</sup>

Check, Cash, or money order only.

Make checks payable to **VVHC**  
Submit checks to:  
Verde Valley Horsemen's Council  
PO Box 503  
Cottonwood, AZ 86326  
Phone: (928) 634-9354 (Ginny Rensch)  
e-mail: verdeweeds@commspeed.net

### CANCELLATION POLICY

Minimum Class Size: Dr. Teskey retains the right to cancel scheduled clinics should registration fail to meet the minimum attendance requirements of 20 participants. Participants will receive a 100% refund if the course must be canceled.

### **Participant Cancellation & Refund Policy:**

Refunds: If need to cancel before January 24 --100% of clinic fee will be returned. No refunds for canceling after January 24<sup>th</sup>

### CLINIC LOCATION

1046 Maybelle Lane  
Camp Verde, AZ

### **Directions and Map:**

See reverse side of flyer

# NATURAL HOOF CARE CLINIC

Sponsored by the Verde Valley Horsemen's Council

February 7, 2009 Camp Verde, AZ

## Directions and Map

From I-17

Exit Hwy 260 - turn east or towards Camp Verde

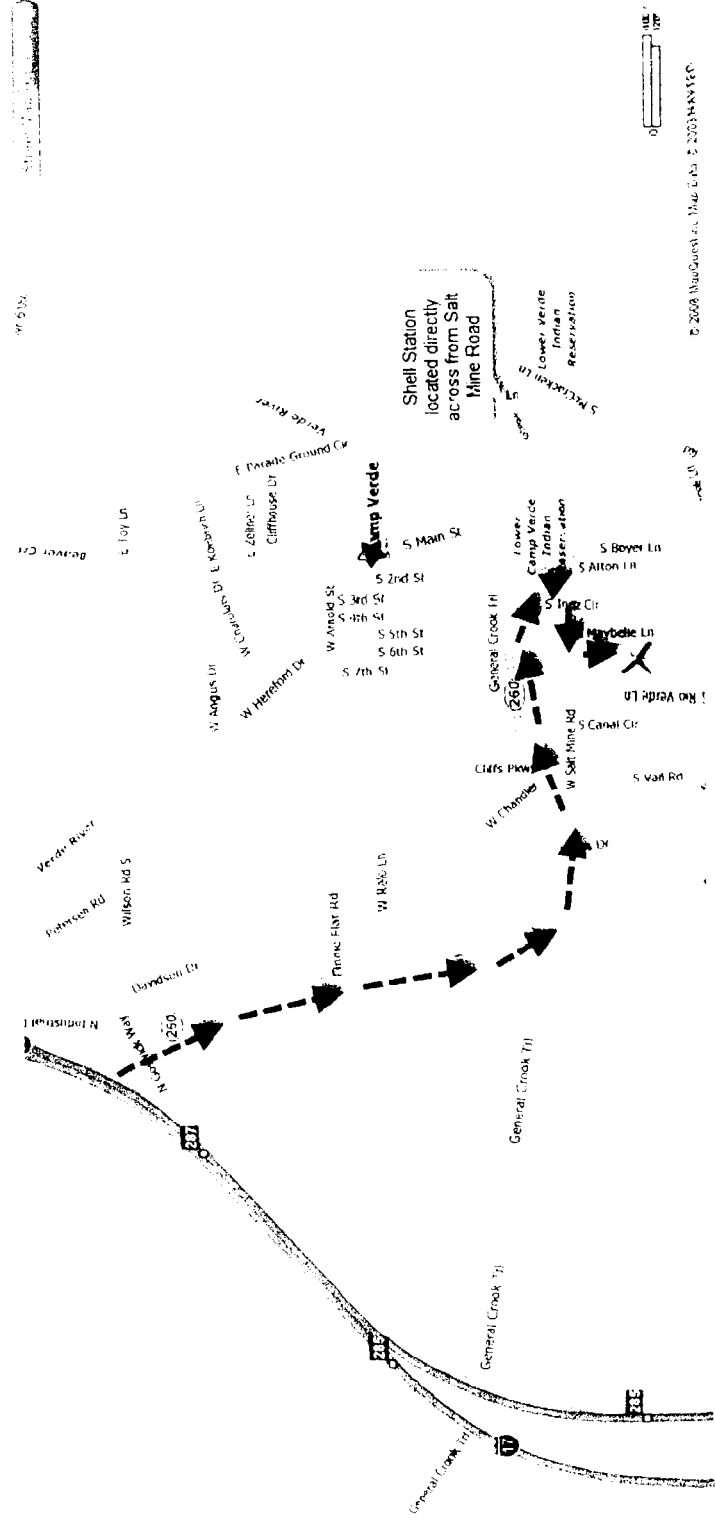
Stay on Hwy 260 winding your way around for approximately 3.5 miles

Directly across from the Shell Gas Station is a street called Salt Mine Road - turn right

Go about 1/4 mile to Maybelle Lane - turn left

House is the grey one on the right (1046 on telephone pole)

Next driveway is to the barn on the right - turn into parking area in front of barn



## Cottonwood Equestrian Center Buckle Series

There's a saying something like "when one door closes, another opens"; well that's what is happening right here in Cottonwood, Arizona.

Like every other municipality, the City of Cottonwood is dealing with budget shortfalls and was forced to cut out the Buckle Series at the new Cottonwood Equestrian Center. The series started 2 years ago and each of the eight week series has seen increasing numbers of participants of all ages. Riders run barrels or poles and their accumulated scores from these runs make them eligible for a buckle, or this year a gift certificate to the Cowboy Shop here in Cottonwood.

When your VVHC board members heard that the series wasn't going to take place in March they jumped at the opportunity to help out. After many phone calls, emails, etc. a game plan came to life in short order and the result is really exciting. The Cowboy Shop has agreed to add to their radio ads an announcement about the Buckle Series which saves in advertising money. Members of the club have volunteered to provide the labor for setting up barrels and poles and dragging the arena between runs. Hez Allen the city's event coordinator will continue to be the announcer most nights and we have a backup plan in the event he can't make it.

Money from entry fees will hopefully offset the expense of the gift certificates and with any luck some of the local businesses will want to sponsor a winner or two. Bring your favorite equine out even if it's just for fun and you don't want to be in the competition; it would be great exposure for your horse. If you don't want to ride, come out and watch and root someone on; we are so fortunate to have a wonderful facility right here close to home.

Hope to see you in March. I don't know the exact date yet but we'll have it in the next newsletter.

Submitted by:  
Ginny Rench

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### QUICK FIXES FOR BROKEN TACK ON THE TRAIL

By Joanne Meszoly

Just as cars always seem to conk out when you're miles from a service station, also tack tends to break when you're nowhere near your barn. A busted buckle on a throatlatch isn't a big concern, but a broken latigo or billet on the saddle puts a serious crimp in your fun.

*The quick fix:* Depending on the severity of the break, you may be able to string together a broken piece of your bridle with a spare strap or shoelace. Using a pocketknife, punch some holes into the leather near the break and tie the two sections together.

"I've also used skinny nylon ties, black electrical tape and duct tape to fix tack on the trail," says Jamie Dieterich, a North American Trail Ride Conference horsemanship judge. "Fifty feet of nylon rope takes up hardly any room in a saddlebag, and it's handy for repairs and many other things." A piece of rope or a lead rope can stand in for broken reins. A destroyed bridle can be replaced by a halter with or without the bit attached to the side rings.

Saddle repairs are another matter. If a stirrup component is ruined and you don't have an absolutely reliable replacement, you're better off riding without stirrups than trusting your weight and balance to an uncertain setup. A broken girth/cinch part is worse still. Aside from the fact that the tack failure has probably already caused you to fall, you aren't likely to have any sort of workable replacement. "If you have a pack animal," says Montana wilderness rider Dan Aadland, "you may be able to steal the rear cinch off of him and use it as a girth." Without a working girth, either you ride out bareback or lead the horse home.

*Prevention:* Inspect and maintain your tack as if your life depended on it (it does), and have repairs made at the first signs of weakening of your saddle's girth/cinch rigging and the bridle's wear areas where leather and metal meet.

## WUPATKI PACKING PROJECT

Fence Supplies to be packed in



**Ginny Rench hauling water**



**Forest Service employee William Hill**

### The Wupatki Packing Project

Members of Back Country Horsemen, National Parks and Forest Service personnel and ACE volunteers recently joined forces to work on replacing fencing between the park and forest service land. People arrived Friday afternoon October 31<sup>st</sup> and left on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. In case you don't know, according to their website, ACE stands for American Conservation Experience and participation in ACE represents a unique opportunity to share new learning experiences with people from other cultures while contributing substantially to the restoration of America's natural treasures. There were 18 ACE kids from Belgium, England, Italy, Korea, Holland, Japan, Estonia, Spain and even a girl from Florida.

This project actually started two years ago with representatives of the same groups participating. On this particular weekend the goal was to pack in approximately 11,000 lbs. of supplies. The supplies consisted of water containers, rolls of barbed and smooth wire, tee posts, stays and clips and punjars.

I'm not certain of the exact number of animals but I'm sure we had 12-14 pack animals being lead plus several outriders who were there to help wherever they were needed. We were well fed by a caterer name Simone that cooks for river trips. She had coffee going before daylight and supplied good food and plenty of it. It's always a treat to be well fed and not have to worry about prep and cleanup when you put in a long day like we all did.

Steve and I don't get out very often to work on these projects and it sure gave us both a feeling that we'd contributed to something worthwhile and the camaraderie was great. Some of the people that were there and you all know are Wayne & Sheree Pitrat, Carol & Spike Hicks and Jim & Barb Buchanan; these folks volunteer a great deal of their time and talents, not to mention the money to get to wherever these projects are that benefit all of us.

If anyone reading this would like to get involved with a great group of people who aren't afraid to get their hands dirty and do some work and have fun while they're doing it check out the BCHA group in Prescott. This group is recognized by agencies as ambassadors, building bridges between the horse and mule world according to John Nelson, retired F.S. and major organizer in this particular project.

Submitted by Ginny Rench

Pictures provided by Steve Rench

### **Why should politicians care what we think and how we vote?**

- ⇒ The AZ Horse Industry is a 1.6 Billion-Dollar Industry in this state. It's a 102 Billion Dollars Countrywide.
- ⇒ There are more than 60,000 horse owners statewide and 4.6 million in the U.S. Elections are frequently won or lost on very small margins.
- ⇒ Horse owners pay 1.9 Billion in taxes every year (countrywide)
- ⇒ 75% of horse owners are between 30 and 60 and are likely to vote
- ⇒ There are in excess of 177,000 horses in Arizona
- ⇒ The Horse Industry provides job opportunities for thousands in Arizona: breeders, trainers, jockeys, grooms and caretakers on ranches, farms, training facilities, boarding stables, racetracks and show facilities, equine vets and their employees, farriers, natural hoof care specialists, equine nutritionists, alternative care specialists, managers at ranches, breeding facilities, farms, tack and feed store employees, equine product company employees i.e. Farnam in Phoenix, equine insurance agents, mounted police officers, hay growers, saddle makers, photographers, journalists, and announcers at events, horse truck and trailer dealer employees, auction employees, horse transportation, horse health research, employees at therapeutic riding programs, feed companies i.e. Lakin Milling, horse sitters, horse bedding dealers, welding and repair services, barn construction, truck and trailer services, misting & fly systems, equine magazines and newspapers.
- ⇒ Riding for showing or recreation promotes a healthy lifestyle and an appreciation of the outdoors. In this day and age there is an increasing concern for the health of our youth due to TV, the Internet and video games. We can point out that ours is a healthy lifestyle.
- ⇒ Breeding, training, and activity promotes the use and preservation of land and open space. It serves as a Green buffer to urban sprawl.

### **What do you say to a political candidate?**

The AZ State Horsemen's Assn. has put together the following guide for your use in conversations with your candidates. If you would like more information, call us at 602-390-6806.

1. Describe your thoughts on how existing horse property owners can successfully co-exist with urbanites moving into the area.
2. What knowledge or experience do you have regarding land usage, individual private property rights, Planning and Zoning Regulations and Enforcement based on only one complaint?
3. What is your background/experience with livestock, including horses?
4. What is your feeling concerning the preservation, use and access of Open Space for Non-motorized Multi-Use Trails?
5. Are you familiar with the Economic Impact of the Horse Industry in your political jurisdiction?
6. What is your position regarding the current State Trust Land Initiative, Prop 103, "Our Land, Our Water".
7. Would you be interested having an equestrian advisory committee to assist you?

Ed O'Brien  
VP AZ State Horsemen's Assn  
Publisher, AllAboutHorses.com



VOICE OF THE HORSEMAN  
VVVHC  
P. O. BOX 503  
COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326

**COME RIDE WITH US IN 2009  
& Bring a Friend**

