

JUNE 15, 2007

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

Board Members:  
Joe Williams  
Nancy Allbright  
Ann Smith  
Diane Lovett

**ANNUAL MEETING SUCCESSFUL** The annual meeting was held on May 12, 2007 at Murphy's Grill in Cottonwood. There was a large turnout of members for the meeting as everyone was aware of the decisions to be made regarding the future of the club. All members had been made aware of three options, two of which would move the Council into the future, one that would dispense with VVHC. Steve Rench, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, advised that the Committee had come up with a slate of officers for presentation to the membership, thereby keeping the club's traditional structure. Those presented were as listed above. A motion was made, seconded and carried unanimously to accept the slate as presented.

In other business, Ginny Rench and Ann Smith talked about the advantages for cross-club membership between Central Arizona Arabian Horse Assn. And VVHC. These advantages make cooperative projects beneficial to both.

Fran Whetten gave an interesting update on the Deadhorse Ranch Trails Coalition and other trails activities. Diane Lovett and Steve Harris reported that their newspaper column was not given a definite time and location in the newspaper, sometimes not appearing at all. The Journal Extra expressed no interest in it, so it has been discontinued. Joe Williams would still like to have a gymkhana association in the Verde Valley. Anyone interested in helping with this, contact Joe.

A motion was carried to move the post office box from Camp Verde to Cottonwood. The new address for VVHC is P. O. Box 503, Cottonwood, AZ 86326.

**NEW VOICE OF THE HORSEMAN EDITOR** With a new Board and a new beginning, comes a new Editor for the Voice of the Horseman. Starting in June 2007, every effort will be made to get the paper out by the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month. The paper will be published every other month, or six editions per year. This means a deadline each time of the 10th of the publication month. If you see an article of interest to horsemen, let the editor have it. If you went on a special ride or learned something about trails, etc., send it in. We are going to try hard to have an interesting paper, but, as always, need your help. We are also going to try to sell some ads to various horse related stores, etc.

Any help there would be appreciated. Along with all of this, we would like to have a "Letters to the Editor" column. We would like your participation in this also. The paper will no longer include the application for membership, or the trail rating guide or trail rules, etc. If you need any of these forms, they are all on our web site, [verdehorsemen.org](http://verdehorsemen.org). This is a tremendous web site that we should be very proud of. Everyone should visit the site periodically to check it out. You can send information, letters, ads, questions, suggestions, etc. to [Lovett@commspeed.net](mailto:Lovett@commspeed.net) or call 928-634-2767. You can also fax to that number, but have to call first (and then good luck!), or mail it to P. O. Box 1341, Cottonwood 86326.

**MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS** At the annual meeting, several people voiced the opinion that we should have more membership meetings. The Board decided to have quarterly membership meetings. The first one will be held August 11<sup>th</sup> at Gail and Milt Pate's house in Middle Verde (Spirit Wind Arabians). We are going to try to have an interesting program at each of these meetings, like an outside speaker on different aspects of caring for a horse, etc. The club will furnish the meat for hamburgers and hotdogs; you bring a potluck dish to go with. Everything starts at 6:00 p.m. We want and need membership involvement in these meetings. Please plan to attend and bring your suggestions and comments. If you need directions, please call Pates at 928-567-6378.

**SADDLE DRAWING WINNER** Several months ago VVHC member Nancy Allbright donated a beautiful tooled western saddle to be used as a raffle item to benefit the Cottonwood Equestrian and Animal Event Center. The drawing was held April 25 at the arena during the Buckle Series last of the first go-round. The winner was Brittany Groth. Brittany attends Copper Canyon Academy. \$1,205 was raised to benefit the arena.

**VVHC MEMBERS PART OF COAST-TO-COAST TREK** On Tuesday May 23, two intrepid ladies on horseback, along with their entourage of support person and vehicles arrived at Milt and Gail Pate's ranch. Andi Mills and Edie New along with driver and all-around camp finder, meal cook, et al, Marla McKinney arrived to spend a few days of rest before continuing along their trek from the Los Angeles area to Edisto Island, South Carolina, on horseback. The purpose of this tremendous undertaking is to raise awareness and funding for research on strokes in women. Both New and Mills had sisters who suffered from stroke. One is disabled for life; the other got help in time and is fine. If you want to feel the reality of a trip like this, go online to [carolinatrekkers.com](http://carolinatrekkers.com) and read their daily blogs. It is fascinating reading, and you can decide if a trip like this is for you!!

On Tuesday, May 29, Gail Pate, Bill Dean and Camp Verde Mayor Tony Gioia, along with the two South Carolina riders, Edie and Andi, left Spirit Wind Arabians about 9:45 a.m. Bill, Gail and Mayor Gioia were going to take them to the trail which leads to the trailhead to Fossil Creek. The Mayor had arranged for the Marshall's Office and the Yavapai-Apache Police to have squad cars at the crossing of the Middle Verde Road over I-17 and through the two roundabouts. They went down the trail to Wet Beaver Creek, up and along the White Hills, behind the sewer plant and to the Bull Pen corrals. They left the ladies there for them to ride along the highway to the turnoff to Fossil Creek. If you want to know how the trip went down to Fossil Creek, the steep climb out and on to Payson, I urge you to visit the above-mentioned web site. It is great reading. Gail and Milt were glad they had offered their place as a rest stop and enjoyed having the ladies from South Carolina.

**VVHC MEMBER RIDES WASHINGTON STATE BORDER TO BORDER** Our own Beth Blay left Cornville on May 9 headed for Washington and the two week ride from Easton (on the West), ending at the little town of Tekeo on the Idaho border. This was the 26<sup>th</sup> annual Cross the State Ride beginning May 18 and ending June 3. You have to bring your own rigs and supplies. Each morning rigs are transported to the end of the day's ride. When they met the Columbia River, all stock and rigs and wagons had to be driven to the other side where the ride continues on the old Milwaukee Railroad path. Beth said she loved every minute of the ride. There were some days when she rode one of the wagons and sent Pride on ahead with the rig. She said they did incredible things, like trestles over canyons and rivers and short and long tunnels. Some tunnels had no light and they carried flashlights to show the horses the walls.

They rode anywhere from 10 to 23 miles a day. Beth says she met lots of super people, there were 100 on the ride, including a variety of wagons and carts. The John Wayne Pioneer Wagons and Riders Association was the sponsor of the ride. Blays will be in Washington at their property until October.

## **FROM CENTRAL ARIZONA EQUINE:**

### **NORMAL PPHYSICAL EXAM FINDINGS FOR AN ADULT HORSE**

Attitude	Bright, alert, responsive and standing quiet
Pulse (Heart Rate) at rest	36 – 44 beats per minute take rate over 15 seconds & multiply by 4
Respirations	12 – 24 breaths per minute
Mucous Membranes Gum color	Pink and moist pale, red or purple gum color indicates illness
Capillary Refill Time	2 seconds
Gastrointestinal system	Gurgling in all 4 quadrants of abdomen (upper and lower flank area)
Stool/feces	Well formed semi-soft fecal balls easily Broken apart Hard or very soft feces are abnormal
Temperature	98.8 – 100.8 F
Hooves	Cool to the touch

Facts to know before calling your veterinarian:

Age, male/female, breed

Appetite and Attitude

Change of diet in the past week-grain, hay, type, pasture, supplements

Travel history-trailering, relocation to different stable

Vaccination and de-worming history

History of illnesses-colic, cough, nasal discharge, diarrhea, lameness

Current medications

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- June 17                      Joint trail ride, Central Arizona Arabian Horse Association and Verde Valley Horsemen's Council. Meet at 8:30 a.m. where Stoneman Lake Road turns to dirt. Eric Eberhard will lead the ride. RSVP to Eric at 567-9577. Cheryl's cell phone 301-7536. Eric will lead the group from there to the beginning of the trail ride. Pack a lunch and bring water for yourself and your horse. This is about a 10-mile ride to Brolier Lake. Call Eric for information on trail specifications.
- July 21                      Pat Miller will lead a ride off of Highway 260 in the high country. Follow 260 watching for milepost 245. Watch carefully as the turn-off is about 50 feet before you get to 245. Turn left onto a forest road. There is plenty of parking just beyond the right-of-way fence. This is an easy 5 to 5 ½ hour ride. Bring your lunch and water and be ready to ride at 9:00 a.m.
- August 11                    Quarterly membership meeting, 6:00 p.m. at Pate's place in Middle Verde. Club will furnish hamburgers and hotdogs. Bring a dish to share. There will be an informative speaker.
- August 17,18,19            Overnight ride at Clover Springs. Plan to come on Friday for a short ride in the afternoon. Ride all day Saturday. Short ride Sunday a.m. Bill Dean is the trail boss. Furnish your own breakfasts and lunches and Friday dinner. Saturday night we will have grills ready for your steak, or whatever. Everyone is asked to bring a potluck dish for that night. We will have a camp circle, probably with lantern light instead of fire, lots of fun and entertainment. Of course this is if they don't close the forest!! Call Steve Harris at 639-3089 or Diane Lovett at 634-2767 for more information.

## **NOTICE ---HORSE AND LIVESTOCK OWNERS**

### **National Animal Identification System (NAIS) Premises ID**

The United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) is moving forward with the National Animal Identification System (NAIS). The USDA is cooperating with the states Department of Agriculture, Tribes and Industry to create a system that works for all of us.

Everyone who owns a horse or other livestock has a vital role to play.

There is no fee for applying and your state Department of Agriculture recommends that you apply for your Premises ID as soon as possible.

1. Protect y our premises and your livelihood
2. Protect your access to markets
3. Reduce hardships caused by an animal disease outbreak in your community.
4. It's voluntary
5. USDA will protect individual's private information
6. It's a partnership

To request an information packet by mail (which includes an application form) please contact Jim Meggs at 602-542-0943.

Visit their website at <http://animalid.aphis.usda.gov/nais/index.shtml>

Additionally, you may also obtain an application at the Farm Service Agency (FSA) office in the area where you live and they will be glad to assist you in completing the application.

<http://www.azda.gov/Main/animalID.htm>

Lets work together to make National Animal ID work for all of us!!  
ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Taken from the Bridle and Bit magazine June 2007

## President's Message:


I'm glad to be back as president of the club again and I'd like to thank all of the members that stepped up to fill positions as officers and to serve on the board for this year. Jenny Bellows agreed to be secretary when she could have served as past president and had little to do. Steve Harris is not only vice president he also agreed to be the "trail ride coordinator" which is such an important position. Fran Whetten stayed on as treasurer and does such a great job. New to the board this year is Ann Smith, Ann has been involved with the Central Arizona Arabian Club for many years filling many positions. Diane Lovett, a founding member of VVHC agreed to come back on the board and also is the newsletter editor this year. Joe Williams and Nancy Allbright are staying on for another year and Milt Pate will be filling the past president position. All of these members feel a strong commitment to VVHC and prove it by volunteering their time. Having a good board sure makes the president's job easier.

Recently I was asked to attend a work session with the City of Sedona's Arts & Culture Commission. My part would have been to talk about horses and the cultural impact they have on Sedona and the greater Sedona area. Even though I was unable to participate I took advantage of the subject and had some great discussions with many people. What the bottom line was for me is that we in the Verde Valley, Prescott and the surrounding areas are really very fortunate. Sedona, in my opinion, sold out the horse culture to developers and non-horse people years ago and it's too late to get it back. The Verde is so fortunate that we still have horse property, trails and local elected officials that look at this heritage as important and are working to keep and promote what we love. The new Equestrian & Animal Event Center in Cottonwood, the Dead Horse Trails Coalition along with other groups continue to work on our behalf. Please don't take what we have for granted, volunteer when and where you can so that we don't become like Scottsdale, Phoenix or even Sedona; these are places that used to be horse friendly and no longer are.

The board is very committed to offering some diverse activities for the members; to do this we're going to partner with the other clubs like Central Arizona Arabian, Prescott Saddle Club and Back Country Horsemen. This past weekend CAHAA and VVHC sponsored a "de-spooking clinic" at the CE&AEC which was great. Let someone on the board know what you'd like to see us offer or what you'd like to help put together. By networking with other clubs we all get to meet new people and find out about new products, farriers, trainers, etc. that other horse enthusiasts know about.

See ya on the trail or somewhere near a horse or mule.

Ginny



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May 7, 2007

Dear Friends,

Since it appears I may live forever in spite of the diagnosed ailments, I think it fair that I at least reimburse you with some postage. I do enjoy receiving the Voice of the Horseman including the membership list. Since I just celebrated my 90th birthday, it is nice to know there are still some of the old members still in there working.

How I wish I could ride with you again. Some of the rides you take sound so interesting. I regret I never made one of the rides on the Navajo reservation. I can remember Monument Valley and the times I explored it with Norman Nevills back when I was in my early twenties. Whew! That was sure a long time ago. We just went there and climbed and slid and did whatever we wanted whenever we wanted.

I am sorry that the Sheep Trail was never finished because of the Forest Service attitude that a desert primrose and other "artifacts" couldn't be destroyed. But we had fun finding and restoring the markers.

I hope at the May 12' meeting you do not vote to dispense with the VVHC. It would be a real blow to us ancient horsemen. However, today's younger population seems not to have the time to keep things going, just to participate.

Regards to all of you who remember me,

*Jean R. Clark*