

# Rio Verde

March 2009

HAPPY NEW YEAR

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Roundup

The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association serves the unincorporated county lands north and south of Rio Verde Drive. The Association's purpose is to protect all horse properties and privileges and to preserve the equine and rural lifestyle.

Membership is open to all horse owners and non-horse owners alike, who support this purpose.

Voting is only open to property owners in this area.



## OFF-TRAIL RIDE

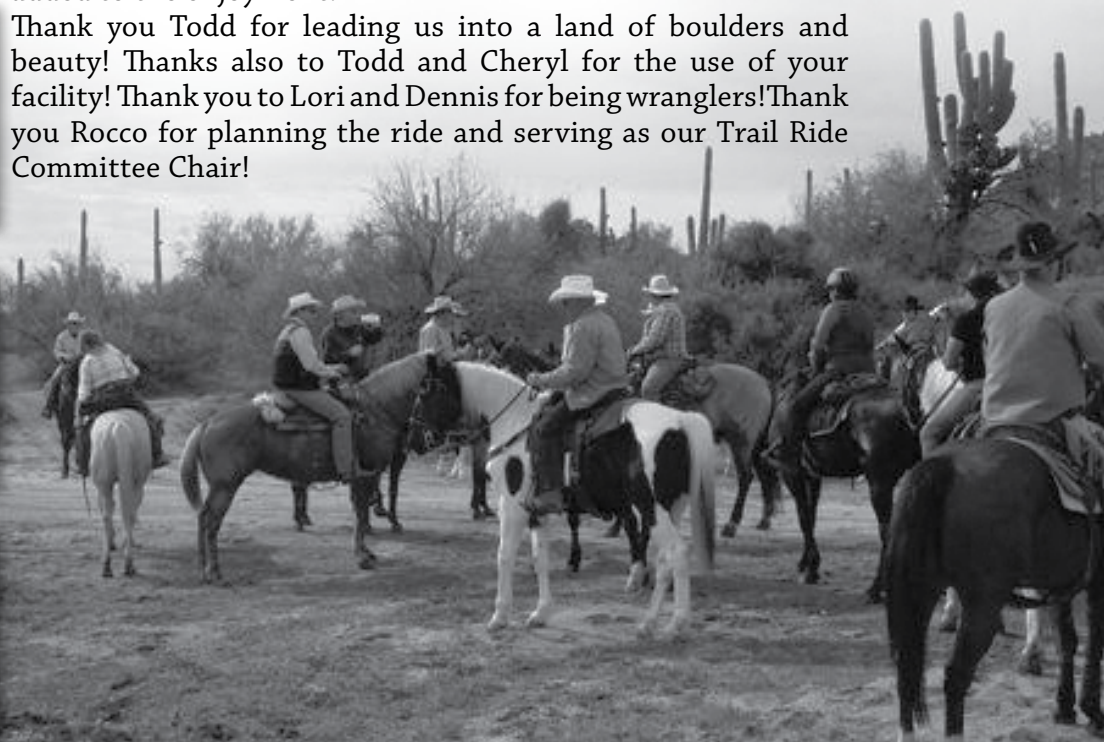
Because of some great planning and preparation by Rocco Wachman, our Off-Trail Ride Committee Chairman, we had one-heck-of-a great ride on Sunday, February 22.

The weather started off cool and cloudy, but as the day went on, it warmed up and was just perfect. Also just perfect was the ride itself. Todd Masden of Cave Creek Outfitters took us on an amazingly beautiful ride into the Granite Mountain Preserve area.

We had about 34 riders, and an additional 6 people who came for lunch and camaraderie. We only had one mishap – minor as it was. Cecile Rudis' horse got into some cholla and her horse tried to get her off his back. Ceil held on like a pro – way to go, Ceil.

Our lunch at the Cave Creek Outfitters facility was wonderful. The side dishes and desserts brought in just added to the enjoyment.

Thank you Todd for leading us into a land of boulders and beauty! Thanks also to Todd and Cheryl for the use of your facility! Thank you to Lori and Dennis for being wranglers! Thank you Rocco for planning the ride and serving as our Trail Ride Committee Chair!



## RVHA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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## PRESIDENT'S COMMENTS

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday.

Thank you to all the RVHA members who wrote letters and to those of you who were able to attend the Save Horse Lovers Park meeting in Phoenix on January 29, 2009. Look for the outcome article in this newsletter.

It has been a wet winter. Yes, we desperately need the rain. What we can all do without are the WEEDS. Yes, it will get warmer, and all of this beautiful green ground cover will dry up and become a major fire hazard. So, remember to clear at least sixty feet from around your house and barn. Also, make sure your subscription to Rural Metro is up to date.

Some recent changes have been made to the RVHA Board.

Monica Wachman, 1st VP

Judy Riley, Treasurer

Lori Bridwell, Director

Jim Campbell, Director

Thanks all of you for donating your time welcome aboard Lori and Jim.

The RVHA Election lunch will be held on Saturday, March 7, 2009, 11:00 at Greasewood Flat. Come and have lunch, meet the RVHA Board, share your thoughts and concerns.

One very important area issue the RVHA Board is concerned with is the Overlook project. This development of land is from 128th – 136th on the south side. If this property is not developed responsibly, it will have a major effect on the water flow on the south side of Rio Verde Drive. If any RVHA member would like to help with this issue please let me know.

Upcoming RVHA events will be sent out via email. If you do not have email access, please let us know.

Thank you to all of our Roundup advertisers, who graciously participated in judging some really good pots of chili at this year's Chili Cook-Off. I know, it was hard choosing, but you all did a GREAT job!

FYI...We have the absolute BEST Chili Cookers right here.

*Margaret Scott*  
RVHA-President



*-by Mo Wachman & Nanci Arvizu*

Renewals for 2009 have been strong. At the date of this writing we already have 371 members, and it's only February. Among those 371 are 27 new members to our organization. We closed out the 2008 membership year at a total of 485 members. We'd like to welcome the following people who have become members since our last newsletter:

- Cindy & Doug Beals
- Jo Ann Garner
- Jeff & Tami George
- John & Helga Harvey
- Jon & Linda Iger
- Susan Jones
- Nick & Dana Kresojevich
- Stacey Marlow
- Paul & Colette Postlmayr
- Jim & Leslie Sidow
- Jerry & Kathleen Stutts
- Lee & Janice Taylor

We welcome back previous RVHA members:

- Dyane Golding
- Phil Mazzio

Beginning this year our directory will only be offered in two formats. You will either have the option of a CD or for those of you with high speed internet; we can send you a PDF version. The directory is usually ready sometime in the spring.

If you have any questions we can help you with, please contact either me or Nanci.

Mo Wachman \* 480 471-3131  
mo@desertinet.com

Nanci Arvizu \* 480 603-9265  
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## THANK YOU SAM WEST!

*-by Margaret Scott*

The RVHA Board of Directors would like to say thank you to Sam West for his years of serving on the RVHA Board. Sam has been an asset to the RVHA over the years, and will be truly missed.

The first time I met Sam was at one of our many meetings with the Scottsdale City Council, down at the Scottsdale Kiva. Some of you might remember Scottsdale National and the



many nights we were there until well after midnight. Well, one night this gentleman got up and spoke on our behalf about what we were trying to preserve out here and how it was worth fighting for. After speaking he walked by my seat and I said "Thank You" he said "You're Welcome" That was the beginning of a very long friendship... Unfortunately, Sam will no longer be serving on the RVHA Board, but I will always say to him Thank You.

Happy Trails Sam!!

## THANK YOU BETTY KEEFE!

*-by Margaret Scott*



In December of 2008, for personal reasons, dedicated RVHA Board member Betty Keefe stepped down from her position as Director. Betty has served as a Director on the RVHA Board since 2005. Betty

was also Co-Chair of the RVHA Mailing Committee; she continues to devote her time working with the Rio Verde 4-H kids. You will be missed... Thank You, Betty! Happy Trails!!

# NEW RVHA DIRECTOR WELCOME JIM CAMPBELL!

-by Margaret Scott

The RVHA Board of Directors would like to Welcome Jim Campbell to the Board as a Director. Jim came on the Board back in December, replacing Director Betty Keefe.

Jim is a business owner and a long time resident of the Rio Verde Foothills. He believes in keeping this area Rural & Equestrian. He will be an asset to the Board. Welcome, Jim!!!

## IT PROBABLY WOULDN'T HURT

- To ask a few questions if you are not sure.
- To research at the library and on the Internet for the things you want to know.
- To listen more.
- To learn both sides of the issues.
- To be sure that your resources and polls are reputable and correct.
- To know what to overlook and what not to overlook.
- To read the by-lines further into the newspaper.
- To know there is goodness all around and to seek it out.
- To know that our community is STRONG.
- To know that a healthy outlook is best.
- To not jump the gun, but know the timing law.

As for myself... I will plant a garden and look at my old Norman Rockwell prints and be among good people, and do all of the above because I know IT WORKS!

An RVHA Member

# ARIZONA STATE HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

-by Jean Anderson

On the City of Phoenix Budget cuts: Many of you attended the rally down at Horse Lovers Park (Reach 11) on Thursday evening, January 29, 2009. I saw many people I knew; thanks for coming and supporting the park. The Park was filled with horses, horse trailers and people. Kathy Reichart, Parks and Recreation Deputy Director, Natural Resources Division, told me that she presented a proposal to the City of Phoenix Parks Board that the city keep the park open Wednesday through Sunday, and closed only on Mondays and Tuesdays. (The city had proposed closing the park for 5 days, open on weekends, only.) Your support in buying the \$5.00 Recreation user card really helped. The city signed up more than 244 people Thursday evening. One may buy a recreational card, earmarked for the Horse Lovers Park (you need to tell them that) at ANY City of Phoenix Park Facility. The city council will vote this month, and whatever they decide, will go into effect by March 1st.

You who have paid your membership in ASHA (remember, you get a reduced membership because RVHA is a Club Member), thanks so much for supporting us. We now have a lobbyist. We have been monitoring the bills that are making their way through the Arizona Legislature that involve equine. Hiring a lobbyist was one of the items that came out of our equine summit last October.

We also now have our new 501 (c) (3), ASHA – Equine Education and Research Corp. We are excited about being able to announce this because we can now start to solicit funds for the new equine economic report. This report will cost us around \$150,000 to finish, and hopefully we can give the go a head to NASS (National Animal Statistics Service) by June of this year. When this study is done, hopefully by fall of 2010, it will be able to give the actual count of equines in Arizona by county.

Be sure and look for Ed O'Brien's articles on ASHA in the Horse Connection each month. You can then keep up with all that ASHA is doing. Our web site has been updated, too, so go take a look: [www.azasha.com](http://www.azasha.com).

# E-MAIL ALERTS & REQUEST LINE

-by Mo Wachman

As usual I'd like to define our email alert system since we do have new members not familiar with how this works. We separate it into 3 categories: the **Alerts** – notices of lost and found animals; **Notices** - information about an upcoming event, meeting, weekend events or invitations; and **Request Line** – where any member can post a request for just about anything (**except if it is monetarily beneficial to the member**).

I'd like to let you know that I've been having some problems sending out several emails on any one particular day. Every email I send out goes to about 350 email addresses. Somebody up there in email land thinks my information could be SPAM; so some of the emails were "confiscated" and never delivered to the intended party. I've set up an additional

account so that I can vary from where the emails originate. It seems to be working so far. I'm sorry that some of you have not gotten all your mail. It's been beyond my control, but I'm still looking for a foolproof method. Any suggestions?

Since our last issue, I've sent out a total of 68 email alerts. Lost and found animals only made up 17 of these, including a found pig and a found cow. Both these critters were reunited with their owners. I don't always hear back about the "misplaced" animals, but if you can, please let me know the outcome. So many people ask about a certain animal and I'd like to be able to give them information. Remember to keep those collars and tags on your furry friends, and that the information on the tags is current.

As you all know, our *Request Line* has proved to be quite popular. Since December we've tallied 19. Mary Miller was looking for a goat grooming stand, and Lauren Dillon was looking for a goat farrier. We have request to find homes for horses and dogs. And Theresa Boks was giving away free sand. I hope everyone was successful in your requests. All in all the responses to the requests have been pretty phenomenal. We have some very helpful and generous neighbors out here!

We've sent out about 32 emails regarding some type of information – there were several meeting reminders, yard/tack sale info, and the crime prevention meeting. We also told you about Horse Lovers Park, the rally to keep it open, and the great results!! Again, we certainly appreciate everyone who takes the time to report a lost or found animal, and those of you who care for the found ones until their owners are located. THANK YOU!!

If you haven't been receiving our alerts, please notify me and I'll make sure I have your current/correct email address in our system.

Alerts are available to RVHA members in good standing. If you'd like to be added to the alert list, please send me an email at: [mo@desertinet.com](mailto:mo@desertinet.com) or call me at 480-471-3131.

**REMINDER: Be sure your animals have collars and tags with current information. Microchips are also a great idea!**



# A SHADY SOLUTION

-by Dan Cohorst



The summer heat is just around the corner. Here are a few things you can be thinking about to help with your cooling energy bills this summer.

If you have lived in the desert long you know about the harsh desert sun. In a typical home, on a hot day, more heat comes thru one square foot of glass than an entire insulated wall. Solar radiation (infrared light) through glass is responsible for approximately 20% of the load on an air conditioner. Typically, 46% of your utility bill goes for cooling. There are many ways to reduce your cooling bill, but the overall theme is shade. Any shade you can create on your home no matter how big or small makes your house easier to cool. Here are a few ways to reduce that energy bill and make your house a more comfortable place to live.

Landscaping is a natural and beautiful way to keep your home cool in summer and reduce your energy bills. A well-placed tree, shrub, or vine can deliver effective shade, and reduce your energy bills. Carefully positioned trees can save up to 25% of the energy a typical household uses for energy. Research shows that summer daytime air temperatures can be 3° to 6° cooler in tree-shaded



neighborhoods than in treeless areas. A lattice or trellis with climbing vines, or a planter box with trailing vines, shades the home's perimeter while admitting cooling breezes to the shaded area.

If you can't wait for trees and vines to grow and shade your home you may want to try a more immediate solution. Valances, awnings, and sunscreens conserve

energy by shading your windows and doors thereby keeping the sun's heat and damaging UV and IR radiation out of your home. These products reduce the amount of energy required to cool your home environment while protecting your valuable furnishings, floor coverings, and window treatments from being damaged by the sun. Studies by the American Society of Heating and Air Conditioning Engineers show that during the period of the day when the sun shines directly on south facing windows a fabric awning reduces heat gain by 55-65%. For western exposure, the reduction in heat gain is 72-77%. Shade products also serve to make your decks and patios much more comfortable and enjoyable. Sunscreens and Drop Curtains can provide shade for these areas reducing the temperature in outdoor living spaces by 20° or more.



*As this illustration shows, while window tinting and indoor blinds or curtains can be effective, the best results are achieved by blocking the sun before it gets to the glass. Additional awning information can be found at: [www.awninginfo.org](http://www.awninginfo.org)*

A recent study, "Awnings in Residential Buildings: The Impact on Energy Use and Peak Demand," conducted by the Center for Sustainable Building Research at the University of Minnesota, has found that awnings over windows in Phoenix area homes can reduce energy costs by up to 21%. This means you spend less on energy, and reduce your carbon footprint. To see a copy of this study, go to: <http://www.awninginfo.org/images/stories/documents/pdf/energystudy22007.pdf>

The ticket is to keep the sun off of the house. Whether you choose trees and vines or awnings and screens, or some combination of both, find a way to keep the sun's heat from heating up your home so you don't have to spend so much money to cool it back down! For more info on fabric shade solutions and how they look visit [www.squaredawnings.com/products](http://www.squaredawnings.com/products)

# CHILI COOK-OFF

-by Mary Kay Vella Della



What a beautiful day in January for our annual Chili Cook-Off! We had a great turnout, despite the fact we had conflicts with other events! A lot of people wore red that day. Most important of those conflicts was the



football playoffs! Buffy Minton made some great Cardinals signs for us to use. And the Cards didn't let us down! They went to the Super Bowl!

This year we tried something different.

We had some of our advertisers as judges. It worked really well. Please be sure to use our advertisers for all your needs! They help make our newsletter possible and on January 18, 2009, they made our Chili Cook-Off possible!



We had Amy Wolff of Décor & You, B.J. Borgen of Viking Pump, Cheryl Karsten of Karsten's Ace Hardware, Jeanne Johnson of Perma Stall Products, Jeff Hardesty of Desert iNet, John Hornewer of RV Water, Julia Montgomery of Four Peaks Virtual Feed, and Marc Jensen of Scottsdale Livestock. And as always, a special thank you to Don and Bev Ogelsby for the use of their property. Thanks again to Buffy Minton for the awesome signs!

Now, down to business:

Our 3rd place and \$25.00 winner was: Ray Wallage

2nd place and \$25.00 winner was: Buffy Minton

This year we had a tie for first place. That has never happened before!

Each winning \$50.00: JR Medlock and Lynn Bateman  
And the People's Choice this year was: Jane Thompson.  
Jane took home a Cowboy Chef Trophy!

The judges did tell me that it was hard to make a choice. They enjoyed them all! BJ had one comment: "SPICE IT



UP!" They liked the smoke flavor in Don Scoby's. The booze in Ray Wallage's was a winner in everyone's opinion! That's what took him to the Number 2 spot! Tracy Mawhorter used elk meat in her

recipe, which pleased a lot of folks.

All in all, we had a great time. Hope to see you all next year! Maybe we can figure out a day when we have no conflicts! And please, if anyone has any suggestions for our next one, please call me to let me know and we will try to work them in! How about a "Cook's Choice"? That was one suggestion. Thanks again to everyone who helped out. Until next year!

Mary Kay Della Vella 480-206-2937.



# Maricopa County Planning and Development Department

Report to the Zoning, Infrastructure, Policy, Procedure and Ordinance Review (ZIPPOR) Committee

Prepared by the Maricopa County Planning and Development Department

**Subject:** TA2008006 –Equestrian Uses

**Meeting Date:** October 16, 2008

**Agenda Item:** 1

**Supervisor District:** All Districts

**Applicant:** N/A

**Request:** Request for Commission initiative of a Text Amendment to the Maricopa County Zoning Ordinance (MCZO) in regard to equestrian uses in Rural zoning districts.

**Discussion:**

At present, the MCZO does not specifically allow by-right what are arguably considered to be common uses found in many semi-rural areas across the county. In Maricopa County many of the Rural zoning districts are more suburban in nature. The MCZO requires a Special Use Permit (SUP) for any commercial or public equestrian uses such as boarding, riding lessons, rodeo events, team roping practices, etc. The local equestrian community has expressed difficulty in complying with the zoning requirements. This suburban / rural conflict does present a compatibility issue that may be somewhat alleviated by a more specific delineation of allowed equestrian uses within the Rural zoning districts.

At the request of Supervisor Kunasek, staff approached representatives of the equestrian community to explore the potential of allowing some equestrian uses that presently require an SUP as by-right uses in the Rural zoning districts. It would seem that reasonable equestrian uses can be allowed. Such allowance would then obviate need for many current SUP cases, and would certainly mitigate a larger number of zoning violations. Therefore, staff proposes to allow limited, commercial / public equestrian uses accessory to a single-family residence or other established primary use in the Rural zoning districts.

MCZO Art. 1301.1.20 is an SUP category for public riding and boarding stables; however, no definitions currently exist in the MCZO to define these uses. Definitions have been included as part of this text

amendment. Staff does not necessarily think the definitions are necessary as they're somewhat duplicative of the proposed ordinance text which includes language that clearly delineates what equestrian uses would be allowed by right in the Rural zoning districts, and thus what will continue to require an SUP.

Staff proposes to add a new article limiting equestrian uses that will be allowed accessory to an established primary use in the Rural zoning districts, as MCZO Art. 501.2.21.e:

Residential equestrian ranch uses limited to the following:

1. The boarding of up to ten (10) horses not owned by the private property owner or resident.
2. Riding lessons, team roping practices, and similar activities involving up to a maximum of 20 persons (including staff, participants and spectators).
3. All structures shall meet minimum setback requirements and the maximum lot coverage requirement. All parcels must meet minimum lot area and width requirements.
4. There shall be no outdoor amplified music or speakers accompanying equestrian uses.
5. All arena lighting shall be turned off between 10:00 p.m. and sunrise, and all outdoor lighting shall otherwise comply with Article 1112 of this ordinance.
6. Must comply with all aspects of the Maricopa County Health Code Chapter XI regarding the keeping of animals.
7. The ranch manager shall reside on the subject property.
8. Any facility that cannot meet these conditions will require a Special Use Permit in accordance with Article 1301.1.20 of this ordinance.

Staff proposes the following definitions be added to Chapter 2:

**RANCH, RESIDENTIAL EQUESTRIAN:** Property for which a primary use has been established and which contains ancillary equestrian uses such as the boarding of not more than ten (10) horses not personally owned by the private property owner or a resident, and riding activities that do not exceed 20 staff, participants and spectators at any given time.

**STABLES, RIDING:** Equestrian facility hosting events exceeding 20 persons including staff, participants and spectators for riding lessons, team roping and penning practices, or other equestrian activities.

**STABLES, BOARDING:** Equestrian facility wherein more than ten (10) horses are boarded at a given time that are not personally owned by the private property owner or a resident.

Staff is not certain whether the definitions are necessary given the specific points proposed for new MCZO Art. 501.2.21.e. If the definitions are deleted then the new article should likely be rephrased "Equestrian uses limited to the following:". Items that were deleted from earlier drafts of the amendment tend to be addressed in the enforcement arms of other county agencies; however, staff does believe it important to reference the county's health code regarding the keeping of animals.

One item not addressed in this draft of the amendment is the keeping of animals other than horses for the purposes of operating the equestrian facilities, such as calves and cattle. It may be prudent to place a numeric cap on such animals similar to that for horses. Note that the numeric cap only applies to animals associated with the limited commercial / public equestrian activities and not personal animals or agricultural inventory.

Other concerns include whether or not the property owner shall be required to maintain ownership records for each horse (as it may prove a difficult matter for enforcement determining boarded versus personal horses); whether or not these smaller scale operations must observe standard setbacks or if structures housing animals must meet a 100' setback from property lines (as is required for an SUP unless there is a unanimous vote of the BOS); whether or not paving requirements should be specified (gravel surface is allowed for a single-family residence); etc.

The proposed language has been revised since initial routing for review and comment by the equestrian representative. Staff has attached all comments

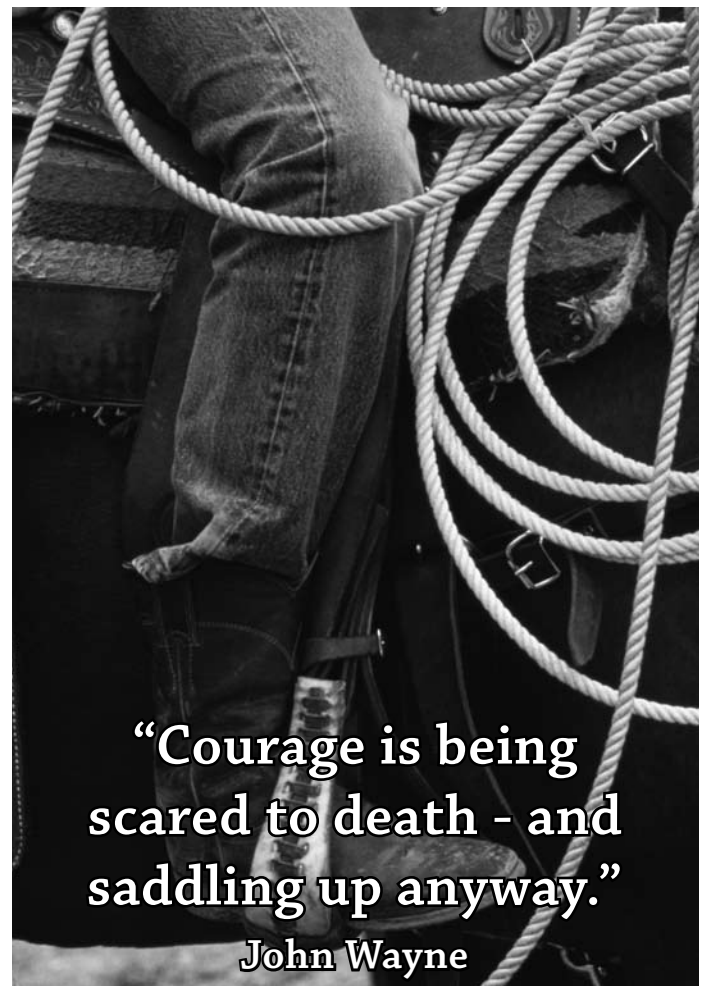
received to date. Several of the equestrian representatives will desire more liberal allowances for equestrian uses by-right in the Rural zoning districts. However, this amendment will be giving allowances that presently are not afforded without an approved SUP.

Comments received to date are attached to this report. Note that the comments ask for delineation of items that are detailed elsewhere in the ordinance. There are also comments that speak to disclosure with conveyance documents but that is not the charge of the MCZO. Staff desires to keep the amendment succinct.

Depending upon direction from the Commission, staff anticipates bringing this item for vote at a regular Commission hearing within the next year after analysis and external review. Larger public involvement will be sought which is expected to foster healthy debate.

**Recommendation:**

Staff recommends the ZIPPOR Committee **initiate TA2008006.**



**"Courage is being  
scared to death - and  
saddling up anyway."**

**John Wayne**



# FOUR PEAKS ANIMAL RESCUE CORNER

Hailey is a 4 year old, spayed Australian Shepherd mix weighing about 30 lbs. She enjoys petting and cuddling, and will join you on the couch if invited. She is very versatile; happy doing whatever you're doing including going outside, going on walks, even playing in the snow. She is a little timid when meeting new people but warms up quickly. She is okay with dogs her size or larger, cats (as long as dogs in the home don't chase cats), and is absolutely wonderful with children of all ages. Hailey is missing one of her hind legs but is still able to walk and run as fast as other dogs her size. Hailey is a very sweet, special dog, looking for a new, special home.

Smokey is an approx. 1 yr old domestic short hair neutered male. Smokey is a beautiful steel blue



tabby & our volunteers say he is really soft!! He is truly a super good boy... he's good with other cats and getting used to being around the dogs at FPAR. He LOVES attention & his canned food... will follow you around like a dog... he is not pushy with the other cats. He probably would be good with older children.



**Four Peaks Animal Rescue**  
All donations are tax-deductible

**28150 N Alma School Pkwy**  
**Ste 103/470**  
**Scottsdale, AZ 85262**

**480-471-3520**  
**Fax: 480-471-2201**

**www.fourpeaksanimalrescue.org**

**FOUR PEAKS ANIMAL RESCUE**

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**Paws Around The Fountain**  
Pet Adopt A Home & Loving For Day

**Free Admission**  
Sunday - March 7th & 8th - 10am

**MISSION STATEMENT**

Four Peaks Animal Rescue is a non-profit organization dedicated to the rescue, rehabilitation, training and placement of animals in need of care in Maricopa County, Arizona.

**THE FOUNDATION**

The foundation for our efforts is best symbolized by the 3E's. (Which, unlike our human educational counterparts, actually represent three words beginning with E.)

**RENCHER:**  
Often these animals are recovered in the wild, where they are abandoned at the mercy of simply left helpless because they no longer fit a lifestyle. Regardless of the circumstances by which we meet, they are caught in need of immediate care. Upon arrival, our animals are watered, fed, bathed, and most importantly, provided a reassuring and loving environment consistent with the basic of our philosophy.

**Rehabilitation:**  
Once admitted, the animal is screened for health issues. With the basic necessities of survival have been provided we can turn to the positive that transforms an animal to a pet. These qualities, at a minimum, include trust, recognition of limits, and respect of place in the family.

**Resituate:**  
Recognizing that any satisfying relationship is a combination of personality and situation, we assist in the selection of a compatible animal to provide an appropriate match with an individual and/or family ready to adopt a pet. This assistance includes our own evaluation of an animal's characteristics (for example size, age, temperament) to be matched with the guardian's lifestyle (for example home type, activity level, experience with pets). Clearly the better the pre-placement evaluation, the more likely the success of the adoption.

**FOSTER**

**Pets911.com**

We support Pets911 for Maricopa County.

For animal welfare information specific to your community, please enter your 5 digit zip code.

Enter

A new window will take you to Pets911 for your area.

**QUICK LINKS to:**  
Lost and Found Animals  
Sponsors  
Volunteer Center

Please visit The Four Peaks Animal Rescue website at [www.fourpeaksanimalrescue.org](http://www.fourpeaksanimalrescue.org) to view all our available and deserving adoptees.

Four Peaks Animal Rescue is a no-kill organization. We have many dogs & cats abandoned in our desert. Rescue animals require medical attention for their rehabilitation to good health prior to adoption. We hope to continue our efforts to provide all the care and TLC necessary to give these displaced animals a place to stay before going to new permanent homes. Thank you for your support in our endeavors.

\*Funding for FPAR is derived from fundraisers, public & private donations, & adoption fees. Donations & Auction items are tax deductible. IRS 501(c)(3) ID No. 36-4262371

# SECOND ANNUAL HORSES HELP BENEFIT TRAIL TRIALS

AT MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN PARK ON MARCH 21, 2009

-by Star Thornton

The ride will be over 7 miles of washes, decomposed granite and a hill with a beautiful view. There will be 7 to 9 obstacles. Last year the flowers were in full bloom and the weather was perfect.

This ride is designed to help each rider further her/his horsemanship skills and knowledge of trail riding. It doesn't matter whether you ride Western, English or something in between. This ride is not geared toward any particular riding discipline or breed of horse.

Our Trail Trials is designed to showcase a horse that will stop, turn, back up and yield to leg pressure. The obstacles will also test the relationship between horse and rider.

Most of the judging will be done objectively -- you move a part of the obstacle, you lose a point. It's just that simple. There will be two obstacles that are judged subjectively, we just can't seem to do these any other way, but we're working on it.

Lunch is included and catered by Burnt Biskit, last year they brought roast beef and chicken with fresh fruit, salad, biscuits and dessert. Everyone agreed that the food was great.



Classes: Kids 10- 13 Novice  
Youth 14-17 Novice and Open divisions  
Adult 18-54 Novice and Open divisions  
Masters 55+ Novice and Open divisions

Cost: Kids \$25 plus a \$6.00 park entry fee  
Youth \$35  
Adult \$75  
Masters \$75



**For entry info contact:**  
**Star BoxTstar@aol.com**  
**or 480-510-6713**



# AND THE WINNERS ARE...

-by Jenny Powers

The endurance riders in the RVHA community have been blessed with both good weather for rides and several new American Endurance Ride Conference sanctioned rides in McDowell Mountain Park. Although the trails can be a bit repetitive riding 50 miles within the Park and Sonoran Preserve boundaries, the convenience of having a ride right in our own backyard is appreciated. The first two rides were definitely "no frills" but the Ride Manager is improving on them each time and a third ride is scheduled for February

The first of the Valley of the Sun endurance rides was held at McDowell Mountain Park in the new staging area on Saturday, November 28. Despite heavy rain over the

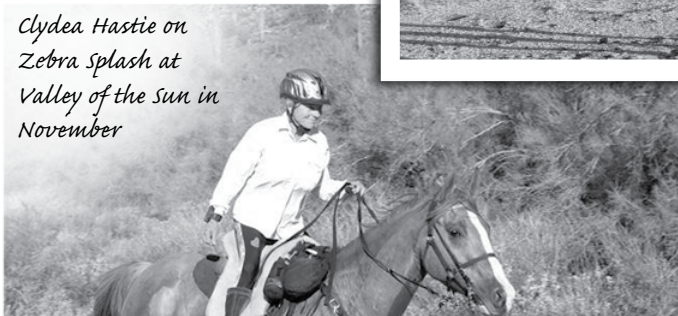
Thanksgiving holiday, the weather for the ride was sunny and clear with excellent footing.

RVHA members completing this ride were Jim Hastie on My Prints, his wife, Clydea on Zebra Splash, both finished Top Ten. Rick Poteste on Lad, Jenny Powers on Twister, Kevin Meyers on Farrabba and Rusty Toth on Jumping Jack Flash also completed the 50 mile ride.

*Kevin Meyers on Redford at Valley of the Sun in November*



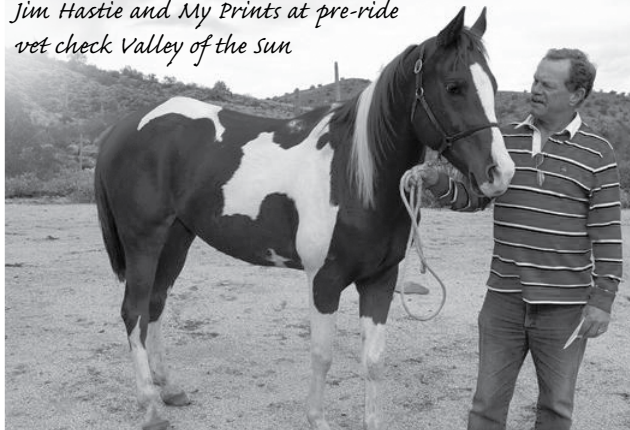
*Clydea Hastie on Zebra splash at Valley of the Sun in November*



Kevin and Rusty traveled to California for the Death Valley Encounter over New Years weekend. On Day 1, 55 miles Rusty completed on Jack and Kevin on Farrabba; on Day 2, 50 miles, Kevin completed on Auli Farwa. On

Day 4 Rusty completed

*Jim Hastie and My Prints at pre-ride vet check Valley of the Sun*

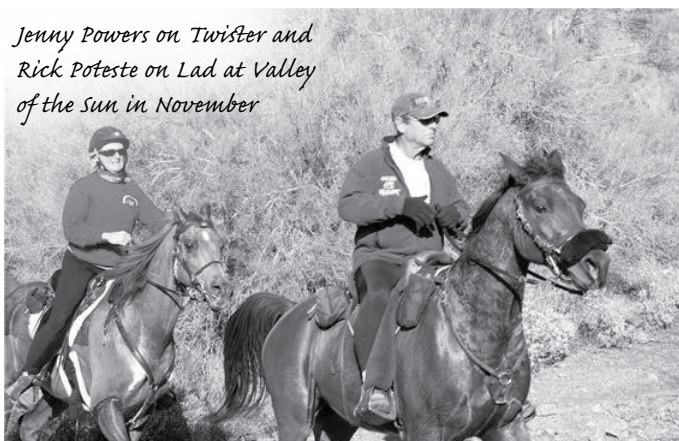


*Jenny and Twister - just for fun!*



28, which will include the addition of Limited Distance. For more information go to [www.aerc.org](http://www.aerc.org) and click on Ride Calendar and search rides in the Southwest Region or contact ride manager, Irene Murphy at [irmurphy@aol.com](mailto:irmurphy@aol.com).

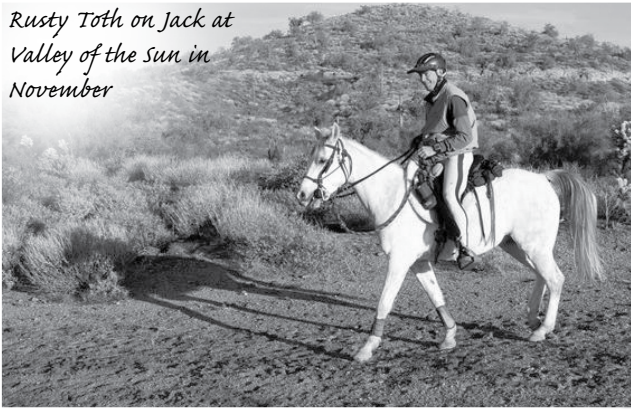
*Jenny Powers on Twister and Rick Poteste on Lad at Valley of the Sun in November*



again on Jack and Kevin on Auli Farwa. Congratulations on the success at this tough multi-day ride. The second Valley of the Sun ride was held on January 10 at McDowell Mountain Park and the weather again, was perfect following rain over the Christmas holidays. Better maps and trail markings resulted in a terrific ride and RVHA members Joe Ingram on Shadow completed.

At the end of January 32 members of the local endurance riding group traveled to Wickenburg for one of the best rides in the state, Land of the Sun. RVHA members completing the 50 mile ride at Land

*Rusty Toth on Jack at  
Valley of the Sun in  
November*



of the Sun were: Nancy Boomer on Hawk, and a friend completed his first 50 mile ride on Nancy's husband Dave's horse, Zuby; Joe Ingram on Shadow, Barb Debi on Mac, Jenny Powers on Twister, Kevin Meyers on Auli Farwa, Rusty on Aul Mystery, a friend from out of state completed on Kevin's horse Farrabba; Clydea Hastie on Zebra Splash and Jim Hastie on Frozen Assets, and Rick Poteste on Lad.

RVHA members competing in other disciplines – please contact me to share your success stories! Call at 480-861-8392

## **MCDOWELL MOUNTAIN REGIONAL PARK**

*-by Pamela Griffin*

The Association has donated money and man-power to spruce up the "temporary" visitors center in the park. These improvements are not quite completed, and so the Open House previously planned and announced to take place in March is being postponed. Look for this event in the fall!

The County Parks and Recreation Department is holding public meetings concerning revisions to the "Master Plan". This includes McDowell Mt Park and other county parks. A notice was sent via the RVHA e-mail alert about this meeting being held in Cave Creek on February 18th. I was unable to attend and have no specific information about the meeting. However, the Association has been notified by Rand Hubbell, Park Manager, that, indeed, some new trails have been approved and construction should begin in several weeks. Additionally, new gates are planned along the northern border. Whether these were approved and are being planned for installation is unknown at this time. Stay tuned.

## **VICTORY FOR HORSE LOVERS PARK**

*-by Jean Anderson*

UPDATE on HLP: Ross Libonati attended the meeting on February 3rd at 2pm where he handed over the signed petitions collected to save HLP. At the meeting, the city council made the final decisions on the budget cuts. HLP will be open 5 days a week with Wednesday and Thursday night open arena.

The park arenas will be closed Monday and Tuesday but the trails will remain open. For Monday and Tuesday access to trails you can park on the east side of Tatum between 101 and Union Hills. There are two areas for trailer parking. The larger one of the two also has



a water trough. Also the main gate to the park will be

open and the 2nd gate will now be closed (on Monday and Tuesday) this will allow parking in the lower lot to the left as you enter HLP. There is also a trail head



on Cave Creek south of Pinnacle Peak and north of the cemetery. PLEASE WHEN YOU RIDE THESE TRAILS

**REMEMBER  
THAT HORSES  
ARE NOT  
ALLOWED ON  
THE SOCCER  
FIELD S**  
which you may pass on certain trails. The Monday and Tuesday closure of the park will go into effect on March 2nd.



**THANKS TO ALL FOR YOUR HELP WITH Horse Lovers Park!!!**

# RVHA OFF TRAIL PRESS

-by Rocco Wachman

Wow! I would like to thank everyone who attended our February "Off Trail Ride. Todd, Cheryl and the Crew at Cave Creek Outfitters did a wonderful job in all areas and Todd's picking of choice, "Off Trail" trails was nothing short of brilliant. Everyone's mount behaved wonderfully and a good time was had by all. It is that time of the year though to brush off the dust and cob webs caused by our winter weather and give a thorough inspection of anything that has to do with the riding of our horses.

I would suggest to all our members and anyone else who gets hold of this article to go into our barns, tack rooms and trailers to give a really good look at any of the equipment we use in respect to our equine partners. Hitch rails and tie posts can be rusting or eroding due to the amount of rain and floodwaters we have had. The leather and latigo on our saddles could be drying and starting to crack which could cause a "Huge Wreck". Squirrels, field mice and rabbits may have chewed on

wires leading to brakes and lights on your trailers. It is the time of the year to do a spring clean up of all that matters.

I know we all check these things pretty much every time we use them, right? Yeah right! So get the shovels, welders, neat's-foot oil, oils soap, glycerin, electrical testers, grease, jacks and get to work making sure 2009



is accident free. Please do not forget to do a check of the wheel bearings and brakes on your trailer. It is always better to find out before you haul your horses that your bearings are dry and the wheels are about to cease and cause a small catastrophe. Check your tire pressure to see if they are at the correct PSI. Not only is it a safety issue but you will get better fuel mileage if the profile of your tires is at the correct level. Please check the floors of the trailers inside and under to be sure the integrity of the trailer floor is what it should be.

Leather tack should be dust and dirt free. Leather surfaces seen and unseen should be moist with good strength. Take a good look at all stitching, keepers and anything that is tied with leather latigo. For your horses sake also check the sheepskin that is underneath your saddle to make sure it gives proper protecting for your horses back.

We all know this stuff and I am sure you have a list of things that triples mine but I do have certain times of the year that I formally go through those lists to make sure that I haven't missed an item that can come back and bite me in the arm. I know everyone of us right now can think of some item of safety that we have been putting off for a fix at another time. Get it done now!

*"God Bless and Keep Riding"*