



THE ROUNDUP



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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.

A HAPPY HEART IS A GIVING HEART

A Message from Your President

This is a special time of year to reflect on all the good things we have in our lives and to give to others with love, kindness and gratitude. Traditionally, at the end of the year RVHA donates money to charities we feel best support our mission statement or offer assistance to our residents in the Rio Verde Foothills area. As an all volunteer non-profit organization, any income we generate through classified ads and website advertisers, we endeavor to give back to the community we serve. We also host a silent auction at our spring dinner dance specifically for charity, and 100% of those proceeds are marked for our end of year philanthropic giving.

RVHA membership dues currently cover the Board of Directors operating expenses, liability insurance policies, storage fees, venue fees, roadside cleanup supplies, our annual membership meeting, to name just a few of our typical yearly expenditures. We also use membership dues to offer free of charge events, such as our end of summer social, and to generously subsidize each social event so more members will be encouraged to enjoy these outings at a reduced ticket price. This year the RVHA Board felt it was important the membership had input on who would receive our charitable donations, so we asked you to vote on 7 charities. Thank you to the members who took the time to vote for your preferred charities. The answers were tallied by Survey Monkey and here are the results of your vote.

- 21% - Southwest Wildlife Conservation and Rehabilitation Center, \$420
- 20% - Four Peaks Animal Rescue, \$400
- 16% - Arizona Equine Rescue Organization, \$320
- 12% - Reigning Grace Ranch, \$240
- 12% - Foothills Food Bank, \$240
- 11% - Verde Cares, Inc, \$220
- 8% - McDowell Sonoran Conservancy, \$160

In addition, RVHA hosted 2 food drives for the Foothills Food Bank as well as a Toys for Tots collection. Thanks to all who gave from their hearts to better the lives of those less fortunate and to bring cheer and happiness to a child.

And finally, THANK YOU for being a member of the RVHA. We are humbled and honored you have trusted and chosen us as your Board of Directors. We wish you and your family peace, joy, happiness and health during the holidays and through the coming New Year!

Terry Holmes-Stecyk



impact us is the traffic this could inject into the already competitive Dynamite/Pima intersection. Imagine the driver distracted from his jiggling cup of hot Outpost coffee turning south on Pima just as the light turns yellow. Or the 'festive' driver headed home after an evening in the restaurant. He takes the southern exit to turn west on Dynamite just as a westbound driver is racing to make the light.

It's why you pay us the big bucks, to think of these things for you.

Residential

New home construction in the Rio Verde Foothills continues at a moderate pace. Everybody likes to use the word 'sustainable' these days, including the residential real estate wags who apply it to this rate of growth.

The 'next big thing' in the area? Probably the Dynamite Foothills.

Wherezat?, you ask ...

Stand on Dynamite and look south to Tom's Thumb. That big space between you and the mountain - that's Dynamite Foothills.

The City of Scottsdale and a few well-heeled developers are licking their chops over the high-end potential of the area.

To get a sense of the potentially huge investments we may pass through, look behind you to the north. Bob Parsons recently revealed that he is prepared to spend as much as half a billion dollars on Scottsdale National Golf Club. Take a moment for that to sink in. Then return to your southern gaze.

As the Arizona Republic reported in June 2016,

"Sprawling new subdivisions, water-guzzling golf courses and resort hotels could pave over thousands of acres of undeveloped desert in north Scottsdale—a remote enclave known for its lush vegetation rural flavor, and some of the priciest real estate in metropolitan Phoenix."

A few we are watching...

Reata Ranch: RV Drive between 128th & 136th

One of the earliest envisioned for the area, this development consists of 220 acres on an upside-down L-shaped parcel between 128th & 136th. Started by Taber Anderson, whose father developed Desert Mountain, the first concept was for an upscale dude ranch with 'glamping.' It has more recently been described as 120 homes and a hotel. No permits to date.

Storyrock. 128th & Ranch Gate Road

The last large parcel of privately owned desert, owners of this 446-acre tract have plans for 443 homes in the \$800K-\$1.3MM range. Big project.

Asteria Highlands. NW corner of 132nd & East Pinnacle Peak Highlands

Tucked in the notch of Reata's upside down 'L', this 31-home project may be the first to be built. Developer Hines, who owns the 175K sq ft Kierland One, has plans for an upscale gated community here. Proximity to the Scottsdale National Golf Club is cited.

In case you're wondering, Asteria was a female figure in Greek mythology, so maybe this will set the tone for the names of adjacent developments? Let's hope not.

Sereno Canyon Spa & Resort. SW 125th Place & Ranch Gate Road

Gated community of 128 homes and a hotel on 350 acres. Upscale resort similar to the Sanctuary in Paradise Valley, Enchantment Resort in Sedona and The Boulders in its heyday. The owner is the outfit that owns Rockefeller Center and some other primo properties. They have already invested \$40MM in roads, water & sewer lines, gatehouse and entry monuments.

Toll Brother TBD. 118th & Jomax

Recent sale of this 40-acre parcel at \$5.5MM. Expect 30 homes averaging \$1.7MM, similar to Toll's Talon Ranch development on the west side of Scottsdale Rd just north of Dynamite. And finally, because who doesn't love a mystery?

"\$7 - \$10 Million Dollar Homes". Rio Verde Drive @ 118th

Have you stopped to look at this sign across from Scottsdale National Golf Club? Such a little sign for such big plans. Four monster homes on big lots near the old Goldie Brown Pinnacle Peak Ranch. If you know what the story is with this, please tell us. We have some theories...

Enough for one session, right?

Neither we, nor anyone, know for certain how this all will play out.

What we do know is that nearby a large desirable piece of the High Sonoran Desert may soon be made available to many. We hope these developments will be tasteful and respectful of this unique environment.

Because the City is keenly aware of their stewardship role in the desirability of the lifestyle here, and these new residents and guests will be paying dear prices to enjoy our special corner of the area, we should be just fine.

Happy Holidays,

Mike



MEMBERSHIP

by Mo Wachman

The year 2017 is winding down and our membership count as I write this is at 517 total members. In November, we begin counting new members for 2018, and already we have 13 new members. With these new members and those who are lifetime or multiple year members, our count is at 143 already for our new year of 2018.

With your membership come benefits! Throughout the year we have several different events that everyone can join in on. These events require all types of preparation and we're always looking for assistance. If you'd like to offer your time, let us know. We'll be more than happy to put you to work!!!

Everyone will be receiving an RVHA membership card for the year. When purchasing hay or other items at both Karsten's Ace Hardware and Scottsdale Livestock, your RVHA membership can afford you a discount at these stores. Just show your card to take advantage of the discounts offered.

Remember, you can renew your membership online at <http://rvha-az.com/membership.htm> using a credit card and PayPal. We also have a renewal form on the website if you prefer to print it out and send it in with a check.



PICNIC WITH THE WILDLIFE!

by Terry Holmes-Stecyk

RVHA members and guests enjoyed our fun-filled outing and picnic at Southwest Wildlife Conservation and Rehabilitation Center on November 5th. There were craft projects for the children, a luncheon of fresh salads, turkey wraps, chips and cookies. Our delightful tour guides, Robyn, Nikki, Marcia and Gloria, accompanied the 100 visitors, divided into small groups, through the center and shared a brief history of the founding of SWCC, as well as a tour to view the sanctuary animals who now must call 156th Street home. We listened to several compelling stories of how resident mountain lions, bobcats, coyotes, foxes, black bears and

other animals started life in the wild, then through either injury or human interference, became permanent inhabitants at the center.

Always a favorite of visitors, Leonardo, a majestic African leopard-jaguar hybrid, was once used as a performer in Las Vegas. He was declawed, had his canines (fangs) removed and lived a not so pleasant life until Linda Searles, founder of SWCC, was able to rescue him. After several years he has developed trust with his volunteers. He gently removes a morsel of meat as a SWCC volunteer shares his story. He chuffs his big cat sort of purr while rubbing his

head against his enclosure to show his affection.

The remarkable work Linda and the volunteers have accomplished to save wildlife certain to die if they had not been rescued is commendable. Their primary goal is to rehabilitate each animal so they can be released back into their wild environment. If this is not an option, then a safe environment is offered as they join other sanctuary animals. Their lives often become an educational opportunity for the young and old. Visitors are able to see wildlife up close and learn a healthier respect for the native creatures we share our desert homes with.

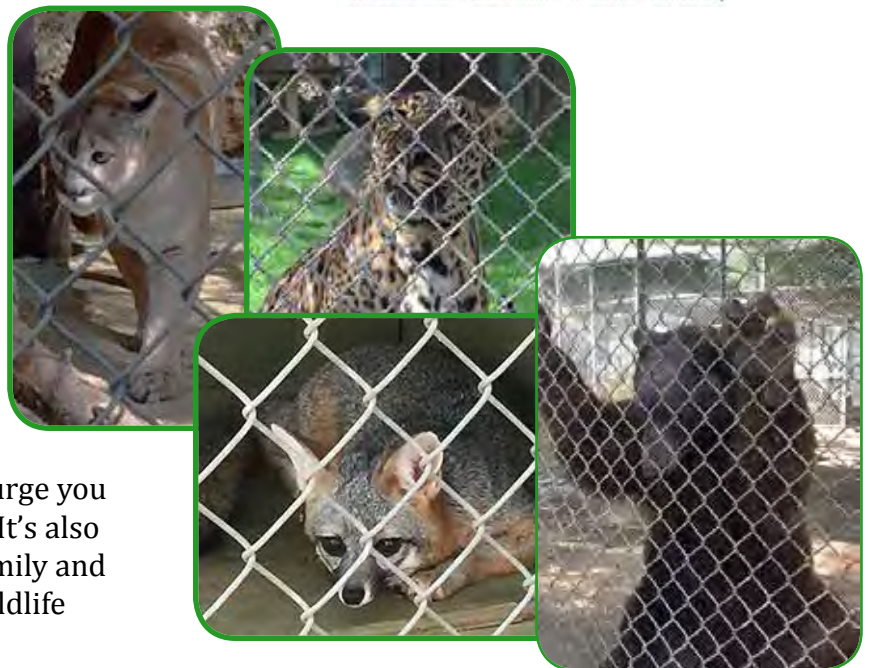
Many thanks to Linda for opening the center to our group, and to SWCC volunteers, Robyn, Nikki, Marcia and Gloria for the tours! A special thank you to Carmela for organizing the event, to Mike and Randy for your engineer's guide to efficient parking, to Mo and Kim for helping with food, to Deanna for your guidance with the crafts and as always, to our spouses, Joe, Don, John, Susan and Lee who help set up, clean up and lend a hand to make the day a huge success!

If you haven't visited the center, then we urge you to go to the website and find a tour date. It's also a wonderful opportunity to bring your family and friends to let them experience Arizona wildlife

up close. Who wouldn't want to hear a sonata of wolves howling, have a safe opportunity to be eye to eye with a regal mountain lion or a darling fox?

We promise you will not be disappointed!

<https://www.southwestwildlife.org/>



“Les and I wanted to thank you for a wonderful event held in November. We all (Les, Theo, Grace and me) loved the Southwest Animal Rehabilitation Center and finding out what goes on there. The animals were fascinating at such close quarters - particularly the bear that stood on his hind legs for his peanut butter treats. I was surprised to find that bobcats are smaller and mountain lions much bigger than I imagined! The children loved doing their arts and crafts and couldn't wait to get home and show their parents their real horseshoes and describe the animals. The food was really good too! It was a huge success - a big thank you from the Neilons! “



Theo, Grace and Avril Neilon

THE ARIZONA HORSE COUNCIL

by Jean Andersen

The Arizona Horse Council (AzHC) is an all-volunteer, member elected board that provides leadership, sets industry standards, and unifies the equine community and industry in Arizona. AzHC is Arizona's Official Affiliate of the American Horse Council in Washington, D.C. AzHC is the only state horse council that has a full-time lobbyist that reviews each piece of new legislation for its impact on equestrians, schedules meetings with the House and Senate Natural Resources Committees to present the impact of the Horse industry in Arizona, and introduces the AzHC and the horse world to key political decision makers to educate them about us. They also work with local and state officials, and legislators for the benefit of Arizona's equine industry. In addition, AzHC provides certified law enforcement training at no cost to law enforcement.

If you are interested in becoming a member, go to the website, print the membership form and mail it along with your membership fee to the address listed. <http://www.arizonahorsecouncil.org/index.html>

In addition, with an individual or family membership, AzHC offers an option to purchase a \$1,000,000 Excess Personal Liability Insurance policy. The policy covers compensation for accidental bodily injury to any person, accidental damage to property, or personal injury to any person arising out of the use and/or ownership of a horse or horse-drawn vehicle. Existing individual and family members can add the equestrian liability coverage to their membership at any time.

HAPPY TRAILS,

Jean Andersen

Mission statement: To preserve, promote and protect the Arizona equestrian lifestyle and industry.



ETIQUETTE WHEN ENCOUNTERING HORSES

by Terry Holmes-Stecyk

There was a recent collision between a cyclist and a horse. Fortunately, everyone is OK, but it might be time to remind those not aware that all the trails are multi-user. So, keep those eyes open. This is a repeat of an article but it's timely with visiting guests to our area, and if they are enjoying the Tonto National Forest or McDowell Sonoran Preserve, they may not be aware of proper etiquette around horses. Please, remind your guests of the presence of horses on the roads and in the desert so everyone is safe.

For many years only nearby residents ventured into what was State Trust Land, west of 136th and north of Dynamite Road, and which is now known as the McDowell Sonoran Preserve. I often had the feeling I was the lone rider for the day as Cowboy and I walked along the old trails forged by previous users. Now that the trails are being used more frequently by hikers, bikers and equestrians, I still continue to share the experience on the trails from an 8-foot high perspective. I became a McDowell Sonoran Preserve Steward in 2013, and joined the patrol team spending the greater part of my volunteer hours on horseback. Not only was the goal to help keep trails clean and in great condition, and help newer users navigate through the Preserve, but also to help educate other users on what to do if they encounter a horseback rider on the trail.

While horses are magnificent creatures, they can also be 900+ lb scaredy cats. Their instinct is self-



preservation, and if threatened, they can quickly spin and run in the opposite direction, or if approached from behind give out a kick that can severely injure a hiker or mountain bike rider. As with any sport, the rider is at risk if the horse is spooked in any way. This can be detrimental not only for the rider, but for the hiker or biker, depending on the circumstance. As equestrians, we need to help other Preserve users understand our four-legged equine friends which leads to safer trail encounters for all.

Horses have eyes located on the sides of their heads and have a range of vision of about 350°. They have the ability to use both eyes separately which provides the horse with the best chance to spot predators. Even with this wide range of vision, a horse has two “blind spots” where he cannot see: directly in front and right behind its head, which extends over his back and behind the tail. Where do most encounters occur? You guessed it, usually someone coming directly at or directly behind the horse.

Equestrians know horses are very sensitive to motion, do not like quick jerky motions and will often react in a defensive manner. They are natural prey in the wild, and are very alert and easily spooked. I recently was sent flying through the desert when my normally calm trail horse reacted to two does we flushed out of the bushes. Bikers and runners can also appear quickly out of the bushes or a blind curve. Even if a horse doesn't mean to hurt someone, they may accidentally hurt a biker or runner thinking they are a predator.

Most hikers, runners, and riders know that trail etiquette requires them to yield to horses, but how, exactly, does a runner or biker yield? What should a hiker or mountain biker do when they encounter equestrians on the trail? And as equestrians, how can we assist them to safely pass?

The rule of etiquette in the Preserve is that hikers and bikers must yield to horses. It will probably require that a runner slow his pace, or a bike rider to actually stop and give an equestrian time to respond. That is what “yielding to horses” means. As equestrians, just because they are to yield to us doesn't mean we should not allow faster users to pass us. The goal is to make the passing safe for all.

- 1) As a hiker or biker, when you see a horse and rider, stop and greet the rider in a calm voice. Speak in a soft manner, and keep talking. Horses will identify you as a human, not something that will do them harm. Ask the rider what they would like for you to do. Allow the rider to call out their intentions and follow their directions. They know their horse's behavior and are the best to read the situation. Never try to speed passed them on your bike or run up behind them. Horses have long legs and can easily kick you and cause an unnecessary injury. The rider may wish to move to the side of the trail once space allows and will ask you to pass them. Just be sure to keep talking in a calm manner, give a wide berth and slowly pass the horse.
- 2) Fellow equestrians, when you see a hiker or biker, greet them as well and let them know your preference for them to safely pass. Tell them to talk so the horse can identify them as a human. Let other Preserve users know what they should do to safely pass you and your horse. You will be surprised at how receptive and appreciative other users will be as your knowledge and experience will be the safest tool for everyone to share the trails.



**SAFETY + TRAIL COURTESY + MUTUAL RESPECT =
A GREAT EXPERIENCE FOR EVERYONE!**

“OH DEAR!

SOUTHWEST WILDLIFE CONSERVATION CENTER HAS A NEW DEER”

By Nikki Julien, Director of Education

This is a story of mystery and intrigue that could end in violence. You have heard stories of Jane Doe. This is a story about John Deer.



Like any Jane Doe, John Deer’s past is a mystery. He was seen wandering a Tempe neighborhood, lost and alone. Though deer are regularly seen on the fringes of the Phoenix suburbs, a deer population living in Tempe is unlikely. We can only surmise that someone found this baby in his natural habitat and brought him home. Taking a wild animal home is no rescue; this was a kidnapping.

Mother deer stash their babies in thick cover specifically to keep them safe. Fawns are about 8 lbs at birth; many of us have a small dog that weighs more. Fawns

aren’t even knee high when they are typically born around the 4th of July. That spotted coat helps them blend in with the dappled light of bushy cover. Interestingly, they do not have a scent. Why all this cloaked disguise? To keep them safe from predators, bobcats, coyotes, and the worst—humans. Mother deer do come back to their babies a couple times a day to feed the little one (or ones, they often have twins). In a month or so, the fawn loses the spots, takes on the sandy-gray tone of the adults and begins to follow mom and learn the ways of the deer. But sadly, little John Deer never got that chance.

This scenario is far too common. Humans see a baby deer amid the tall grass or under the shrubs and think— “it’s abandoned!” Probably not. Mother will never stray far. The best course of action when you see a baby animal is to call Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center’s hotline and tell us about the situation. We will counsel you to take either of two approaches: the “wait and see” approach—give it 12 hours or, if the situation is truly dire, leave the rescuing to the professionals. Though many wild animals can be raised at our facility and released, a law in Arizona prevents deer of any age or condition from being released back into the wild. John Deer’s kidnapping, though the intentions were innocent, has now subjected him to a life of captivity.

Now, let’s also introduce you to Lou. Lou is a mule deer buck and he is in fine form. Except that he can’t leave our center either. Also brought in as a small fawn that was kidnapped, the cute little fawn “Luanna” grew a pair of antlers and was renamed Lou. Lou is feisty even when not in rut. During rut,



which is November and December, Lou is shifted to his own enclosure so he can’t pester the five females that he lives with the rest of the year. We have this system worked out—you can visit us for a tour and see

Lou and his harem year around. Lou is quite studly right now with four prongs to his antlers.

Enter John Deer and his little antler buds. John Deer is no threat to mighty Lou now but in a few years when Lou is aging and John is coming into his prime... the two will lead to clashes. If faced with a challenger, any buck will defend his turf. Obviously, we can't let these two duke it out. We want all of our sanctuary residents to live as stress-free as possible; being in captivity is stressful enough. There is no choice but to give John Deer, if he stays with SWCC, his own enclosure. Can John Deer live his life at another location? Not likely.

John Deer was not the only fawn kidnapped in Arizona this year. Some fawns are taken to game farms where their future is uncertain. A buck takes up a lot of room and requires safety procedures. Young bucks are likely to be slaughtered for human or animal consumption once they reach maturity.

How will John Deer's story end? If you want to know whether John Deer is given the best captive life possible, we need your help. There are many ways to donate to Southwest Wildlife Conservation Center. Cash donations are always the easiest. You can also visit our "donate" tab on the website: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/donate/>

And one of the best ways to help all SWCC animals is to come out and meet them, hear their stories first hand on a tour of our sanctuary: <https://www.southwestwildlife.org/visit-us/>



Happy New Year!



May your dreams run wild and free

And never fear to follow where they lead

COWBOY HAM AND CHEESE QUICHE

by Mike Oster

Here's something for a GREAT New Year's Day brunch. For an alfresco brunch in the Rio Verde Foothills, you can't beat this easy and tasty western dish served tableside. Oven-baked in an iron skillet, it will stay warm outside through the meal. It pairs wonderfully with flutes of sparkling wine topped with 1-2 oz fresh orange juice.

To keep your cowboy theme going, consider pouring the delicious and reasonable Gruet from New Mexico.

Credit to the recipes from *Western Horseman* in April 2016 and *The Pioneer Woman* in June 2013. Pictures from Rumbly Tummy.

Total time: 1 hour 10 minutes

Yield: 6 servings

Ingredients

- 1 Package of 2 - 9" Sarah Lee refrigerated pie crusts
- 6 Eggs
- 2 Cups heavy cream
- 2 Cups 1/4" ham cubes (use thick slices from the deli)
- 1/1/2 Cups shredded Cheddar cheese
- 1/2 Diced yellow onion
- 1 Teaspoon of salt
- 3/4 Teaspoon of black pepper
- 1 Stick of butter



Directions

Preheat oven to 425°. Allow pie crusts to warm to room temp. Butter a 9" cast iron skillet.

Slice each pie crust in the pie tin provided into 6 pieces. Remove one slice at a time from pie tin and line skillet, pushing dough pieces together with fingers.

Set aside. In a mixing bowl, whisk together the eggs, ham, cheese, onion, and seasonings. Pour the mixture in the piecrust.

Bake for 15 minutes, then turn oven down to 325° and continue to bake an additional 40 minutes or until a knife blade comes out clean.

Let stand 5-10 minutes before serving. Serve warm at tableside with a wood handled pie server.



Bon appétit. Podner...!

Mike

A couple of quick and easy holiday treats!



Strawberry Santas!

- 1 lb large strawberries
- 1 (8 oz) box cream cheese, softened
- 3-4 T-spoon of powdered sugar
- 1 t-spoon of vanilla
- Sesame seeds for eyes

Rinse and dry strawberries. Cut off enough for the hat. Core strawberry bottom.

Mix remaining ingredients. Put mixture in piping bag or ziplock with corner cut out.

Fill cored strawberry. Place hat on top and decorate as per picture. Refrigerate

SUPER Easy-Peasy Fudge

- 1 1/2 pks. of semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/3 - 1/2 C butter, softened
- 1 can sweetened condensed milk
- 1 c chopped nuts - optional



Combine everything except nuts in bowl. Microwave 3 mins. and stir. Microwave another 1-2 mins. stir until creamy. Add nuts. Pour into a greased Pyrex dish. I put in fridge to set for about 2 hrs. and then cut. Easiest fudge ever! Enjoy!

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT BOARDING HORSES ON YOUR PROPERTY

By Soleil Dolce, Arizona Equine Rescue Organization

As a rescue organization, I am frequently asked about situations involving property owners who agree to board horses under varying circumstances. The calls I receive are related to the problems that arise in these scenarios and what happens to the horses. The most important principal to understand is that the property owner is responsible for the care of the horses in the case that horses are abandoned or left behind under state statute. There are details around this, but property owners can be held responsible for neglect of animals on their property, whether they own them or not. If you board horses you should be aware of this risk and take measures to protect yourself in advance. Most importantly be sure that there are clear terms in a signed written agreement on what happens to the horses under defined circumstances so that it is easier to take action when something goes wrong. I am going to tell you about boarding tips in this article and will write another follow-up article on renting a property to horse owners, which has another set of risks that should be considered.

"I had some stalls in my backyard and a friend asked if they could keep their horses at my place...."

These conversations often start off with 'I had a friend who needed a place to keep their horse,' or 'My family member asked me to watch their horse.' I can already tell you the next sentence since they are calling a rescue and it goes like this, '...and they left and I can't get ahold of them so I was wondering if you can come and pick up this horse.' The short answer to their question is no! As the property owner, you do not have a right to give away or get rid of the horse until you establish ownership. You have to follow the legal process of putting a feed lien on the horse (ARS 3-1295) and going to court to have a judge award you the horse in lieu of the money owed you OR finding a way to get the prior owner to sign the horse over. Rescues can only help you if there is proof that you own the animal. Otherwise property owners with 'abandoned' horses are responsible for their care and feeding until they establish ownership and then they can rehome or sell the horse however they see fit. It should be noted that at a state level there is no such thing as an abandoned horse, and abandonment laws usually only exist in local municipalities like Scottsdale or Phoenix. In unincorporated Maricopa County it falls to Title 3 in Arizona Revised Statutes, but in local cities you may have another course of action that is worth investigating.

Things you can do to protect yourself from this scenario:

- 1) Have a written agreement on boarding – Whether you consult with an equine attorney, look for templates from big boarding stables, or look online for boarding agreements for ARIZONA, do something in writing REGARDLESS of who is boarding the horse on your property. People die, disappear, become financially challenged, or leave the area and at the end of the day without something in writing you will find yourself at the mercy of the court system. You may have an agreement and still end up in court, but at least the intentions of both parties were outlined in writing so that the court has a starting point. Most importantly, even if it is your own mother, put the boarding agreement in writing!
- 2) Stay in constant contact with the horse owner – One of the curious aspects in these scenarios that often comes up is that the property owner 'only has a cell phone' or 'only has an email' and has trouble getting in contact with the horse owner. Be sure to have full address and contact information of your boarder, but also contact information of another party who is close to the horse owner, like a family member or party that lives with them. I would even suggest a next of kin number so that if they were to die for whatever reason you know who to contact regarding the horse. Carefully document communications or attempted communications with the parties to establish a pattern

of communication with the horse owner. If the owner stops communicating be sure to carefully document all attempts to reach the horse owner.

- 3) Charge board – Ideally there is an established value to the service you are providing so that if you have to put a boarding lien on the horse it is easy to establish in court how much money it is costing you to have the horse on your property without compensation. IF you insist on not charging board then at least establish the equivalent value of the board in dollars in your written agreement so that there is still an established value to damages that you both have acknowledged. In other words, you can put something like ‘one horse will be boarded at XXXX address for the equivalent boarding value of XXX dollars per month’. Even if you don’t have an established value the receipts for hay or any direct expenses related to the horse can be used to establish damages. However, one way a timeline is established on horses that are left behind is when board is no longer paid. It is more difficult to know if a horse owner intends to abandon their animal in situations where board is not charged. Good records of communication can help so that if it is common for a person to respond to you within 24 hours, and then your inquiry goes unanswered for ten days there is an established change of pattern that helps establish intent to abandon. If board goes unpaid there are less variables on timing that the court has to consider.
- 4) Establish the exact process if board is not paid in the agreement – In your written agreement be sure to outline a boarding bill due date and late fees if paid late, and at what point you will take legal action to obtain ownership of the horse. You can check with your local authorities or legal experts, but it is common and allowed to secure your collateral so if there is money owed that you want to be sure to recover then you can lock the horse in its stall until board is brought current. This prevents the other phone call I see where the tenant doesn’t pay and waits as long as possible to come in the middle of the night and remove their horse. Financially distressed horse owners know this game.
- 5) Feed the horse – Often property owners tell me they don’t feel it’s their responsibility to feed a horse if board is not being paid or if they don’t own the horse, but it’s on their property. Going back to state statute that does not recognize abandoned livestock, if it is on your property with your knowledge then you are responsible for its care regardless of circumstance and you will be held responsible for neglect. We do get those calls and law enforcement responds to these scenarios with a stronger stance because of the knowledge the property owner had of the situation and the intentional neglect. This is the risk of boarding so be sure your written agreement is clear on the timing of the steps you will take so that you are not feeding a horse or horses for months and months while you work through the court system. Make it easy for the court to help you in a potentially expensive situation.
- 6) Make sure your boarder can establish ownership of the horse – I always recommend making a copy of the papers that prove who owns the horse. If a boarder doesn’t own a horse you are boarding for them and they neglect or abandon the horse you could be held liable to another party for your actions as it pertains to the agreement you made with the boarder. More importantly, if you are authorized to address medical conditions on their behalf only to find out they were not legally able to give you that authority it could become an issue.
- 7) Make sure you have medical authority – If you cannot get ahold of the boarder, but the horse is in need of urgent medical care there should be something in the agreement that outlines what you are authorized to do. At a minimum you should be on file with their regular veterinarian as an authorized party in certain urgent situations.

- 8) Check your insurance – Often property insurance does not cover boarding or even horses so be sure to check what your insurance does or does not cover and get appropriate insurance. Small farm or equine commercial liability insurance may be necessary. Establish hours, visitor rules, and post liability notices to protect yourself from someone coming onto your property, injuring themselves, and suing without regular equine activity protections in place.
- 9) Check your ordinances – Often boarding can be considered a commercial and potentially taxable activity so be sure to understand your ordinances regarding boarding. In unincorporated Maricopa County, there is an ordinance that says backyard boarding can occur under specific conditions. So, no matter where you live be sure to check if there are any restrictions.

In most boarding cases these issues will never occur, but it's good to avoid being unprepared for the one time something goes wrong. If you have questions around your specific issue we are always happy to provide resources to help you through the process.

Email soleil@azequinerescue.org



DO YOUR PART! IT'S A START!

by Sabrina Nelson
RVHA Road Cleanup Committee Member

Thank you to the 16 volunteers who came out for a successful cleanup and food drive that was held in December. We met some new neighbors and picked up 20+ bags worth of rubbish that we prevented from making its way into our beautiful neighborhood and preserve. Over the year we picked up some unusual items, such as underwear, and the more typical trash such as hundreds of styrofoam cups from the gas station and too many cigarette butts to count.

We would love to welcome more of our neighbors age 12 and up to come help. Every time you come you will be entered in a drawing to win a prize at the end of next season. We had 15 lucky volunteers win either a Starbucks card, coupon for Scottsdale Livestock, Apple gift card and a Safeway gift card! Our small way of saying thank you to those who helped.



A MESSAGE TO OUR ROADSIDE CLEANUP VOLUNTEERS

by Terry Holmes-Stecyk

Sending sincere gratitude to all the members and residents who came out for our quarterly roadside cleanups throughout the year! Your time is certainly appreciated and it's so nice to come home to our beautiful views without a ton of litter! A very special thank you to Sabrina Nelson as well as Randy and Lisa Goettsche for all the organizing of each clean up, collecting names and signed waivers to keep the City of Scottsdale lawyers happy, set up and cleanup the mornings of, all the little details only you know are needed. THANK YOU!!!!

We saved everyone's name throughout the year and had a lucky draw from all the volunteers at the end of our December session.

The lucky draw winners of a \$10 Starbucks gift card:

Melissa Freesh
Marlene Kinsella
Pat McEachron
Bob Pruiksma
Veronica Rathunde
Don Stecyk

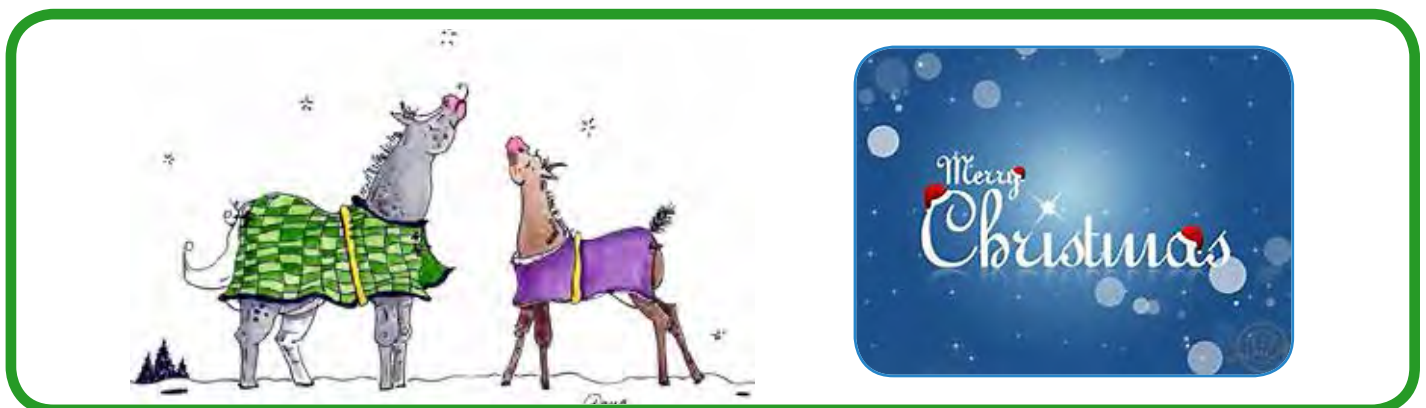


The lucky draw winners of a \$10 gift certificate from Scottsdale Livestock:

Kim Edwards
Cindy and Kim Foss
Randy Goettsche
Lee Porter
Marjorie Porter
Terry Stecyk

Thank you to Scottsdale Livestock for sponsoring our February roadside cleanup with 15% off all shelf items for each volunteer that day and for one of the \$10 gift certificates for the year-end lucky draw. Also to Bonnie Burke, REMAX Fine Properties, and her team for sponsoring a roadside clean up and bringing wonderful treats and hot coffee for all of the volunteers. Thank you to Sabrina Nelson for the donation of a \$25 iTunes card. The lucky winner of that card from our October cleanup was Bob Thomas. And finally, thank you to Jenny Powers for the donation of a \$25 gift card to Target. The lucky winner of that card from our recent December cleanup was Les Neilon.

We hope to see even more of you in 2018 at our next cleanup in February.





AN EVENING OF FUN AND GOOD CHEER!

by Terry Holmes-Stecyk

I am sitting here enjoying a last cup of hot cocoa and a cookie from our Christmas Lights Tour. As I reflect on our event tonight, I remember Mom bundling up my brothers and me to stay warm, then driving around Prescott in her old car to view homes all lit with festive displays. Our final ta-da was a slow tour around the courthouse, maybe even 2 or 3 times around if we were good.

What fun it was to see the amazing light displays of NE Phoenix and Scottsdale with those who could join us tonight. The decorators must start in the summer to put so many lights on their homes, trees and saguaros. I don't even want to think about their APS bill! I loved the synchronized



animation to music, streets filled with house after house of lights, blow ups, and projections of snowflakes and twinkling lights. And how happy the proud families were as they waved at cars, our bus, folks walking the neighborhoods soaking up the good cheer on a cool winter evening.



We'll certainly repeat this merry event next year and hopefully have even more of you join us! Many thanks to Jenny Powers for the Chompies cookies, to Lori Bridwell for the Christmas CDs and to Carmela Lizzo for organizing our tour bus with our fabulous driver,

Ace. Finally, a thank you to my husband Don for helping prepare all the hot cocoa and feeding my critters so I could make it to the bus on time, even though he had to stay home sick with a cold!

We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a fabulous New Year!

Terry, Carmela, Mo, Jenny, Lori, Mike and Kim



Photos by Susan Oster and Terry Stecyk



FUTURE EVENTS

Our next RVHA Board Meeting is Tuesday, January 9th

Held in the bunk house at Lorill Equestrian Center/AZ Cowboy College - 6:45 pm

In the works for 2018

A Mounted Archery demonstration event

Trail Ride with Lunch. Rental horses will be available.

Spring Dinner/Dance with a band and catered buffet meal.

Board of Directors Election

Annual Meeting and Profit/Loss Report, with election results and brunch

