



FEBRUARY 15, 2008

President Ginny Rench
Vice President Steve Harris
Secretary Jenny Bellows
Treasurer Fran Whetten
Past President Milt Pate

Board Members:
Joe Williams
Nancy Albright
Ann Smith
Diane Lovett

BEAUTIFUL RIDE – BEAUTIFUL WEATHER. Finally our weather warmed up and the sun came out for the ride on Saturday, February 9. Eight riders and one guest met at the corrals on Bill Gray Road at 10:00. The guest was a woman from Peoria who had visited our website. This ride didn't have an official trail boss. Steve Rench and Steve Harris took turns leading the group. They stopped for lunch in a lovely wash and enjoyed the opportunity to get to know each other a little better. Back at the trailers everyone enjoyed Steve Rench's homemade cookies.

RIDES CANCELLED IN DECEMBER/JANUARY. The December 29 ride to Oak Creek was cancelled because only one rider called to participate. The January 26 ride was cancelled due to trail leader's illness and rescheduled for the following week. Weather cancelled that ride.

DESPOOKING CLINIC A BIG SUCCESS. A second Despooring Clinic was held at the Cottonwood Equestrian and Animal Event Center on January 19. Several members from both VVHC and CAAHA attended.

VHC MEMBERS ATTEND REGIONAL TRAILS PLANNING SESSION. Fran Whetten, Ginny Rench and Diane Lovett climbed the hill to Jerome on February 24 to attend a regional trails planning session hosted by the new Yavapai County Trails Coordinator, Kyle Berkemeier. They will be working to get trails on a map and eventually onto the County website with all pertinent information for each trail such as trailhead, difficulty, length, etc. This is a renewal of a previous effort and those attending are geared up to get the job done this time. All Verde Valley public entities are involved along with various interested groups.

DUES ARE NOW PAST DUE. Dues are usually due on January 1 of each year. Those members who haven't paid their dues, please do so as soon as possible. You will continue to receive the Voice of the Horseman until after the April issue. As a reminder, you can jointly join VVHC and CAAHA. The VVHC applications have been reconfigured to do this. The dues for Joint Family are \$52. Single is \$35. This represents a discount for each club member. Regular VVHC dues are \$30 for family, \$20 for single. Applications are available on line at verdehorsemen.org. Everyone must submit a new application.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS. We have ten new members that joined VVHC while at the Despooking Clinic. Welcome to new members:

Sallie Backus
Connie Koff
Janie Agyagos
Craig Stevens
Denise and Paul Thornton
Elaine Ross
Marc and Judi Avery
Phillip ZumMallen
Rich Bring
Patty Gray

FEDERAL AND STATE LEGISLATION IMPORTANT. The Back Country Horsemen of America are continuing to fight for the right to ride legislation now in Congress. The Arizona State Horsemen's Association is active in the state legislature. VVHC is a member of both organizations. We should all keep aware of the various bills both federally and state that affect horsemen and their rights.

ANIMAL DISASTER PROGRAM GOING FORWARD. The Yavapai County Animal Disaster program is full speed ahead. Milt Pate reports that Lori Rangel is in charge of the Verde Valley group. Monthly meetings are slated to begin to train local volunteers. For further information call Milt at 928-567-6378.

ANY MEMBERS WHO CAN'T MAKE SATURDAY RIDES or want to ride other days, we have a group that meets regularly during the week to ride. Contact Fran Whetten at 928-634-6495 or Ginny Rench at 928-634-9354 to find out when and where they're going. This group usually emails back and forth and would be glad to add you on. These rides are not official club rides and often are exploratory.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- MARCH 6 THRU APRIL 24 City of Cottonwood Buckle Series at the Cottonwood Equestrian and Animal Event Center. Check the City of Cottonwood website for details. www.ci.cottonwood.az.us and click on Parks and Recreation.
- MARCH 13 Ash Creek Ride. A Thursday ride. Take I-17 to 169, turn right towards Dewey. Second driveway, (first cattle guard), park on the other side of the cattle guard. Ready to ride at 10:00. Bring lunch and water. Call Ginny Rench at 928-634-9354.
- APRIL 5 Alcantara Vineyard near Thousand Trails Resort. This ride will start off of Cornville Road at 9:00. The winery doesn't serve food at this time so bring your lunch. If there is enough interest we will try to schedule a wine tasting while we are there. Non-riders are urged to meet the riders there. This is a beautiful facility and will be a fun ride. Please call Ginny or Steve Rench at 928-634-9354 closer to ride time for more details. We will email everyone that has email when we get the details worked out.
- APRIL 11 TO 13 Back Country Horsemen of Arizona Rendezvous fund raising trail ride. See enclosed flyer for details.
- APRIL 19 Annual Groom Creek Horse Camp Cleanup. Call Steve Rench for details, 928-634-9354.
- MAY 30 TO JUNE 1 Fund raiser ride for the Yavapai County Animal Disaster group at Groom Creek Horse Camp. See the enclosed flyer for information.
- JUNE 7 Equifest sponsored by Olsens's Grain in Prescott.
- SEPT. 12 TO 14 Annual Prescott Frontier Days Rodeo Association fundraiser ride at Groom Creek Horse Camp. Details in next newsletter.

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

President's Message:

The New Year is behind and all of those resolutions we made are probably fading memories. Hopefully the promise to spend more time with your favorite equine is still at the top of your priority list.

Last August, as most of you know, VVHC and CAAHA (Central Arizona Arabian Horse Association) voted to join forces in an effort to reach out to more horse people. I'm happy to report that it has worked well for both clubs. We have had joint rides, a joint holiday party and two joint "De-spooking Clinics" and each club has made new friends and gathered new members and we each made some money for our bank accounts.

All clubs and organizations are struggling to offer what their members want and to entice new people to join. By offering an opportunity for a joint membership with CAAHA, VVHC is able to offer a more diverse activity schedule. Whether you show, trail ride, like clinics, work on trails and trail preservation or just want to eat and talk horses these two clubs have members that can do it. The joint application is included in this newsletter so please get your dues in as they are due now.

Two of CAAHA and VVHC members Ann Smith and Danielle Keesey are teaching two riding classes in the Verde Valley through Yavapai College. Regardless of your skill level these two instructors look forward to working with you.

Your board is committed to offering activities that appeal to you so let us know what you want to do or would like help sponsoring.

The new Cottonwood Equestrian & Animal Event Center is available for activities and proud to show off the state of the art sound system that was recently installed. There is a series of shows starting February 16th and there will be one a month through May.

Hope to see ya on the trail or somewhere near a horse or mule.

Ginny

Daily Trail Rides

Catered Meals

Entertainment

Auction & Raffle



Wayne & Sheree Pitrat have generously once again offered to host a spring fling at their home place in Chino Valley, Az. Let's all gather to kick up our heels, meet old friends, make new friends and just generally enjoy camping with our equine partners. Our catering will include Fri. & Sat. dinners, and Sat. & Sun. breakfasts. Please plan to provide your own Sat. lunch & horse water, scatter your manure and "leave no trace" when you depart. We will allow dogs, they must be leashed in your parking area at ALLTIMES. The Pitrat's have quite a few of their own and really appreciate your help. No one under 21 and no stallions are allowed-NO EXCEPTIONS!

Cost: \$100.00 per person, limited to the first 80 riders. Payment must be received NO LATER than April 1, 2008 this will allow for catering head count and shirt ordering.

Directions: From the north, hwy 89 south off I-40 pass 1st signal take next left onto Perkinsville Rd. for approx. 9 miles signs will be posted. From the south, I-17 north to hwy 69 to Prescott, to the 3rd signal which is Fain Rd. turn right & follow it onto hwy 89a west to hwy 89 turn right, pass 3 signals to Perkinsville turn right for approx. 9 miles signs will be posted.

Commemorative T Shirts: Color will be sand in a two sided design.

Short-sleeved; S M L XL 2XL 3XL (circle sizes) \$15.00 ea.

Long-sleeved: S M L XL 2XL 3XL (circle sizes) \$20.00 ea.

Name/s _____ Phone _____

Addr. _____

of riders _____ X \$100.00 = _____ # of S/S Tee Shirts _____

of L/S Tee Shirts _____

Total: _____ Checks made out to BCHCAZ

Mail to: Billie Wederski, Ride Chairman
6780 Stageline Trail
Prescott, Az. 86305

Questions: (928)778-5067

ANIMAL DISASTER SERVICES BENEFIT TRAIL RIDE



ESCAPE TO THE COOL PINES OF PRESCOTT'S GROOM CREEK HORSECAMP IN 2008

Join us for a benefit ride sponsored by the Yavapai County Animal Disaster Services.

Dates: Friday through Sunday, May 30th – June 1st.

Cost: A donation of \$120.00 per person includes 5 meals starting Friday evening, 3 days of riding and souvenir gifts. Non riders \$50.00. Day riders are welcome -- Please make a donation upon arrival.

Please note: No one under 18 years may attend. No stallions, dogs, smoking, alcohol or firearms will be permitted on the trail. Dogs in camp must be on a leash and are not permitted in the cooking and eating areas.

Call the Prescott National Forest (928) 443-8000 to reserve your campsite. We suggest that you call early due to the limited number of sites available.

For information and further details, call Spike Hicks (928) 778-1833 or Charlie Westbury (928) 710-5053. We will start the weekend with a short 2 hour ride Friday at 2:30 pm.

Please note: Reservations must be received by May 15, 2008. Sorry, no refunds after May 23, 2008. The committee believes that \$60.00 of the rider donation is tax deductible. Check with your tax consultant. The non-rider donation is not tax deductible.

-----RESERVATION FORM -----CUT HERE AND MAIL -----

Make check or money order payable to: Animal Disaster Services.

Mail to: ADS, c/o Susan Drake, 892 Golden Hawk Drive, Prescott, AZ 86301-4641

Names(s):

Address:

Phone Number:

Amount Enclosed:

Riders _____ # Non-Riders _____ # Requiring Vegetarian Meals _____

Please feel free to photocopy and pass on to a friend. Written confirmation and directions will be mailed to you upon receipt of this form and payment.

/ ___ / CHECK HERE IF YOU NEED DIRECTIONS TO GROOM CREEK HORSE CAMP.

Imported Hay Could Hold Hidden Health Dangers

By Pat Raia

As if hay scarcity and high prices aren't enough, experts are warning horse owners that imported hay could also hide horse health dangers including seriously low amounts of essential vitamins such as A and E, excessive amounts of selenium, and even life-threatening insect infestations.

"It all depends upon where the hay is coming from," said Peggy Miller, PhD, MS, associate professor of animal science at Iowa State University. "If the hay is coming from the far Southwest, it can be infested with blister beetles that can kill horses. If the hay is coming from a region where it can pick up excessive amounts of selenium from the soil, it could also be very bad for horses."

The nutritional ramifications of the drought-caused need to import hay from outside horses' home regions was highlighted last spring when veterinarians at the University of Missouri-Columbia noticed an increase in equine patients suffering from potentially life threatening selenium poisoning. According to Philip Johnson, BVSc(Hons), MS, Dipl. ACVIM, Dipl. ECEIM, MRCVS, professor of veterinary

medicine and surgery, horses suffering from the condition lose mane and tail hair and can develop severe—even fatal—laminitis.

At the same time, Johnson said Missouri veterinarians saw increased numbers of horses showing signs of deficiencies in Vitamin E—critical to equine nerve health—including weakness, weight loss, tremors and retinal changes in their eyes.

"Hay that has been kept in storage for a long time can lose Vitamin E and Vitamin A," Miller said. "That's also why it's important to know where the hay is coming

from, when it was cut, how it was stored and how long it was stored."

But finding reliable hay sources can be difficult as horse owners start to stockpile hay to tide horse over the upcoming winter. Miller recommends that horse owners do their homework before purchasing hay from out of state - or even from local sources that may have imported it for resale.

"It's critical to purchase hay from a reputable seller," she said. "If you aren't aware of one locally, the departments of agriculture in most states have Web sites listing hay vendors and brokers. Then request a content analysis before you buy."

More about horses health at www.bridleandbit.com