



Newsletter for January - February, 2004

**HAPPY NEW YEAR!
MAY 2004 BE A HEALTHY, HAPPY & SAFE YEAR FOR EACH OF YOU.**

It's that time of year, and dues are now due for 2004!!!

Our Annual Holiday Party was enjoyed by 41 people at the Ranch House Restaurant. Joan Dewbre's sister, Carol Brookshaw from Alabama, won a "Lead a Llama to Lunch" for two that was generously donated by longtime members Milt and Gail Pate. Dick Fabian won a beautiful saddle blanket with the club name on the corner and Bill Dean won a handy light and carrier that can be worn on your hat, arm or saddle horn for those times when you need your hands free and a bright light too. Diane Lovett read a very well done history of the Verde Valley. Our newer members had a chance to hear first hand from members Walt & Jean Cox and Ann Everett some interesting details about growing up in the Verde in the 30's. Congratulations to our winners and special thanks to Diane Lovett for coordinating this year's activities.

Website Update - check out our brand new website, www.verdehorsemen.org, and see your club advertised on the world-wide web. Diane Lovett and Ginny Rench are very proud of this project and we all owe Cottonwood City Councilwoman Diane Joens a huge **THANK YOU!** for volunteering her time and talent in creating this site for the club. We've linked as many sites as we could think of and welcome your input, some of you have already responded and thanks for doing so. The VVHC has also joined the Cottonwood Verde Valley Chamber of Commerce.

Welcome New Members

Joe Williams & Betty Scroggins: P.O. Box 730, Cottonwood, AZ 86326, (928) 634-5906
and James Pfeifer and his children Ethan Warner & Heather Pfeifer, 798 Palisades Drive,
Clarkdale, AZ 86324, (928) 649-3142

Board openings – Longtime member Steve Rench has recently resigned from the board and we'd like to thank him for all of his service to the club. Steve is still working on some projects with the City of Cottonwood and Dead Horse State Park and continues to do a great job promoting the club in the valley. If anyone is interested in filing either of the two positions we now have open please contact President Trish Costilow. The next board meeting will be in January and the positions will be filled then. So far Bill Dean, Beth Blay and Janis Endsley have volunteered.

Pecks Lake Ride by Trish Costilow. We had a good turn out totaling 15 riders on the Peck's Lake Ride on Oct. 25, 2003. We were fortunate to have a mild change in weather that cooled things off a bit in the morning. The ride started off Bill Gray Rd and proceeded more or less directly to the Thumper Trail - part of the Dead Horse Trail System. We connected with Bones Trail that took us into Peck's Lake where upon we had burgers, hotdogs and all manner of good food including milk and chocolate cake awaiting us. The Lake was quiet and peaceful and Reggie's

horse didn't even try to take a swim! We had a leisurely lunch and then headed out across the tip of Tuzigoot and through Dead Horse Park to the Lime Kiln Trail and then back to the trailers. We had a couple of not too easy water crossings but no problems, we had lots of willing stock.

We owe much thanks to Dale for bringing the table and chairs, food, picket line, grill etc. And a huge thanks to June and Ona for helping with setting up the tables and chairs, the food preparation, and all manner of things that go into making this so pleasant. Also thanks to Cheri, Ginny and Steve for providing their assistance with details during our lunch break. Thanks also to all of the riders - our youngest was 12 yr. old Ethan and the oldest - wellwe'll leave that alone, we sure appreciated your participation.

Dry Beaver Creek Ride on December 8th lead by Ginny Rench was enjoyed by 8 members and 1 guest. Slim Chapman, being the only male on the ride, was surrounded by lots of chatter and laughter. Riders enjoyed looking at Monument Valley ride pictures back at the trailers while having some refreshments.

Camp Verde Marshal's Office annual toy ride was on November 15th. The weather was exceptional and there were about 25 riders, many of whom are VVHC members. The ride, led by Marshal John Wischmeyer, started off Cherry Road (Hwy 179) passing under the freeway through one of the drainage pipes. Before proceeding up over the hills some bear sign was sighted, the riders ended up at a cattle holding pen for lunch. The town businesses out did themselves again with their generous donations. Lunch included hamburgers, hotdogs, salads and all the fixings cooked by members of the Marshal's Office. Ona Silva and June Dean, from the VVHC, assisted with lunch and their help was greatly appreciated. After the riders got their fill of good food they left for the trailers, again passing under the freeway through an alternative route. There were no mishaps, a good time was had by all, and the funds raised were definitely for a good cause. Thanks to all that were in attendance, either as riders or volunteers, and thanks too to the people who donated money and couldn't attend the ride.

49th Annual Cottonwood Christmas Parade - New member Joe Williams and his granddaughter Taylor rode in the parade and what a fine looking pair they were. We'd sure love to have a group of VVHC members in the local parades if anyone is interested in heading this up.

Olsen Feeds 2nd Annual Equifest was bigger and better than last year and provided a great day of demonstrations, vendors and a hugh tack swap meet. This is a great event for the equestrians in our area.

December 13th – John Wischmeyer's "Bull Pen" ride was enjoyed by 14 riders. It was another great day in the Verde Vallley to be out on your favorite caballos. This was the first major ride for Cheri's horse after his very serious bout with West Nile virus and she was thrilled at how well he did. Many vets are now recommending booster shots for West Nile every 6 months, which is what many of us around here and in Prescott have gone to.

New Phone #'s: Patricia Miller (928) 301-4663 & Slim Chapman (928) 301-4668

Bed & Breakfast with your favorite caballos; what more could we ask for? For any of you that haven't been to Ann Harrington's "Little Thumb Butte Bed & Breakfast" in Chino Valley you might want to check it out. Even for non-riders this is a wonderful place to stay and Ann is a very gracious hostess. She can be reached at (928) 636-4413 or at www.littlethumb.net.



UPCOMING RIDES & ACTIVITIES
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January 10th – Red Rock ride This ride is rated a 2.5-3.0 and will be held in the red rock area located close to the Village of Oak Creek. Riders need to be in the saddle and ready to ride at 10:00 with a sack lunch. The ride is being

hosted by Homer Harmon and will leave from 2934 Verde Valley School Road. Directions to the ride area are as follows:

- Take the I-17 Freeway to the Sedona Exit (Hwy 179).
- Go West toward Sedona and turn left on Verde Valley School Rd. This is the middle traffic light in the Village of Oak Creek.
- Follow Verde Valley School Rd for approximately 2.5 miles.
- Watch the mail boxes for 2934. The turn in on the right.
- Go down the driveway and park in the designated dirt field.

Call Homer at 284-1116 to reserve your spot on this incredibly beautiful ride.

January 24th Superstition Mountain-Black Mesa - First Water Trailhead (the following information was supplied by Dale & Trish) US 60 to Idaho Rd exit. Turn north until you reach the old Apache Trail (like you are going to Cyn. Lake) Shortly after Goldfield Mining Town there will be a sign to turn right for First Water Trailhead. You will go down that road to a huge parking area on the left with hitching rails, a restroom, and a fee payment booth. We have parked there many times overnight even though it is designated as a non-camping area. It is \$4.00 per day. We will be staying both Fri. and Sat. nite. We will be riding a loop starting at First Water, to Second Water to Black Mesa over Bull Pass and back on the Dutchman's. We will ride out at 9:30. Please pack a lunch. Rating is 3.5. We plan to eat Sat. eve. at the Mining Camp restaurant - family dining. Please call Trish or Dale 649-1021.

February 14th ride to Casey's Corner for lunch on Valentine's Day. This ride will start at Oak Creek Valley Road (north of Cornville Road and approximately ½ mile east of Hwy 89A, there will be signs out), be ready to ride at 9:30 and we'll be back to the trailers around 3:00. Trail boss is Beth Blay and you need to call her by 2-10 so that she can let the restaurant know how many will be there. Non riders would be welcome to meet us for lunch. Call Beth at 634-1234.

April 17th Groom Creek this is the date for the annual cleanup at the horse camp. Please mark your calendars and we'll have more information in the next newsletter.

MEMBER ADS:

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.

16 yr. old Arabian gelding, a horse many of you know, is for sale by Bill Dean. Shadrack has been everywhere and is a great trail horse. Call Bill at 928-567-3081 for more information.

15" Marciante saddle in great condition for sale for \$450.00. Call Steve Rench at (928) 634-9354.

Wanted: Mel Scarbrough is looking for a John Beck saddle in any condition. If you have one that you'd like to sell please call Mel at (928) 632-7436. John was his uncle and he wants the saddle for sentimental reasons.

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.

Officers

Patricia Costilow, President; Diane Lovett, Treas. 634-2767

Board Members

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

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