

Newsletter for June to August 2006  
Website: [www.verdehorsemen.org](http://www.verdehorsemen.org)

#### Officers

President: Pat Miller  
Vice President: Jenny Bellows  
Secretary: Denise Sciarrotta  
Treasurer: Fran Whetten

Board Members:  
Joe Williams, Steve Harris, Milt Pate, Nancy Albright

Past President: Ginny Rench

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Thanks to all the members for giving me this opportunity to be of service to the club. There was a Board meeting May 17<sup>th</sup>. We were fortunate to have most of the past board members in attendance as well as new board members. This provided an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the current status of the club.

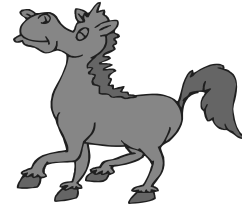
One of the most notable discussions centered around the ongoing work of a few members in representing the club to the communities and governmental agencies of the area. A huge thank you for the efforts of Steve and Ginny Rench, Diane Lovett, and Fran Whetten for their years of service representing the club, and a wish that their efforts may continue for many more years. Each of them are involved in different aspects of interaction with governmental agencies and the promotion of equestrian activities in the area. The Board has requested these individuals to provide regular updates of their activities which will be published in the newsletter. Each of us needs to think about how we may assist in these efforts and offer our support and assistance to these individuals. Promotion of equestrian activities and support of continued equestrian utilization of our State and National areas is of paramount importance to us all.

A number of exciting rides have been planned for the summer and fall. We look forward to seeing good turn outs at the events.

The club has an opportunity to raise some funds by participating in the sale of alcoholic beverages at the Prescott rodeo on Sunday July 2<sup>nd</sup> at the 1:30pm performance. We are still in need of an additional 3-4 individuals to assist with this project. The team will meet at the rodeo grounds at 11:30 am for training and location assignments. We are finished shortly after the performance is concluded. If you can assist with this fund raiser please contact me ASAP. (928-301-4663 or [smokyacres@swiftwireless.com](mailto:smokyacres@swiftwireless.com)) Car pooling can be arranged as well.

See you at the rides!!

# ANNUAL MEETING AND TRAIL RIDE



At the Annual Meeting we had a wonderful ride and lunch.

Milt & Gail Pate were very gracious in having the meeting at their ranch. The first group left and enjoyed a great fast walking ride. The second group had a nice leisurely walk and enjoyed seeing the tops of hats from the first group as they disappeared around the mountain side. Lots of laughing and talking with a good lunch made for a great day. The elections went off with out a hitch as you can see with the list of Officers to the left of the page.

Conratulations to our NEW group of officers.

## YAVAPAI EQUINE SURVEY

Results of the equine survey are available at Yavapai College website:

<http://www.2.yc.edu/>

In the center of the page under General News, click on 5-3-06 Yavapai County Pleasure Horse Industry – Survey Results.



**VVHC now has T-shirts and hats to sell. They come in many different styles and colors to choose from. The VVHC Logo looks great on them. The prices are \$10.00 each. Please contact Ginny Rench at 928-649-9354**



The confirmation is in for us to work at the Prescott Rodeo this year. The date is **July 2<sup>nd</sup>**. We need to be there at **11:30 am** to report for work. It is always fun and entertaining!!!

Equestrian & Animal Event Center has some wonderful news to share. The arena has arrived!! The target date for the arena to be in full swing is planned for September 2006.



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## UP COMING RIDES

### **JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> – GENERAL CROOK'S TRAIL**

Go up Hwy 260 towards Payson. Be prepared to turn left just prior to mile marker 145. We will have a VVHC sign on Hwy 260 prior to the turn. This ride will start at 9am and last about 5-5.5 hours. Bring a lunch. We will ride part of the historic General Crooks Trail. The ride is rated a 3 only because some areas are very rocky. For the most part the trail is relatively level with a well defined trail or forest road and a very enjoyable ride through the pines.

Contact Pat at 301-4663 or Slim at 301-4668 to RSVP.

## UP COMING RIDES

### **JUNE 24<sup>TH</sup> – PINCHOT CABIN**

This ride is 14 miles in length at 7,600 elevation. Allow 2 hours drive time from Camp Verde. From Camp Verde drive east on 260 (towards Payson). At the T junction of Highway 260 & Highway 87 turn toward Clints Well. From Clints Well stay on Hwy 87. Approximately 9 miles past Clints Well, and just after passing the Blue Ridge Ranger Station, turn right on Forest Rd. 95. Stay on FR 95 for 8.4 miles ( at about 6.4 miles you will cross East Clear Creek on a bridge. After crossing take the right fork and stay on FR #95.) and turn left on #139. Two miles in on #139 you will see a sign “U Bar Trail #28.”

That is the starting point. If you wish to camp out before the ride, use either side of #139 at the starting point. Contact John Wischmeyer at 928-567-2458

### **JULY 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> – GROOM CREEK**

This ride is an overnight ride. If you are unable to spend the night, come up for a wonderful day ride with the group. Make your reservations with the Forest Service. Information for reservations are enclosed.

Contact Ginny Rench 928-634-9354

### **SEPTEMBER 8, 9 & 10 – PRESCOTT FRONTIER DAYS, INC. 9<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL CATERED TRAIL RIDE**

This ride is at Groom Creek Horse Camp. It will have great trail rides, food & entertainment. The price will be \$160.00 (includes 2 nights FS camping fee) Contact Joy Brown, Trail Ride Chairman at 928-636-5387

### **SEPTEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup> & 14<sup>TH</sup> – LITTLE ELDEN HORSE CAMP**

Little Elden Horse Camp is located near Flagstaff. We will plan on arriving either the evening of the 11<sup>th</sup> or morning of the 12<sup>th</sup> (after 11am in the morning). We will depart on the morning of the 14<sup>th</sup>. Reservations are required. Contact Joseph at 928-649-6151 or e-mail [twoforx@commspeed.net](mailto:twoforx@commspeed.net).



## FOR SALE OR WANTED ITEMS

2 Well broke mustang mares for sale. They are 4 years old and have been packed on. They are shod and stand about 14 hands. If interested contact Dennis Tomerlin at 928-567-9448

2 saddles – 1 is Don West 16" w/tapaderos - also Simco Buena Vista 15 ½ " w/tapaderos – Both in excellent condition. Contact Beth at [bbinaz@earthlink.net](mailto:bbinaz@earthlink.net) or 928-634-1234 or 928-300-8988

Ladies western clothes (sizes 10 & 12) Shirts, skirts & jeans. Excellent condition. 928-634-2027

Pleasure saddle, circle Y, rawhide covered tree, 15 "tree. In great shape. Contact Cheryl Farley 928-634-1268

According to our by-laws, we are to be involved with laws concerned with trails, and in changes concerning them. Fran Whetten and Diane Lovett have been part of the Trails Coalition for some time. Here is information concerning these efforts.

### **VVHC – and local politics**

Since the beginning of the Verde Valley Horsemen's Council (VVHC) in 1980, we have been heavily involved in zoning issues pertaining to the zoning needed to keep horses and the number of horses allowed per acre, trails preservation issues, and other animal issues that come to our attention.

The zoning issue seems to be resolved at this point in time (if I am wrong, don't hesitate to say so)! Trail preservation is the hot issue now and if you are concerned (and you should be) there are many ways you can make your opinions heard and help preserve the trails and trails access that we now enjoy.

We currently have representation on the Deadhorse Ranch Trails Coalition, the Cocopai Trails Action Team, the Yavapai County Trails Committee and the Yavapai County Regional Planning effort. Also in frequent contact is the Camp Verde Trails and Pathways Committee.

The Deadhorse Ranch Trails Coalition has spent the past 10 years bringing the Lime Kiln Trail into reality. The dedication of that important historic trail will be in 2007, but it can be used now. The trail starts at Deadhorse Ranch State Park and travels to Red Rock State Park. It is all marked by rock cairns. In the future there will be two trailheads, (in addition to the parks), one at Sheepshead Tank and the other just off of FS 89B. These are planned to be overnight trailheads. If you are interested in the history of the trail, there is a wall in the Verde Historical Museum that tells the story and explains the lime kiln.

The Coalition is currently working on the Cornville Stage Trail which will be accessed just off of Zalesky Road in Cottonwood, travel behind the Verde Santa Fe development into Cornville and eventually the Cornville Community Park. It is planned to continue the trail on to the Beaverhead Flat Road trailhead. There is now discussion regarding finalizing what has been called the "Sheep Trail" which currently is a reality from Phoenix to the Prescott National Forest boundary near Cordes Junction. It will continue on through the Verde Valley, cross the river at Thousand Trails sheep's crossing and on to Flagstaff. This will be a major undertaking but use your imagination to realize what a wonderful trail that will be. This is also a very historic trail. There has been some publicity recently when the annual band of 1,600 sheep went through, but if you are interested in more information, talk to Fran Whetten or Diane Lovett.

The Cocopai Trails Action Team was formed to bring the several trails groups together so that information could be shared and the different groups could speak in one "voice". They are currently working on a trails inventory map of the whole Verde Valley. If you are interested, they need help in this tremendous undertaking. Talk to Diane or Fran about this one also. They are also getting the work done to get a grant to hire a regional trails coordinator which will be a great help in our trails preservation and identification.

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The Yavapai County Trails Committee is heavily involved in trying to keep trails open in the face of oncoming development. There is a constant need to keep up on things as they come forward for county approval and to talk to the public agencies that manage land adjoining these developments. This is a complicated but extremely important part of keeping trails open and available for use from our towns to public lands and probably one of the hardest to accomplish.

The Yavapai County Regional Plan has been in the works for several years and is just now reaching reality. There is a large section on trails in their draft proposal and we need to keep on top of their activities also. Diane has a copy of this if you are interested.

We currently do not have representation on the Camp Verde Trails and Pathways Committee, but we are frequently in contact with those who are and are able to somewhat keep up with what is happening there. They are currently finalizing (after 10 years or more) a trailhead at the bottom of Copper Canyon. They are also working on the General Crook Trail, currently trying to get the trail on the ground from Ft. Verde to 13 Mile Rock. This committee also was the effort behind the Mail Trail from Camp Verde to Payson, another important historical trail. It is completed and there are plans for dedication at the trailhead just off of Highway 260 coming up soon.

We hope you can see the importance of keeping trails open. If you have been in Arizona for any time, you can see what happened in Scottsdale. They lost trail access from the city and are now scrambling to keep open space available in the far North reaches of the East valley. Anyone interested in attending the meetings or helping in any way can contact Fran Whetten or Diane Lovett for meeting times, locations, etc.

# Happy Trails

