

VERDE VALLEY HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL
VOICE of the HORSEMAN
RESURRECT THE WEST

DECEMBER 15, 2009

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Craig Stevens
Judi Avery
Connie Koff
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THERE'S NOWHERE I'D RATHER BE, AND NOTHING I'D RATHER DO THAN RIDE ONE OF MY HORSES UP THE RIVER TRAIL. In the small Quebec town where I grew up, the dirt road that ran along behind our house was the dividing line between our neighborhood and a farm, and directly behind our house was the farmer's pasture. When I wasn't much more than a toddler, my mom found me out in that pasture one day, sitting among the draft horses as they grazed. A happy moment for me, but for my mom, not so much!

I grew up reading and dreaming about horses but had few opportunities to ride. I moved from Montreal to Jerome in 1971 and met and married my first husband, a third-generation Verde Valley native. I bought my first horse that same year, a five-year-old locally-bred running Quarter mare. Cody was a great first horse and not at all spooky. She lived to be thirty-two, and we had some interesting experiences as we traveled down that long trail together. We competed in NATRC competitive trail rides all around Arizona during the early to mid 70's. With Cody as my mount, I was a charter member of the Rio Verde Roverettes. We took English riding lessons and were doing work "on the flat" in preparation for jumping lessons when Cody was kicked by a proud-cut gelding, breaking her leg. Thankfully, she came back well from that injury. We continued to log pleasure trail miles, and in later years, my daughter grew up riding her. We bred Cody to a handsome AQHA stallion and raised a nice foal. After that, my ex-husband and I became interested in Davenport Arabians. We had two mares and a stallion that we raised from weanlings and had another stallion on lease for a couple of years. Ultimately, we bred and raised several purebred foals and a few nice half-Arab foals out of Cody, one of which became my ex's personal horse, Rooster. He was a smart, kind, elegant horse who also lived to a ripe old age. Even though our two sons had a horse of their own, they loved to ride Rooster.

By the time Cody died in '98, I was busy teaching junior high English and hadn't ridden much in a few years. When Marc and I married we stayed horseless for a while. After we moved to our house on two acres near the river in '04, it didn't take me long to find another nice five-year-old, locally bred mare, this one a solid bay APHA. Our "family" quickly grew to include two handsome geldings - a buckskin retired reiner and a young, lanky Paint/TB. I became a student of dressage in '04; that pursuit helps me continually fine-tune my horsemanship skills. Trail riding is still my first love, though. I ride a few times a week, and Marc gets out with me as often as he can. There's nowhere I'd rather be, and nothing I'd rather do than ride one of my horses up the river trail.

VVHC Board member Judi Avery is the epitome of an Arizona horsewoman.

Our condolences to Pat Miller and family on the passing of Slim Chapman. VVHC will miss him. He was an active rider and member.

Welcome to new members Michael and Elizabeth Mendoza. Be sure to ride up next to them, introduce yourself and welcome them to the club.

DUES ARE DUE!!! Yes, already it is that time of year again to support your membership in the Verde Valley Horsemen's Council by paying your dues. If you take advantage of all the club has to offer, and participate in club events, the price of your dues is the best bargain going. \$30 for family or \$20 single. Enclosed is an application form to fill out and return. Both old and new members must sign an application each year.

VVHC Signs – Does anyone have any VVHC signs? We are missing about three and need to locate them. If you have one or more, please let Steve Harris know, 928-639-3089 or 301-4825.

2010 is the 30th anniversary of VVHC. The Board is looking for any ideas on how to mark this occasion. Contact any Board member with ideas.

Horse Soccer Team. If VVHC should sponsor any teams, players all must be VVHC members. There appears to be no interest in forming a competitive team. Unofficial practices continue at the Cottonwood Equestrian Center. Contact Harold Hesterly or VVHC President Steve Harris for details.

Line Kiln Trail maintenance. We are still trying to get information from the forest service. We were informed that a new trail coordinator would be available after the first of the year. After meeting with him we will have more of an idea if we can do this.

DESENCITIZING CLINIC is scheduled for March 6 at the Cottonwood Equestrian Center. There will be a limit of 20 entrants. Fee is \$20 per person. To sign up email Steve Harris at info@cowboyschool.com or call him at 928-639-3089 or 928-301-4825.

POSSIBLE ACTHA RIDE. Judi Avery is still working on the possibility of an American Competitive Trail Horse Association sanctioned ride. Deadhorse Ranch State Park is a possibility and there will be discussion with them. The prospective trail must be pre-ridden as the ride must be a minimum of six miles. Anyone with a GPS and time to ride possible routes, contact Judi at judiavery@hotmail.com or 928- 646-8609.


WARM-UP ARENA at the Equestrian Center. Craig Stevens did extensive research on various ways VVHC could help in making a warm-up arena. The option of getting old poles from APS seems best. After the poles are procured then plans on placement and getting arena type footing will be explored.

CULTURAL PARK RIDE was enjoyed. This ride was billed as "scenic Sedona ride not to be missed". Craig Stevens says the six riders that went on this ride would agree. The weather was beautiful. Deep in the canyons the trees were in their full fall colors. The trail was well maintained and we didn't encounter anyone else on the trail. The ride destination was an old homestead, early turn of the century, at the base of Cockscomb. Here we stopped and had lunch, took our time and looked through the old structure and headed back. The ride took almost four hours. Definitely a ride to remember and do again.



CIENEGA RIDE in memory of Cathy Hubbard included four VVHC members that joined with 22 riders from the Prescott Saddle Club on a wonderful ride. They enjoyed lunch along Cienega Creek and the weather was perfect. Upon arriving back at the trailers some of the PSC ladies set up a lovely table of cookies and cheese and crackers and a variety of cold drinks and riders shared some favorite stories about Cathy. One thing each story had in common was that Cathy always had an opinion and shared it whether you wanted to hear it or not. One of Cathy's granddaughters was on the ride on her grandma's mule Easter, who now lives with Sherrie Pitrat. It was certain that Cathy was watching down on all of us and pleased so many of her friends showed up to enjoy one of her favorite rides.

VVHC HOLIDAY RIDE and lunch were both cancelled. The lunch was cancelled due to lack of participation. Those few that were going to ride anyway had to cancel because of the weather.



HORSE TALK
by Dr. Sandra Olsen

The familiar old phrase **Don't look a gift horse in the mouth** refers to the practice of horse traders determining the age of a horse by its anterior teeth, or incisors. The incisors erupt and wear down according to a fairly consistent schedule through the life of the horse. As the incisors wear down, the chewing surface changes in appearance, exposing more and more of the infundibulum, a natural concavity in the anterior teeth. By looking at the lower incisors to see which permanent teeth have erupted and considering their stage of wear, knowledgeable horse traders can estimate the age of the horse. Since older horses are less useful for heavy work, determining the age helps to evaluate a horse's worth. Hence, looking a gift horse in the mouth is the equivalent of asking someone how much they paid for a gift they have just given you and then complaining that it was not expensive enough. Getting information **straight from the horse's mouth** is also probably derived from the fact that a smart horse trader would look into a horse's mouth for himself to determine its age, rather than trusting the word of the seller.



SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

- JANUARY 2** Ride from the gravel piles off of Cornville Road, further east of Beaverhead Flat Road. Celebrate the New Year and be ready to ride at 10:00. This is a 3 to 3 ½ hour ride rated a 2. Bring your lunch. Call Chris Lombardi at 928-300-2360 to tell her you are coming and for further information.
- FEBRUARY 11** VVHC Board of Directors meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Craig Steven's home. Call Craig at 928-639-1867 for directions. Members are always welcome.
- FEBRUARY 13** Ride the Chasm Creek Trail. Park at the end of Salt Mine Road, south of Camp Verde. Be in the saddle ready to ride at 10:00 a.m. Bring a lunch. This ride is rated between and 4 and 5, not for beginners. Call Steve at 928-639-3089 or 301-4825 to tell him you are coming and for more information and specific directions.
- MARCH 6** VVHC sponsored Desensitizing Clinic at Cottonwood Equestrian Center. Entrants will be limited to 20. The fee will be \$20. Contact Steve Harris at 928-639-3089 or 301-4825 for more information or to enter.

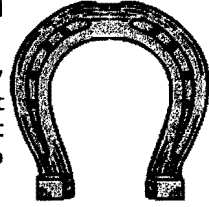
ATTENTION TRAIL BOSSES. It is extremely important that you have a "Ride Release Form" with you when you lead a ride. Everyone on the ride must sign it. It is on our website at verdehorsemen.org and can be downloaded from there. It is also extremely important that you give the completed sheets to Judi Avery for file. This is just an extra step the Board wants to protect the club from liability issues. Thanks for everyone's cooperation.

THE LUCK OF THE HORSE SHOE

By Caterina Tadlock

Many people around the world consider the horseshoe to be symbol of good luck, but few know the history behind this famous superstition.

There are two reasons for the horseshoe being considered lucky that are widely agreed upon by scholars. One, is the fact that the horse shoe is a crescent shape. The other is the fact that the horse shoe is made of iron. However, it has also been suggested that the horseshoe's luck may have something to do with its connection to the animal itself.



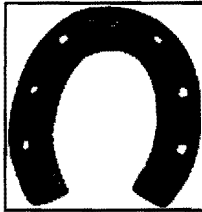
The crescent, is the symbol of the great goddess, or triple goddess, who is worshiped by a large number of ancient civilizations. The crescent is therefore often considered to be a protective shape. This, combined with iron, makes the horseshoe a powerful symbol. Iron, because of its strength, was thought to be a very special and even somewhat magical material. Those who were able to work it, such as black smiths, were believed to be magicians with supernatural abilities. It was believed that iron could ward off demons and witches and horseshoes were often hung on people's front doors for this reason.

The horse shoe also has seven nail holes, and seven is amongst certain cultures, considered to be a lucky number. This could have something to do with the horseshoe being lucky, or could just be a mere coincidence. It was also once believed that if a horse were shod with shoes made from the iron of a sword by which a man has been killed, the horse would be exceptionally fast and would never tire.

It is also possible that the horseshoe was once used as a symbol in the ancient practice of serpent worship. Engravings of both snakes and horse shoes can be found on ancient stones and medals. Also, in front of a church in Credi, (a town in southern Malta) there is a statue at whose feet lay the protective symbol of a half moon encircled by a snake.

In ancient Asiatic and Egyptian cultures the serpent is considered to be divine because of its elegant motion, its ability to shed its skin, its eyes, and they way it springs upon its prey. The worship of these creatures is a very ancient practice, which was once nearly worldwide.

The most interesting possibility for the lucky horseshoe superstition is perhaps its association with the horse itself. The horse has been a beloved and sometimes even worshiped animal amongst cultures all over the world, so it would make sense that the shoe of such a magnificent animal would be valued. There is a myth amongst the English in which the horse is considered a luck-bringer, and horse-worship was common practice amongst the early Celts, Teutons, and Slavs.



The horse was even considered to be divine by some Christians. The Irish believe that the horseshoe is magical because the horse and the ass were in the stable where Christ was born, and are therefore blessed creatures. Another example is the people of Delve, a small village in Holstein. These people allowed a horse to decide where they would build their church. They tied a portrait of the Virgin on the back of a paint mare. The mare was then allowed to wander freely, and the church was to be built on the spot where the mare was found the next morning.

The horseshoe superstition is most likely the result of a combination of these bits of folklore and myths, and not just a single one. But even more so, it is a result of the basic human need to believe in something greater and more powerful than ourselves. Regardless of how or where it started, it is a superstition that has been with us since ancient times, and is likely to stay with us as long as we feel the need to receive protection and good fortune from an outside

PLEASE FILL OUT THE APPLICATION COMPLETELY EVEN IF RENEWING!

**MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION AND LIABILITY RELEASE
VERDE VALLEY HORSEMEN'S COUNCIL
P O Box 503, COTTONWOOD, AZ 86326**

I hereby apply for membership and in consideration of acceptance to participate in activities and ride on trail rides with the 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.

ARS12-553. Limited liability of equine owners and owners of equine facilities; exception; definitions

A. An equine owner or an agent of an equine owner who regardless of consideration allows another person to take control of an equine is not liable for an injury to or the death of the person if:

1. The person has taken control of the equine from the owner or agent when the injury or death occurs.
2. The person or the parent or legal guardian of the person if the person is under eighteen years of age has signed a release before taking control of the equine.
3. The owner or agent has properly installed suitable tack or equipment or the person has personally tacked the equine with tack the person owned, leased or borrowed. If the person has personally tacked the equine, the person assumes full responsibility for the suitability, installation and condition of the tack.
4. The owner or agent assigns the person to a suitable equine based on a reasonable interpretation of the person's representation of his skills, health and experience with and knowledge of equines.

B. Subsection A does not apply to an equine owner or agent of the equine owner who is grossly negligent or commits wilful, wanton or intentional acts or omissions.

C. An owner, lessor or agent of any riding stable, rodeo ground, training or boarding stable or other private property that is used by a rider or handler of an equine with or without the owner's permission is not liable for injury to or death of the equine or the rider or handler.

D. Subsection C does not apply to an owner, lessor or agent of any riding stable, rodeo

ground, training or boarding stable or other private property that is used by a rider or handler of an equine if either of the following applies:

1. The owner, lessor or agent knows or should know that a hazardous condition exists and the owner, lessor or agent fails to disclose the hazardous condition to a rider or handler of an equine.
2. The owner, lessor or agent is grossly negligent or commits wilful, wanton or intentional acts or omissions.

E. As used in this section:

1. "Equine" means a horse, pony, mule, donkey or ass.
2. "Release" means a document that a person signs before taking control of an equine from the owner or owner's agent and that acknowledges that the person is aware of the inherent risks associated with equine activities, is willing and able to accept full responsibility for his own safety and welfare and releases the equine owner or agent from liability unless the equine owner or agent is grossly negligent or commits wilful, wanton or intentional acts or omissions.

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 _____

Phone _____ Email Address _____

Address _____

City _____ State & Zip _____

VVHC ONLY: Family membership () \$30.00 Single membership () \$20.00

VVHC & CENTRAL ARIZONA ARABIAN CLUB This is new starting August, 2007

Family membership () \$52.00 Single membership () \$35.00

Please make check or money order payable to Verde Valley Horsemen's Council and send with signed application/release to VVHC at P O Box 503, Cottonwood, AZ 86326



Merry Christmas