



THE ROUNDUP



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March 2018 Issue

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Mission Statement: The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association is dedicated to protecting all horse properties, large and small facilities alike, and preserving horse privileges along with our rural lifestyle. The Association is committed to uniting our horse community in working toward these goals. Membership is open to all, horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support our purpose. We are not a Homeowners Association; we do not restrict, regulate or police.

PLANES, TRAILHEADS AND WATER, OH MY!

Message from the President

Just when I think the dust has settled and all things are good in the neighborhood, 3 more important issues within our rural environment pop up needing our attention and action. And I must stress needing **OUR** action, meaning all residents of the Rio Verde Foothills, not just the RVHA Board of Directors (BOD).

As issues are brought to our attention, your RVHA BOD will discuss the concerns in our board meetings, and will sometimes vote to make a formal stance if there is sufficient member and area support. We recently tried a survey on a very controversial subject within the McDowell Sonoran Preserve and had less than a quarter of our membership respond, certainly not enough to get the pulse of our members for us to take a formal stance.

More often, we simply send the information or link to our members asking for you to make comments. We make it as easy as we can by providing phone numbers or emails to write your support or opposition to various individuals. Sadly, a small percentage will take the time to do this. This input is vital in the fight to get our area voices heard. When RVHA responds and takes a stance, it is certainly counted as an influencing factor in our area. But the more responses these people receive and the louder we become, we have the best chance that our collective voices will be heard. It sometimes takes the full village, not just a small army, to win a battle.

You'll find articles and updates within this edition of *The Roundup* on each of these issues. Our Area Awareness committee will continue to keep members as informed as possible once we receive trustworthy updates or new information. In this social media age, we promise to do our best to fact-find before sharing this information with you, our members we represent.



Gina and Panin

And if you have an issue to share, please contact me or attend an RVHA board meeting and let us know.

Enjoy our spring weather and the wild flowers that are beginning to appear as you ride, bike or hike around our amazing desert. Happy trails!

Terry Stecyk

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RVHA – AREA AWARENESS COMMITTEE

WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE ON IT FOR YOU!

by Mike Oster

Our neighborhood, the Rio Verde Foothills, is in Maricopa County and carries a Scottsdale mailing address. We are the unique 20 square mile rural area bordered by:

McDowell Regional Park to the south
The McDowell Sonoran Preserve to the west
Tonto National Forest to the north
The Verde River to the east

Rio Verde Drive runs right through our area. There is no direct access from the north or south.

All properties here are zoned rural, so there is no threat of, or opportunity for, commercial development in our immediate area. While some would like to see more conveniences, most are here precisely for the space, the nature and the quiet. With such an abundance of adjacent open land, the Rio Verde Foothills area is also home to dedicated and grateful equestrians and hikers. And in the spring and fall, bikers often join us as they pass through on the drive. We assume they, too, are dedicated and grateful.

Our organization, the Rio Verde Horsemen's Association, has as its primary goal the preservation of equestrian privileges and our rural lifestyle. Our Area Awareness Committee keeps an eye on current and prospective projects that may enhance or threaten these. We continue to be active participants with Maricopa County on formation of and revisions to the master plan (The Rio Verde Foothills Area Plan) for our immediate area.

You have probably noticed that real estate development is once again showing signs of life up here in the foothills. Today we would like to share with you a few of the sources we rely on and some of the nearby projects we are following:

Formal Sources

Arizona Builders Exchange
Arizona Central News
Arizona Game & Fish
City of Phoenix—Flight Path Control
City of Scottsdale
-Planning, Permits and Traffic Departments
-McDowell Regional Park and the McDowell Sonoran Preserve
US Government
-FAA, National Weather Service, Tonto National Forest
Maricopa County—Attorney’s Office, Sheriffs Office and Planning Department
Maricopa County Department of Transportation
Scottsdale Independent News
State of Arizona—State Land Trust

Informal Sources include unsolicited communications and postings on social media. We always confirm the validity of these before sharing with you.

Activities of Interest - Some have been the subject of previous articles.

East Trilogy
Troon
Tonto Verde

West Pima Corridor
Scottsdale National Golf Club
The Outpost
Troon North

Southwest (Dynamite Foothills)
Astoria Highlands
Reata Ranch
Sereno Canyon Resort
Storyrock
Talon Ranch
\$7-10 MM Homes’

South Desert Discovery Center/Desert EDGE

Within RVHA area
Cell Towers
Rural Metro Fire Department
Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center
Water issues
Variance requests

Do you know something about these or others? Please let us know!

Would you like to join the Area Awareness Committee and follow one or more of the above agencies or issues? Please let us know!

Would it be helpful for you to have the winning numbers to next week's lottery? Please let us know! Okay, not really...we were just checking to see who was still with us and was up for an early April Fools.

Now go outside, spin around with your arms outstretched, and exclaim: "Wow, this is where I live!"



HOW TO GIVE YOUR CAT A PILL

Submitted by Monica Wachman



- 1) Pick cat up and cradle it in the crook of your left arm as if holding a baby. Position right forefinger and thumb on either side of cat's mouth, and gently apply pressure to cheeks while holding pill in right hand. As cat opens mouth, pop pill into mouth. Allow cat to close mouth and swallow.
- 2) Retrieve pill from floor and cat from behind sofa. Cradle cat in left arm and repeat process.
- 3) Retrieve cat from bedroom, and throw soggy pill away.
- 4) Take new pill from foil wrap, cradle cat in left arm, holding rear paws tightly with left hand. Force jaws open and push pill to back of mouth with right forefinger. Hold mouth shut for a count of ten.
- 5) Retrieve pill from goldfish bowl and cat from top of wardrobe. Call spouse from garden.
- 6) Kneel on floor with cat wedged firmly between knees, hold front and rear paws. Ignore low growls emitted by cat. Get spouse to hold head firmly with one hand while forcing wooden ruler into mouth. Drop pill down ruler and rub cat's throat vigorously.
- 7) Retrieve cat from curtain rail, get another pill from foil wrap. Make note to buy new ruler and repair curtains. Carefully sweep shattered figurines and vases from hearth and set to one side for gluing later.
- 8) Wrap cat in large towel and get spouse to lie on cat with head just visible from below armpit. Put pill inside end of drinking straw, force mouth open with pencil and blow down drinking straw.
- 9) Check label to make sure pill not harmful to humans, drink one beer to take taste away. Apply Band-Aid to spouse's forearm and remove blood from carpet with cold water and soap.
- 10) Retrieve cat from neighbor's shed. Get another pill. Open another beer. Place cat in cupboard, and close door onto neck, leaving head showing. Force mouth open with dessert spoon. Flick pill down throat with elastic band.
- 11) Fetch screwdriver from garage and put cupboard door back on hinges. Drink beer. Fetch bottle of scotch. Pour shot, drink. apply cold compress to cheek and check records for date of last tetanus shot. Apply whiskey compress to cheek to disinfect. Toss back another shot. Throw t-shirt away and fetch new one from bedroom.
- 12) Call fire brigade to retrieve the f----- cat from tree across the road. Apologize to neighbor who crashed into fence while swerving to avoid cat. Take last pill from foil-wrap.

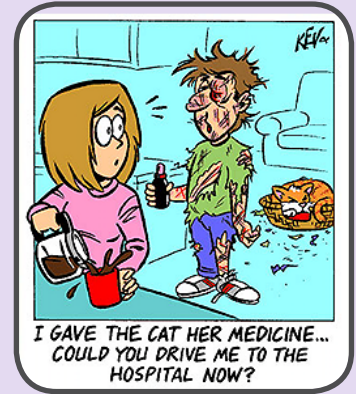
13) Tie the little b**tard's front paws to rear paws with garden twine and bind tightly to leg of dining table. Find heavy duty pruning gloves from shed. Push pill into mouth followed by large piece of steak filet. Be rough about it. Hold head vertically and pour two pints of water down throat to wash pill down.

14) Consume remainder of Scotch. Get spouse to drive you to the emergency room. Sit quietly while doctor stitches fingers and forearm, and removes pill remnants from right eye. Call furniture shop on way home to order new table.

15) Arrange for SPCA to collect "mutant cat from hell" and call local pet shop to see if they have any hamsters.

HOW TO GIVE A DOG A PILL

1) Wrap it in cheese.



RIO VERDE FOOTHILLS WATER TASK FORCE TO SECURE A LONG-TERM SOURCE OF WATER

by Annie Hodgkins

The purpose of our Community Water Meetings, beginning Feb 28th is to begin forming an entity to obtain a secured, long-term source of water, especially for those dependent on hauled water, year-round or seasonally; and, also to provide water “insurance” for those who have functioning wells, who have concerns about the future of that well, or those who simply want to be included. All State, City, and County agencies we met with since 2016 have told us we need to form an entity to conduct water business on behalf of our community. It is understood by realtors, that our property values will increase with a guaranteed supply of water.

Two types of entities were discussed by our Attorney Steve Wene, on Thursday, March 22nd, at Trilogy.

1. A Water Co-op
2. A Domestic Water Improvement District (DWID)

Based on the differences in cost of forming each of these entities, according to Steve, the DWID is most cost effective. Here are some examples and a couple advantages to a DWID:

1. DWID Legal costs for formation are estimated by Steve as \$5 to 10,000.
2. A DWID can set its own water rates (at a cost of \$500),
3. It can expand its noncontiguous boundaries after initial formation at a cost of \$300 to \$1000 with each annexation (which is driven by those who wish to be included if they did not include themselves at the time of initial formation).
4. Small groups can do special projects within DWID boundaries with no financial impact on others within the boundaries. Costs to form a Water Co-op are significantly greater. Here are some examples:
 1. Legal expense to form a Water Co-op would be \$40,000
 2. Cost for each rate increase is \$30,000 and wait a year or longer for AZ's Corporation Commission approval.

From another perspective about forming an entity, what value do you place on your own voice within our community? If you choose to be included in the boundaries of the entity formed, which is most likely to be a DWID, you have a voice, you have a vote. Nothing that requires capital expense and financing requires a ballot initiative to approve them. You are free to exclude yourself with a DWID, but I hope you will want to include yourself because the benefits far outweigh the risk, and the cost.

There many other details impossible to relay here, but this is a good start. If you are on Facebook, look for the Rio Verde Foothills Water Task Force Group to hear up to the minute announcements. The March meeting was recorded and, with luck, will be posted to YouTube soon.

Number crunching, to generate projected costs, is dependent on many variables that we are unable to quantify currently. However, we will be generating two or three scenarios

based on the formation of a DWID, for all our consideration as we prepare to sit down with the City of Scottsdale, so we can begin to understand the financial impact of those within the DWID boundaries and present it to the community.

The next meeting will be announced asap to be scheduled within three to four weeks and will feature some experts. Ongoing meetings of the Task Force happen as needed. The next volunteer meeting will be scheduled In the next ten days. The LLC for fundraising is being formed. Donations are being collected. Thursday, we learned Supervisor Steve Chucri had secured at total of \$5000 for our cause, not the \$1500 contributed before. We thank the Supervisor for his support of this cause.

INTENTIONS OF THE RVF WATER TASK FORCE

Upon the formation of the entity, the immediate order of business is to enter into contract with the COS, if all is satisfactory and meets our requirements. Our goal is to maintain the current status quo, with a guaranteed amount of water allocated annually. The COS is under no obligation to our Water haulers to provide this for us currently. Not the state of Arizona, not Maricopa County, nor Scottsdale are obligated to provide our water haulers with water. As a formal entity, by entering into a contractual agreement with COS, we can secure a guaranteed water supply to be delivered to us by our water haulers.

HERE IS WHAT YOU CAN DO:

1. **PROPERTY OWNERS, SIGN A LETTER OF SUPPORT TO FORM AN ENTITY** Download from Facebook group Rio Verde Foothills Water Task Force. Sign and send to RVF Water Task Force c/o Annie Hodgkins
28150 N. Alma School #103-207, Scottsdale AZ 85262
OR, sign, scan and email to annhodgkins4@aol.com
WHY DO WE NEED LETTERS OF SUPPORT? Supervisor Steve Chucri has said if we gather three to four hundred letters of support from our community, he would arrange a meeting with City of Scottsdale's Mayor Lane. He stated he would do this even before the formation of an entity was complete as it can take a year or more. It would bridge the gap until the entity is formed, essentially.
2. **FILL OUT A CONTACT INFORMATION FORM.** Why? To make sure we can reach you, to tell us about your water situation, and to tell us how you would like to help! Download instructions above.
3. **DONATE!** For expenses, filing fees, etc. Temporarily, until our LLC is established, please Make your checks payable to Carmela Lizzo.
Mail to 14307 E. Hawknest Road. Scottsdale, AZ 85262
4. **REACH OUT TO NEIGHBORS, ESPECIALLY THOSE NOT ON SOCIAL MEDIA!** Feel free to make copies of the forms mentioned here and distribute them.
5. **CONTACT THE RVF WATER TASK FORCE**
Annie Hodgkins annhodgkins4@aol.com
Patrick Ross, Attorney atmil@aol.com
Carmela Lizzo, carmelalizzo@camelbackadventures.com

RETURNING THE PEACEFUL ENVIRONMENT TO THE RIO VERDE AREA

By G.C. Saarup

The Valley of the Sun's economy is boosted greatly by the many categories of aviation commerce operating in the Phoenix area's increasingly congested airspace. We can achieve safer skies and drastically reduce complaints from the community by adjusting the northeast training area, and the commuting between satellite airports and training area. The problem is that designated training area was put into place many years ago when the population was sparse near the community of Rio Verde and the surrounding areas.

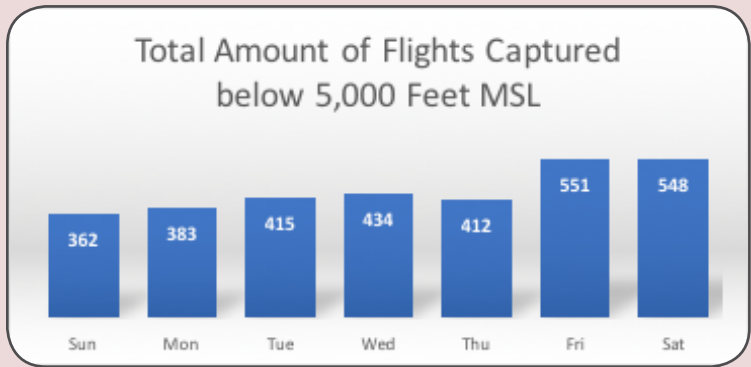
I've been monitoring all air traffic below 5,000 feet in the area since the beginning of November 2017. The flight schools have organized and developed safe practices and flight training areas over the years, and should be commended for their efforts. But there is still a lot of work to be done. One great accomplishment that has been made recently through the efforts of my team

for the better of the community is that aviation maps or Sectional Aeronautical Charts are changing to show that Rio Verde and the surrounding community have grown significantly. These changes have already been made in digital formats. Previous aviation maps showed only the Rio Verde community west of Forest Road, as seen in the first graphic. The current yellow highlighted area, as seen in the second graphic, now extends all the way to 136th Street. The yellow area has a few different meanings, but the main thing is what pilots would consider a congested area. This also bumps up the minimum safe altitudes that pilots must maintain

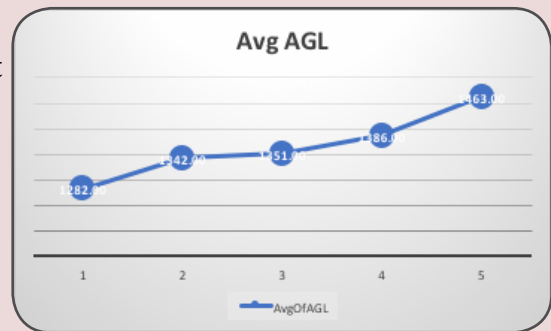


from 500 feet above the ground to 1,000 feet above the ground.

One of the most common questions by non-pilots or concerned citizens is, "why do we see aircraft so low over the community?" They use the grid of the street patterns to simulate what it is like to be operating near an airport, without the stress of actually operating at a busy airport. However, there are other areas that pilots and students can practice, and it is not necessary to be so low as to endanger people, property and wildlife. Many pilots and non-pilots think that it is safer to practice near a road in case of an emergency, but there are many other safer areas. It is also not necessary to perform simulated engine failures so close to the ground. A very close friend of mine was seriously injured in a plane crash near Sycamore Creek performing such a maneuver, so this project is also very personal for me.



Overall, things are slowly improving. Fridays and Saturdays are the busiest. The average altitude all aircraft are flying has been increasing. We hope for more improvements and to bring quiet skies back to the Rio Verde community. We can coexist in this complicated environment. It is my goal to continue working with members of the community, the Federal Aviation Administration, local flight schools, and all general aviation pilots to establish safe practices that satisfy the needs of all aviation commerce in the immediate area, as well as bringing back a peaceful environment in the Rio Verde community. It feels like progress is slow, but for the most part we are moving forward in the right direction.



A CALL FOR ACTION

A REQUEST TO RVHA MEMBERS

by Keith Ricker

Within the last month or so, some Rio Verde Foothills residents, myself included, discovered that the U.S. Forest Service was beginning to develop and improve “staging areas” for off road vehicles, where the 136th Street “alignment” runs into the Tonto National Forest, and another site adjacent to the “alignment” for 144th Street. I use the word “alignment” advisedly because these dirt roadways are simply extensions of those streets, with no public entity claiming them or maintaining them.

The City of Scottsdale’s boundary includes a portion of 136th Street north of Rio Verde Drive. That portion of the street was paved by the city between 2000 and 2002. It is a narrow, hilly, two-lane, double-lined no passing zone, un-engineered black top road that the City of Scottsdale paved over natural topography. The city placed a very slow speed limit of 25 mph because the road was never properly engineered. When asked by residents if this speed limit could be raised, the request was denied. It was deemed unsafe because of the limited sight distance issues due to dips, blind hills, side streets and heavy vegetation, which extends for 2 1/2 miles. A dirt roadway picks up north of where the pavement ends to the TNF. Maricopa County has erected a large sign identifying that dirt tract as a “Private Road”. It was never opened or declared by Maricopa County, and as a result, the county does not maintain or repair this road. Any maintenance or repairs done to the dirt roadway is due to the kind efforts of local residents who have been, on occasion, threatened with legal proceedings by county officials because of the dust and other pollution raised by efforts to

keep the road passable for residents. The same reasoning applies to 144th Street north of Lone Mountain Road.

Sometime in 2015 or earlier, the USFS began planning to develop "staging areas" in the TNF at the end of the 136th Street alignment and another adjacent to the 144th Street alignment. The staging area at the end of the 136th Street alignment will accommodate up to 15 vehicles. The proposed area for staging is within 10 to 20 yards of private property, and about 120 yards from an existing private residence. The dirt road in that area is almost impassable by many street vehicles, and is only wide enough for 1 vehicle at a time.

The residents whose homes overlook the proposed staging area have been kept awake at night by off-roaders camping there, playing music and making the kinds of disturbances that generally accompany intoxication. The area is usually littered with bottles, trash and other debris often left by party goers, dirt bikers and off-roaders who most likely do not live in the area, as well as individuals who seek privacy for gathering in a remote location.

Although the staging area off the 144th Street alignment is to be located about 1/2 mile east of the dirt road, the entrance to it is directly across the roadway from a private residence. That staging area is also being developed to accommodate up to 15 vehicles. The USFS discourages night time use of these facilities, but it is common to see off-road vehicles coming out of the TNF in this area at all times of the night, and into the early morning hours. As they exit the forest, lights from those vehicles shine directly into the homes on the west side of the 144th Street roadway. It is not unusual to see vehicles exiting the forest from that area at 2:00 AM. Even though such off-hours usage is discouraged, the USFS does not have the budget for man hours to address this misuse.

The USFS claims to have gotten input from landowners before finalizing plans for these staging areas. However, none of the neighbors concerned about these plans were ever alerted to this development. Micah Grondin, District Ranger for the Cave Creek Ranger, District of the TNF, has admitted that local residents were not properly informed of these plans, nor was their input obtained. He has apologized for this oversight, and he certainly appears sincere in his apology. However, he has not indicated that the forest service will abandon these plans in spite of the local residents' objection to them. In fact, some steps have already been taken to get these projects underway, although steps have not been taken for things that cannot be easily and quickly removed.

Local residents are primarily concerned about the increased traffic on the 136th Street and 144th Street alignments. Again, these are dirt roads, without public maintenance or repairs, nor are they patrolled by any law enforcement agency. Not only will increased traffic on these roads increase the danger of accidents, local residents will be subjected to greater dust and other pollutants and litter. Many of us routinely walk the dirt roads for the express purpose of picking up the trash thrown out of passing vehicles by people who do not live here. In the event these staging areas are developed by the USFS, that agency will not maintain or repair the roads, pick up the litter or maintain peace and order in the proposed staging areas. So, the increased burden will fall on the local residents who undertake such efforts at their own expense, and physical and legal peril. Local parents have also indicated a safety issue for their youth who frequent these entrances, and travel along 136th Street and 144th Street to enjoy time in the desert riding or training for competitions.

At present, the area now used by those off-roaders to access the Tonto National Forest at the end of the 136th Street alignment, can accommodate 3-4 vehicles. These vehicles are obviously trucks, and sometimes, truck/trailer combinations. Recreational vehicles also use this area, but that certainly decreases the number of other vehicles that can use it at the same time. The same is true where off-roaders access the TNF in the area off the 144th Street alignment.

If these staging areas are completed, some of the residents closest to them will suffer a significant decrease in property values. Indeed, if the staging areas existed prior to the time these folks bought property and/or built their homes in Rio Verde Foothills, they may have decided to build elsewhere.

A group of concerned residents have met to discuss the USFS's plans among themselves, and with Forest Rangers Grondin and Rick Alvarez. Our RVHA President, Terry Stecyk, has participated in these meetings, and the RVHA Board of Directors voted unanimously in support of our efforts to cease the activity at these 2 locations until further input from residents is obtained. To be clear, we ARE NOT asking the entrance nor the gates to the Tonto National Forest be closed. This group wants the USFS to abandon its plans to develop and improve staging areas for dirt bikes, quads and other off-road vehicles off the 136th and 144th Street alignments. There are other areas where such staging areas can be located without adversely impacting local residents. The group has suggested other areas and alternatives to Rangers Grondin and Alvarez, but these objections and suggestions are falling on deaf ears.

Our ad-hoc group has determined that it will take political muscle to get the USFS to abandon the plans it developed without input from those who will be most affected by these staging areas. We are circulating petitions to get signatures to present to elected officials asking that they use their influence to stop these projects. We have already contacted Senators McCain and Flake, as well as Congressman Schweikert. However, we have not been heard by those elected officials, probably because our collective voice is not loud enough.

If, however, these officials and others such as Governor Ducey, Sheriff Penzone and County Supervisor Chucris, hear other stronger voices, they might be more inclined to listen. It is for that reason that I am contacting you to ask for the support of the RVHA in this matter. The RVHA is more than just an organization for those who ride horses, it is an organization intent upon preserving our rural lifestyle. I believe the forest service's plan adversely affects that lifestyle because it will decrease property values and greatly increase the traffic, noise, pollution, litter and, perhaps, crime in the Rio Verde Foothills area between 136th Street and 144th Street, from Rio Verde Drive north to the TNF.

We believe the collective voice of the RVHA should be raised against these planned staging areas. Please send a letter to one or all of the following representatives asking for their assistance to stop this development.

[Micah Grondin - mgrondin@fs.fed.us](mailto:mgrondin@fs.fed.us)

[Maricopa County Supervisor District 2- Steve Chucris - chucris@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:chucris@mail.maricopa.gov)

[Nicole Bendle - bendlen@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:bendlen@mail.maricopa.gov)

[Page Gonzales - gonzalesp001@mail.maricopa.gov](mailto:gonzalesp001@mail.maricopa.gov)

[Governor Doug Ducey - https://azgovernor.gov/engage/form/contact-governor-ducey](https://azgovernor.gov/engage/form/contact-governor-ducey)

[Congressman David Schweikert - https://schweikert.house.gov/contact/email](https://schweikert.house.gov/contact/email)

RVHA SPRING GARDEN

by B. McCarthy

Well, the gardening year has gotten off to a rough start so far. According to the Planters Almanac, February 15th was the last “risk” day for frost in Rio Verde. I hate to admit it, but Mother Nature outwitted me again. After a gentle January, she decided it was best to warm up, and get the peach and apple trees blossoming, and entice me to advance plant some tomato seedlings, only to drop night time temperatures to below or near freezing multiple times in February. I’ve come to rely on the Weather Underground site and a local weather station near the park. Rio Verde is consistently 3 to 8 degrees colder than the projected weather from Scottsdale, and this site offers a very detailed 10-day forecast with night temperatures.

Yes, I fell for it, merrily planting away to get an early start on tomatoes only to pull most of them up 2 weeks later. Despite covering the plants religiously, they sustained terminal frost damage. Lesson learned. Now with fingers crossed, I’m watching the peach and apple flowers to see if they made it without damage.

This isn’t the first time my optimism has gotten me into trouble and I did learn a few tricks. In November, I started way more

tomato seedlings than I could possibly find room to plant. As a result, I had a nice backup team on the bench ready to go. Some are getting quite large and others are already holding fruit. Now gun-shy, my target date is the second week of March. With any luck, they’ll fruit quickly before the 90-degree weather halts pollination.



The good news is that the cold weather garden plants did well. We’ve harvested our first lot of sugar beets; Heirloom carrots are nearing maturity as are the other root crops; Arugula and cabbage are ready to go; and the several cauliflower varieties planted have matured and been harvested. Again, strange winter. The Italian “Romanesco” variety, which we love, did very well delivering 2 to 4-pound heads, but the conventional white, golden and purple cauliflower “bolted” early in January and while edible, were not very attractive. For those of you unfamiliar with the term “bolting”, plants like herbs and cauliflower stop growth and put all their energy into woody shoots to produce seeds. The usual cause of this is that the plant senses the end of its growth cycle. This year, it appears that the cauliflower in particular found the warm weather in January to be reason to believe that the end of winter was imminent.



Last November, I spilled a bag of snow pea seeds in the corner of the garden and thought

I had picked them all up. Surprise! There are snow peas everywhere. The cold weather has been great for them. Sometimes you just get lucky.

So, here's my action plan for a productive spring garden. I just check the boxes as the job is done.

PREP THE SOIL

Pull all the old stuff out and compost it if you have room. Dig in your organics. I have no shortage of aged horse manure and shavings. One of my neighbors does an interesting prep by digging a trench in the spring, filling it with manure and covering it with soil. Sometime later, he tills the trench and then uses the fertilizer in his garden next season. Nice soil. Short of that, mix in some calcium, a light sprinkling of organic fertilizer. The Big Box stores sell bags of sheep manure for a little over a dollar per bag. Add in your saved coffee grounds and egg shells, and dig it all in. Water well just to infuse the soil with nutrients and you're ready.

PLAN THE GARDEN

As noted already, it's been a weird winter. We're about 3 weeks late for cold weather plants, seeds or transplants. They won't have time to mature before the heat sets in. Since my sugar peas are well underway and the tomatoes are all planted, it's time to decide on other crops.

Green and yellow snap beans don't fare well in cold soil but it appears the soil has warmed nicely so I've planted a section with seeds. A little hint here is that soaking the seeds for a day or two before planting can accelerate their growth dramatically. Additionally, I generally ignore the planting instructions and over-plant the area. The strongest seedlings will be obvious in a couple of weeks and I pull the others to provide adequate room for growth. If you are a melon and squash fan, it's more effective to get them started indoors and transplant the seedlings.



I use an inexpensive seed pod which sits in the garage until the seedlings pop leaves, then they are moved outside for sunlight and finally planted. Here's a no-cost tip: save your paper egg cartons and your egg shell halves. Place one egg shell half in each egg carton slot and fill with soil. Insert your seed and keep them wet (not drowned). The seedling can be removed in the egg shell and planted as is without disturbing the roots. Just give the eggshell a squeeze to break it when in the ground and you're done.

I've found the Arizona Growing Calendar useful to select times and types of plants to choose for our climate at

<https://extension.arizona.edu/sites/extension.arizona.edu/files/pubs/az1005.pdf>



There are lots to choose from: Summer and winter squash, carrots, cucumbers, beets, Arugula, greens, peas, beans, peppers, tomatoes, watermelon, melons, etc. So, pick a few and give it a shot. Keep in mind that the squash, cucumber

and melon families are ground vines and take up a lot of room. In my little garden I tie the vines up the fence walls and onto the roof. They thrive and provide nice shade as the sun gets more aggressive. This worked very well last year until a marauding band of cattle came through and had a feast pulling down all the vines and fruit that had grown out through the fence.

If you are strapped for time and have any old water troughs around, these make ideal mini gardens for herbs and root crops. I drill a few holes for drainage, fill the bottom foot or so with horse manure and shavings, and cover with some good old AZ desert soil and a bag or two of potting soil, and plant.

FRUIT TREES

For those of you lucky enough to have planted fruit trees, this season is again weird. Fruit trees need a significant source of nutrients and are therefore fertilized 3 times a year. Valentine's Day is the usual memory date for the first round but nights have been cold, so now that it's warming it's time. It's a bit late to prune but go ahead and remove all the citrus suckers (they drain energy and don't produce fruit), clear out anything dead or damaged, and do a little shaping. Apple and peach trees are different. Fruit is grown on last year's wood and thus early pruning is key. I won't bore you with the fine elements of pruning these varieties in this article, safe to say that in both cases pruning is necessary for good fruiting whereas with lemon and other citrus it is not. The big difference here is that apples grow right out of last year's branches and thus apple trees are pruned a bit like Christmas trees, encouraging a strong central trunk. Peaches deliver fruit further out in their branches and are pruned from the center out, referred to as "Bowl Shaping".

By the way, this is the ideal time to plant some fruit seedlings if you are interested. I would suggest skipping the Big Box stores and asking around for a qualified nursery. I like Desert Winds on Tatum. Ask to speak to Jimmy. He'll answer all your questions about chill hours, and planting. My prized fruit here is the Meyer Lemon. If you've never seen or tasted these I think you'll be surprised. Meyers are expensive and rare fruits to buy, and come from the Amalfi Coast of Italy, although the Italians acquired the trees from the Chinese centuries ago. The Meyer is a thin-skinned lemon with no bitterness, low acidity and about 3 times the sweet juice of a standard AZ lemon. It is a cross between a lemon and a Mandarin Orange.

The Italians grow it everywhere and make their famous Limoncello* liqueur, infused salts and sugars, candies, candied lemon rind, lemon cheesecake, lemon curd and my favorite, lemon and basil Gelato! The southern Italians grow these trees in pots as well as orchards. Last season my 2-year old tree delivered several bushels of these beauties. I decided it was time to see if we could grow potted varieties here in AZ. This tree is now 1-year old and loaded with flowers...stay tuned.

*Limoncello is an Italian lemon liqueur mainly produced in Southern Italy, especially in the region around the Gulf of Naples, the Sorrentine Peninsula, the coast of Amalfi, and islands of Procida, Ischia, and Capri. It is also produced in Abruzzo, Basilicata, Apulia, Sicily, Sardinia, Menton in France, and the Maltese island of Gozo. In northern Italy, the liqueur is often referred to instead as limoncino.

Well I think I've run out of time and you've likely run out of patience. Good luck with your gardens and have a productive spring.



WE NEED SOME GREAT CANDIDATES TO COME JOIN OUR RVHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS!

Do you love living in the Rio Verde Foothills?

Do you enjoy the peaceful, laid-back vibe of the area with it's great weather and amazing views? Do you long to be a part of something a little bit bigger?

Well, Buckaroos, we have the perfect opportunity for you...consider joining our RVHA Board of Directors!

What would I do?

Well, at first, you would listen.

Get to know your fellow board members, new and 'seasoned'.

Marvel at the depth of experience and understanding in the group.

Then, consider what role you wish to play.

How would I do that?

Board duties are roughly divided into five areas. Think about which one would be a good fit for you and volunteer to serve on that committee. Fresh ideas and new experience help make our board stronger!

Social Gatherings: Helping plan interesting and fun events for our members, enhancing our sense of community.

Financial: Helping with our budgeting to spend wisely, keeping track of income and expenses, retain advertisers.

Area Awareness: Keeping an eye on current and potential issues that may affect our rural lifestyle:

Trails, water issues, aircraft, adjacent open spaces, and nearby developments to name just a few.

Membership: Helping with new applications and renewals, mailing membership cards, help provide membership benefits.

Leadership Planning: Organizing board assignments, being active in projects that best serve our Mission Statement.

What is the time commitment?

Board terms are 2 years and are renewable.

The board usually meets in Lori Bridwell's bunkhouse on the first Tuesday evening of each month, July and August are excluded.

Social time is at 6:30 pm, meetings begin at 6:45 pm and you should be home and in your PJs by 8:30 pm.

Who is eligible to serve on the board?

Having read this far, YOU are!...any RVHA member and home or land owner in our area with an interest in serving our community is encouraged to consider sitting on our board. You DO NOT need to be a horse owner to be on our board!

OK! What is my next step?

There is a candidacy form (see attachment) that you can print, fill it out and mail to us by April 7th.

If you have any questions, please contact Terry Stecyk at terry@rvha.us or call 480-318-3281.

We use an online voting service called Election Buddy.com.

All voting members with an email address will receive a ballot in their email box.

For those without an email address, we can mail a ballot to you for voting.

Our Annual Meeting with Election Results will be held on April 29th.

A flyer with more details is included in this newsletter.



The board usually meets on the first Tuesday evening of each month in the bunk house at Lorill Equestrian Center/Arizona Cowboy College. The months of July and August are excluded.

Social time is at 6:30 pm, meetings begin at 6:45 pm. Any member is welcome to come observe the meetings.

Please contact Terry@RVHA.us to let us know you'll be joining us.

FAA FLIGHT PATH CHANGES UPDATE

By Marijo Nolan

Those roaring commercial jets flying over your homes are not your imagination. They're part of the FAA's flight path changes using NextGen, a program designed to modernize U.S. airspace using GPS technology.

The FAA implemented NextGen in Phoenix in September 2014 without the input of the Phoenix Aviation Department, or the community at large. The impact of those changes was heard all across the valley. Thousands of complaints poured into Sky Harbor Airport. In 2015, the city of Phoenix and its Historic District sued the FAA. On August 29, 2017, the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington D.C. ruled in favor of Phoenix and the Historic District. The Court instructed the FAA to return to former western departures, the subject of the law suit.



Per the court order, the FAA paid a visit to Phoenix in February 2018 to seek public input regarding western departure proposals. Three workshops were held across the metropolitan area on February 6, 7, 8 to showcase proposed changes, and allow the public to comment on them. A link on the FAA Community Involvement website was also set up to receive residents' comments and concerns for a 16-day period.

https://www.faa.gov/nextgen/nextgen_near_you/community_involvement/phx/

If you are impacted by commercial aircraft noise, you are most likely living in the YOTES (north-east route) departure from Sky Harbor. It's one of three eastern flow departures for aircraft heading north, northeast, and northwest. Prior to NextGen, SILOW AND CHILY were the two departure routes. Post NextGen, SILOW and CHILY were divided into three routes, and moved three miles west to the western side of the McDowell Mountains over large Scottsdale communities, Rio Verde and beyond. Aircraft are now squeezed into narrow corridors at altitudes of 2,000 ft., lower than 2014. The effect is deafening.

In January 2017, a group of residents formed the Scottsdale Coalition for the Abatement of Airport Noise, SCANA. Their goal is to require the FAA and the federal agency that operates Sky Harbor and Scottsdale Airport to adopt an approach to aircraft flight management that balances the needs of the airlines, the public, and northeast valley residents. SCANA delivered a letter to the FAA on February 8, 2018 requesting the FAA to consider a return to the pre-NextGen SILOW NE departure, and to raise altitudes as well. Also in February, SCANA members met with Scottsdale Mayor Lane to seek the city's support in addressing the FAA. You can follow SCANA on Facebook or on their website www.airplanenoise.org for updates and information.

The FAA is ready to listen! File a complaint. Make sure the FAA is well aware of NextGen's impact on northeast valley residents.

To file by phone, call: 602-683-2669.

Sky Harbor Airport/Deer Valley Airport Noise Complaints

<http://www.skyharbor.com/FlightPaths/FileAConcernContactUs>

You can also download the complaint app to your smart phone from this site.

<http://www.planenoise.com/mobile/phoenix/jr3wcQ2/>

Save the app to your home screen (iPhone: tap the box with vertical arrow and select “add to home screen”; Android: tap the 3 Menu dots and select “save to homepage”)

Go to your home screen and open “Complaint Box Mobile”

Follow the app steps 1 through 4

Submit additional complaints by tapping “Create A New Comment”

Note: After using the app the first time, user information is saved and does not need to be re-entered after filing an initial complaint.

Make your voice heard!

FAA Noise Complaint Hotline - 202-267-3521

or email - 9-AWA-noiseombudsman@faa.gov

FINDING EQUINE BLISS IN RIO VERDE FOOTHILLS

by Heather S. Rasmussen, CSA, REALTOR®

You hear folks say it repeatedly while searching for just the right horse property: “This is driving me crazy. Either the house is perfect, and the horse setup is unacceptable; or the horses could move in tomorrow, but there’s no way I’m living in that shack they call a house.” Have you ever found yourself in such a quandary? I did in 2014. My story has a happy ending. Let me share a bit with you - with the hope that you, too, might find yourself feeling the sort of happy that I feel when I arrive home ... right here in our beautiful Rio Verde Foothills.

Over the years, multiple people have told me that when they die they’d like to come back as one of my animals. Ha! I suppose that’s a sideways compliment that my horses and dogs are deeply loved and well cared for. OK. Yes. It’s true. So, when it came time to move to a horse property, I put much more emphasis on finding the perfect equine setup. The amazing realtor that I worked with at the time helped me narrow my search and soon I picked my



-Heather and Taffy

current home. Without a doubt, the horses had been put first. The seller was from Montana and only used the home a few months out of the year to escape the cold and snow. This was clear to see because the house was built in 2000 and appeared to be stuck in time. Boring kitchen appliances. Outdated glass block shower. Plain tile hearth. There was nothing special whatsoever about the house. Bleh. It was just a box with a lid on it. Slowly, I had to accept the fact that it was up to me to bring about the needed upgrades. It became my responsibility to make this house as welcoming to my family as the outside setup was for the horses.

A few days before I closed on the house, I had already interviewed and hired a contractor. One of my old neighbors recommended them as being trustworthy. I felt truly blessed to be matched to such a great group of guys. They had worked together at a very reputable, local home builder before the market downturn of the mid 2000's and decided to form their own construction/renovation company. And renovate they surely did! The transformation to my house was jaw-dropping. It was no longer the boring box that was only lived in once a year. It became a welcoming, beautiful space where I can kick off my boots and stay awhile.

I'm so very glad that I allowed my heart to lead me to the perfect horse setup because it also led me to what I now affectionately call "home." My view of Four Peaks at sunset while I'm cooking dinner will never get old. Neither will the kitchen upgrades. From the deep honey and mahogany tones of the granite I chose to the stainless-steel appliances, my kitchen is now an inviting place to be. My kids love sitting on the bar stools around the island to eat a snack or do their homework.

It wasn't just the kitchen that went from boring to beautiful. The renovation crew had great ideas on how to add small details throughout the house to give it a more current and upscale look. One example is my linear fireplace. Removing the old, standard-style gas fireplace in favor of the sleek linear design turned that corner of the living room into a gorgeous focal point.

Now, when I walk inside after completing my horse chores, I look forward to enjoying the rain head in my beautifully tiled steam shower – yet another improvement. (The renovation crew nicknamed the tile guy 'Picasso' – he was THAT good!) My house truly is perfect now. I'm every bit as happy indoors as outside. What you should learn from my success story is not to fear a perceived incongruency between the horse setup on a property and the house you'll be living in. If you're like me and put your animals first, it's OK. The house can be fixed to your liking. So, go ahead, buy that place you've been eyeing because of the gorgeous barn! You'll be glad that you did.



ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL ROAD CLEANUP!

THANK YOU to the almost 30 folks who volunteered for our roadside cleanup in February! Volunteers were from our RVHA membership, the Rio Verde Foothills community at large, as well as residents from Trilogy. I truly appreciate you introducing yourselves and giving a hand to our quarterly community cleanup effort. I enjoyed several conversations on issues important to all of us. Who knew a burrito could bring us closer together as a community.



We send a VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Trilogy at the Verde River who donated breakfast burritos and water for the volunteers, and to Corey Hosea, Shea Homes Project Manager, who brought us these gifts on his day off. Congratulations to the folks who won a baby Saguaro to plant in their yard, also a gift from Trilogy.

As always, thank you to Sabrina Nelson, and Randy and Lisa Goettsche for all your assistance with set up, making sure we all have proper safety gear and acquiring the participant signatures to

keep the city of Scottsdale lawyers happy.

I hope we see you again at our April 14th Roadside Cleanup. We'll meet on the north side of Rio Verde Dr at 141st St at 8:00 am!



IT'S HUMMINGBIRD SEASON!

by Terry Stecyk

Spring is the time of year when hummingbirds migrate north from their winter ranges. Most of the species that occur naturally in Arizona are restricted to the southeastern area but many varieties will migrate through our desert as they travel north. We see it start in January when the Costa arrive. Black-chins, Rufous and Broad-tails come up in February. Broad-billeds, Calliopes, and Blue-throats arrive in March. The rare Lucifer shows up in April. May brings Violet-crowns and White-eareds. Allen's pass through in July. Anna's take up residence in September, and stay around until mid-May. When the hummingbirds return south, they do so in a similar, staggered manner.



There are many varieties one can enjoy viewing here in our desert. One of the most common is the Anna's Hummingbird, a native to Arizona. They can be year-round residents but during the summer many will join the migration to cooler temperatures, just like us! The males have a glossy, dark rose colored throat and crown, which may also appear dark purple or black in low light. Their underside is mostly grayish and the back is a metallic looking green. The females have a lighter grey chest with white and red spotting on the throat, and a greenish back with white-tipped tails. They resemble the Costa's Hummingbird, another native, whose males have a glossy, purple crown and throat feathers that are longer than the Anna's.

Many enjoy helping these migratory birds as they travel along their way and will hang solutions of water and white table sugar in feeders. I have three feeders I keep filled, one at the office window, one I can see from the kitchen and, of course, one at the barn where I often sit and watch the little birds flit about and fight over the feeder like a Star Wars Jedi knight.

I do seem to have a recurrent battle with those pesky Gila Flickers (woodpeckers). I've tried all sorts of deterrents to keep them away, including different styles of feeders, cut off the foot holds, used chicken wire to let the little ones in but keep the larger birds out, and put sticky stuff on the pole. All end in failure to keep these smart birds off the feeders. I've finally adopted the philosophy that a bird is a bird, and just enjoy the show of all who come to visit.



Here are some common hummingbird Qs & As from the Southeastern Arizona Bird Observatory on the best nectar to provide for our little visitors.

Q: What solution should I use to fill my feeder?

A: We recommend a solution of four parts water to one part white sugar. The natural nectar of hummingbird flowers varies widely in sugar content, and this concentration has proven safe and attractive in feeder solutions. For an eight ounce feeder, mix about 1/4 cup sugar with one cup water (the measurements don't have to be precise). Briefly boiling or microwaving the solution helps the sugar dissolve and may delay spoilage; always refrigerate leftovers. Never substitute artificial sweeteners or honey, and use bottled or filtered water if your tap water is cloudy or has a strong odor.

Q: Wouldn't honey be more natural to use than white table sugar?

A: No! Honey is both unnatural and unhealthy for hummingbirds. Honey is made from the nectar of flowers seldom visited by hummingbirds. This nectar is chemically different from that of hummingbird flowers and is further changed by the bees. Commercial honey also frequently contains pesticide residues and other contaminants as well as spores suspected of causing fatal infections in captive hummingbirds.

Q: What about red dye? Don't hummingbirds need a colored solution?

A: Absolutely not! Natural nectar is colorless, and we should follow nature's example by putting all the color on the outside of the feeder so it doesn't end up inside the bird.



There is widespread concern over possible health effects of dyes and other additives. Many chemicals that are harmless to humans are toxic to other species; for example, chocolate can be deadly to dogs and cats. The dyes used in feeder solutions are approved for human use by the Food and Drug Administration but have never been proven safe for hummingbirds.

The nectar produced by hummingbird flowers is a relatively pure solution of sugars and water. White sugar, also known as sucrose, is not only a natural food for hummingbirds, but also the sugar they prefer over all others in "taste tests."

Q: How and how often should I clean my feeder?

A: Hummingbird feeders should be at least rinsed and refilled every two to four days, and cleaned thoroughly at least once a week, more often if the solution becomes cloudy or smells fermented. Hot water and a bottle brush or special feeder brush are usually all you need to do the job, but vinegar or a weak solution of chlorine bleach may be necessary if mold is a problem. Soap and detergent are not recommended for feeders that have hard-to-reach nooks and crannies as they may leave residues, but some well-designed saucer-style feeders are dishwasher safe.

Q: Is it true that I have to take my hummingbird feeders down at the end of the summer or the birds won't migrate?

A: No. The instinct to migrate is so strong that nothing short of captivity can keep a healthy, normal migratory bird from going south. The few hummingbirds that try to winter in climates too cold for their survival most likely are physically unfit to migrate or have off-kilter internal compasses, and would have died sooner had they not found feeders. By leaving a feeder up through the full migration period, you may give a disadvantaged bird a second chance at survival. If you live in the southwest desert, you may have hummingbirds visiting your yard all year long.

Q: How can I attract hummingbirds to my yard?

A: By far the best way is to create the right kind of habitat, and providing nectar is the first step. Almost any tubular or trumpet-shaped red, orange or deep pink flower will attract hummingbirds, but the best choices are plants native to our area. Hummingbirds also eat large quantities of insects and need shelter for nesting. You can provide these by planting native trees, shrubs and other plants, and limiting your use of pesticides.

If you don't have one already, go buy a feeder, fill and hang it somewhere you can view from your window, and enjoy the hummingbird show. There are many websites or Arizona bird identification books to help you identify and track who comes for a visit.

You could possibly attract something else.

Does anybody know what kind of hummingbird this is?



DUE TO HIGH DEMAND, WE HAVE ADDED A SECOND APRIL DATE

THE SNAKES ARE OUT!

Are your dogs rattlesnake avoidance trained?

RVHA has invited Willow Raven to return to our area for rattlesnake avoidance training. Willow has been involved with avoidance training for 13 years.

When: Saturday, April 7th and Sunday, April 8th

Location: centrally located on 152nd Street

Times: sessions available between 8 AM and 4 PM

Sessions lasting 20 to 30 minutes in length

Live rattlesnakes in a cage are used. Owners will be able to be with their dogs so they can see how their dog will react to a rattlesnake, as well as feel confident their dog is now trained.

Members: \$55 per dog

Non-Members: \$80 per dog*

*\$25 can go towards a single membership.

Upgrade to a family membership for \$10 more.

If you would like to sign up your dog(s), kindly e-mail Terry Stecyk at terry@rvha.us or call 602-324-7099, with the preferred date, a range of times, and your contact phone number. She will return your e-mail or give you a call, whichever you prefer.

Please include the name, age and breed of each dog.



Introduction to Mounted Archery

Saturday, April 7th
10:00 am at the Grandstand

Spectators are FREE
Lessons and desensitizing - \$10

Light refreshments provided by RVHA



We will start the morning with a short talk on the history of Horse Archery, the beginning of this sport in the US and what we have accomplished. This will be followed by a demonstration on the Magic Machine followed by Horseback Archery.

Parking will be available along the outside fence. Spectators are unlimited, however they only have a certain number of bows to give 8 lessons per hour.

For those wanting to try archery, lessons will be in shifts of 8 per hour. Diana Troyk has offered RVHA members a generous discount of \$10 each for an hour lesson. Usually it is \$30 per person.

Joey Ogburn will demonstrate with anyone wanting to learn how to desensitize their horse. This lesson is also discounted to RVHA members at \$10.



RSVP to

carmela@camelbackadventures.com

and please let us know if you are interested in an archery lesson or participating in the desensitizing lesson.

Directions: Take 168th St north from Dynamite and go 2 miles to Lone Mt. Turn left or west and go 1 block. Turn north or right and it is about 100 yards up on the left. My sign is at the corner of 166th Pl and Lone Mt.

DINNER WITH WOLVES

A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE THAT CAN'T BE BOUGHT...
EXCEPT FOR ONE NIGHT



Benefits Defenders of Wildlife and Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

Experience the mystique of the Mexican gray wolf, one of the planet's most endangered mammals, at a one-of-a-kind *Dinner with Wolves* at the Southwest Wildlife and Conservation Center (SWCC) on Sunday, April 15, 2018 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., 27026 N. 156th Street, Scottsdale.

Sponsored by My Sister's Closet, the evening will benefit Defenders of Wildlife (DW) and SWCC. Guests can drive themselves or ride on a private bus, included in the ticket price, with pick-up and drop-off at My Sister's Closet located at the Lincoln Village Shopping Center at 6204 N. Scottsdale Road, *Scottsdale, Arizona*.

The intimate evening will begin with a 4:00 p.m. departure from My Sister's Closet with arrival at SWCC at 4:30 p.m. Upon arrival and during the cocktail hour, guests will have the opportunity to take a self-guided tour of SWCC, and see the resident Mexican gray wolves.



Cocktail hour and tours will be followed by a silent auction, sit-down dinner and short presentations by DW and SWCC. The evening will conclude at approximately 7:00 p.m. when guests may board the private bus back to My Sister's Closet.



Mingling mere feet from the enclosures, guests attending will be up-close and personal with several wolves now living at SWCC,

along with other southwest native mammals, including bears and mountain lions.

Dinner with Wolves will introduce guests to the plight and beauty of the Mexican gray wolf, the most endangered gray wolf in North America. Today in the U.S., there is a wild population comprising only 114 individuals. Guests will learn how their support can save this special animal within our own state boundaries.

“We have raised more than \$55,000 in the last few years towards the awareness of the Mexican gray wolf. This year we hope to double that and continue raising awareness so people understand how terribly close this animal is to extinction”, said Title Sponsor, Ann Siner, founder and CEO of My Sister’s Closet. “We have a chance to save this wolf right here in Arizona, but it’s going to take education and everyone pitching in”

Only 100 seats are available for this intimate and unique *Dinner with Wolves* event so reserve your space now. Individual tickets are \$250.00 and can be purchased online at www.southwestwildlife.org/dinner-with-wolves.html . Corporate sponsorship opportunities are also available. One hundred percent of the proceeds will benefit DW and SWCC.

About the Mexican Gray Wolf

By the late 1970s, the Mexican gray wolf (also known as “lobo”) was eradicated from the United States. They, like their gray wolf relatives in the Northern Rockies, were hunted, trapped and slaughtered until only a handful remained. In 1976, Mexican gray wolves were listed as endangered under the Endangered Species Act, and captive breeding programs began to jumpstart recovery efforts. In 1998, the first 11 Mexican gray wolves were released into the Arizona wilderness. At last count, there were 114 wild Mexican gray wolves in the U.S. The lobos’ survival is still threatened by bureaucratic inertia and ill-founded hatred. DW says these wolves need three things in order to recover: more wolf releases in the U.S., a science-based recovery plan, and additional core populations in suitable habitat.



About Defenders of Wildlife

DW is dedicated to the protection of all native animals and plants in their natural communities. With more than 1.2 million members and activists, DW is a leading advocate for innovative solutions to safeguard our wildlife heritage for generations to come. For more information visit www.defenders.org and follow us on Twitter @Defenders.

About Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center

SWCC rescues and rehabilitates wildlife that has been injured, displaced or orphaned. Once rehabilitated, they are returned to the wild. Wildlife education includes advice on living with wildlife and the importance of native wildlife to healthy ecosystems. Educational and humane scientific research opportunities are offered in the field of conservation medicine. Sanctuary is provided to animals that cannot be released back to the wild.

Reservations are required for Dinner with Wolves at www.SouthwestWildlife.org.

Tours and outreach programs are available.

FMCSA ANNOUNCES NEW ELD WAIVER

by Jean Anderson

March 13, 2018



The U.S. Department of Transportation's (DOT) Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration (FMCSA) today announced additional steps to address the unique needs of the country's agriculture industries, and provided further guidance to assist in the effective implementation of the Congressionally-mandated electronic logging device (ELD) rule without impeding commerce or safety.

FMCSA is announcing an additional 90-day temporary waiver from the ELD rule for agriculture related transportation. Additionally, during this time period, FMCSA will publish final guidance on both the agricultural 150 air-mile hours-of-service exemption and personal conveyance.

It is important to note that this 90 days is an extension of the previous 90 days given to all agriculture commodity haulers. This is not a final decision on the livestock specific ELD exemption request filed in September—a determination on that request is still to be made. The AHC will continue to push for this exemption along with other livestock industry associations. The welfare, safety, and health of the animals in transit, together with the safety of other drivers on the road, are top priorities for the equine industry and its enthusiasts.

The AHC will continue to work with the FMCSA and the DOT during this delay to better meet the needs of the animal agriculture community to ensure that there are no unintended-



RVHA SPRING DINNER DANCE



by Carmela Lizzo



The annual Spring Dinner Dance was held on March 17th at the Rural Metro Fire Station. Members and guests enjoyed a catered dinner by Bobby Q, served by our local firemen. Music was provided by American Traditions, one of our favorite Country and Western bands, and guests enjoyed dancing to their classic and contemporary tunes. The station looked fun and festive with tables, chairs, linens and staging generously donated by Jayne Vatcher, a Rio Verde Foothills neighbor and owner of Cre8tive Events, an event company that offers a wide variety of décor. Thank you to Terry Stecyk who gathered and organized donations for our charity silent auction, featuring local art and services. We raised \$1545 that will be donated to local charities. Many thanks to Rural Metro for the use of their station, and to Kim and Lee Edwards for their help with registration. It was a wonderful evening to meet new friends and

catch up with old neighbors.

Thanks to all for coming!



THANK YOU
for your support of RVHA!



Total from our
Silent Auction

Desert iNet – Two, 1 year of service certificates
Joan Bruder - Four original canvas and mission tile paintings
Marianne Johnson – Two canvas wrapped photos of wild horses
Sue Gillette – Original etching on canvas – *Iron Horse*
Janice Taylor – Painted deer hide pillow
Bob Batie – A handcrafted red oak child's glider
Terry Holmes-Stecyk – Bronze finished resin statue
Scottsdale Livestock – An assortment of horse items

We sincerely thank each of these RVHA members, residents and local businesses for the wonderful items donated for our silent auction. 100% of the proceeds will be shared with charities within the Rio Verde Foothills and nearby charities that service and support our area!



And congratulations to the winning bidders



**RVHA Trail Ride, Annual Meeting
and BOD Election Results
Sunday, April 29th, 2018**

Bring your horse and come enjoy a spring trail ride in the Tonto National Forest. Horses need to be able to cross a step-over into the forest. Terrain is mostly level with a few dips and washes. Good footing. This ride is good for all levels of experience.

Meet: AZ Cowboy College: 30208N. 152nd St

Time: We'll gather at 9:30 AM . We'll ride out at 10:00 AM SHARP!
Ride will be approx 1 ½ hours followed by
lunch and our annual meeting at noon.

Lunch : An assortment of sandwiches, chips and dessert.
Water and soda too.

No charge for RVHA members!
PLEASE RSVP to Carmela@camelbackadventures.com

Guests are \$5.00
You can purchase their lunch on our website.

Come for the ride or just come join us at noon for the
Annual Meeting and RVHA Board of Directors Election Results .

Don't have a horse but want to join the ride?

A special horse rental rate of \$50 for
those non-horse owners wishing to join
the ride. Contact Lori on
480- 250-8758, or email
Info@cowboycollege.com for more
information on horse rentals.

Payment for horses will be made
directly to AZ Cowboy College.

