

# Rio Verde

December 2010



# Ranch

*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.*

## Get those chili recipes out

### Chili

It's time again for the Annual RVHA Chili Cook-Off. Mark your calendars for Sunday, January 22, 2011, event to be held from Noon-4pm. Any RVHA member wanting to enter their chili can contact:  
Mary Kay @ mkdv@desertinet.com 480-206-2937 or  
Margaret @ margaretscott@rvha.us  
480-473-3777  
Look for more information to follow via email.



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## President's Comments

It's finally over; all that hot weather which seemed to be hanging around forever has finally changed to the weather we all moved here for. Speaking of over, we'll look back on 2010 and remember things that have taken place in our lives then we'll look forward to 2011 and new things to come.

Thank You! John and Cyndi Shy for organizing the Roadside Cleanup and to everyone who joined us and donated their time helping to keep our area "Looking Good" Great Job!! See you again in January.

Over 100 RVHA members and guests enjoyed a wonderful evening at Greasewood on October 16th for the Annual RVHA Fall Dinner Dance. Everything was perfect, from the burgers to the weather.

The RVHA Election Candidacy Applications will be coming out soon. Any RVHA voting member (you need to own property in our area) can run for a position on the RVHA Board of Directors. The Election will be held in March 2011.

Check the RVHA Calendar of events at the RVHA website.

Please take the time to read the articles written by our members. Remember, any, RVHA member can submit an article for publication in Roundup.

Let's wish Jean Anderson a speedy recovery from knee replacement surgery. Knowing that tough little lady, she'll be back riding before you know it.

Deepest sympathy to Mo and John Wachman on the passing of their beloved dogs Paco and Jake, they crossed over the rainbow bridge... my little buddies will be dearly missed.

Thank you to all our advertisers who support the RVHA throughout the year. Everyone, please remember to patronize them.

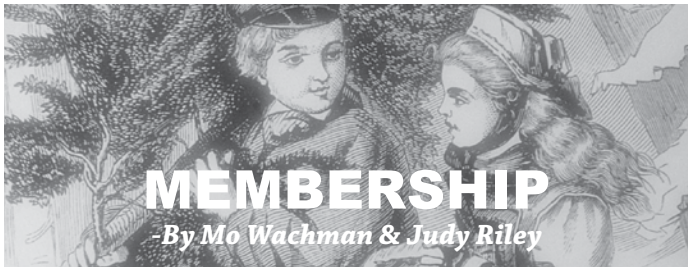
I'd like to thank the RVHA Board of Directors and Committee Members who donate their time to the RVHA and the community all year.

I'd especially like to say "Thank You" to Mo for taking the time to put together and send us all the wonderful emails we all look forward to getting, to Frank Turben for keeping the RVHA website up and running smooth, and Amy Cohorst for doing such a great job putting the newsletter together. Everyone working together is what makes it work!

***I wish everyone Merry Christmas, Happy Holidays, and a Healthy and Happy New Year!!***

Margaret Scott  
RVHA President





The year 2010 is winding down and the membership count today is at 461 total members; 85 of those are new for this year. Any full price dues and applications received from November 1st will not expire until December 31, 2011.

With your membership come benefits! Throughout the year we have a number of 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!!!

We'd like to welcome the following people who have become members since our last newsletter:

Heidi Cada and	LeRoy	<b>And Welcome Back to:</b> Helen Hirneise Steven & Denise Keilman Tracy Mawhorter
Jeffrey Schultz	Diana & Charles	
James & Pat	Mettille	
Coyne	Tracy Reinhart	
Rich & Trish Haws	Mary Beth & Peter	
Vera & David	Reis	
Heminger	Stacie Schmidt	
Susan Lauder	Kerry Segel	
William & Rebecca		

With the help of our very capable website designer, Frank Turben, we're now set up to handle online applications and payments can be made using PayPal. We should also have a renewal form set up on the website so that everyone can renew their membership online also using PayPal. Thanks to Frank for all your help.



As members everyone is entitled to RVHA vehicle license plates for your car or truck. If you haven't received yours yet, please contact me and we'll see to it you get yours.

If any of your personal information changes, make sure to contact us so we can update our database. Don't forget your email address; people make this change quite often. For any questions we can help you with, please contact either me or Judy.

Mo Wachman \* 480 471-3131      mo@rvha.us  
 Judy Riley \* 480 471-0056      judy@rvha.us

# THE ARIZONA HORSE COUNCIL

-by Jean Anderson

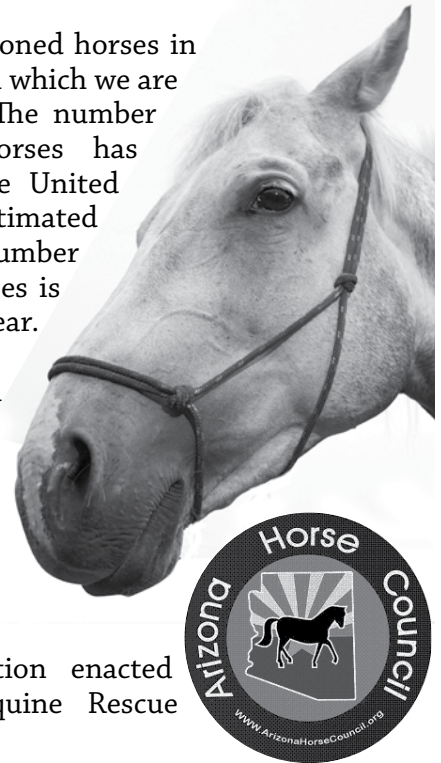
The Arizona Department of Agriculture has announced that the Equine Rescue Registry is accepting applications from certified Equine Rescue facilities. Certified Equine Rescue facilities can now be listed on the Equine Rescue Registry found on the Departments website.

The application for listing is located at <http://www.azda.gov/ESD/equinerescuefacilityapp.pdf>.

Certification and listing on the registry allows the public to easily find Equine Rescue facilities that meet veterinarian approved standards of care. This will lead to more secure homes for abandoned or unwanted horses in the future.

The issue of abandoned horses in Arizona is one with which we are all too familiar. The number of abandoned horses has skyrocketed in the United States. It is estimated that the annual number of abandoned horses is over 100,000 per year.

In 2009 the Arizona Horse Council working with representatives from the Equine Rescue community were successful in having legislation enacted to create the Equine Rescue Registry.



This year the Arizona Department of Agriculture created a set of rules to implement the new law. The new rules went into effect July 5, 2010.

The Arizona Horse Council encourages all interested Equine Rescue facilities to take advantage of this opportunity.

**If you have any questions please contact Chip Wilson of the Arizona Horse Council at 602-390-6806 or [mattgriffis@arizonahorsecouncil.org](mailto:mattgriffis@arizonahorsecouncil.org).**

# EARL GREY

## THE LITTLE PONY WITH THE HUGE HEART

-by Jenny Powers

Gina Mure's pony Earl Grey, is fuzzy proof that the best things in life are free. Nine years ago Gina was working with a horse at a new client's barn and spotted an adorable steel-grey pony watching her.

Out of curiosity, she asked who he belonged to and what they did with him. The owner said that he was around 3 years old and hadn't been trained because the show horses were their priority. She told Gina that he was free to a good home. He was not registered so nobody had any idea what type of pony cross he was. Gina decided that Earl would be a fun project as well as a good companion for her mare. She assured the owner that Earl would be well taken care of and a few days later she had a new addition.



Gina started working with Earl the day he arrived and couldn't believe how willing and intelligent he was. While teaching Earl to drive, Gina decided that integrating tricks into his training would keep his 'monkey mind' from getting too bored.

Within a month

Earl was stealing the hearts of everyone who met him. Soon Gina's friends started asking if Earl could attend their kids' parties. His backyard visits turned into

gigs at schools, resorts, and other venues.

The 'little pony with the huge heart,' as Gina calls him, has entertained thousands and absolutely loves his job. Earl enjoys giving back to the community so he donates up to 50% proceeds when he takes

part in charity events. When he's not working, Earl enjoys cart rides through the neighborhood with his fancy Saddlebred neighbor, Jet, and other equine and canine companions.

For Earl's complete resume visit [www.ginasheart.com](http://www.ginasheart.com) and click on Trick Pony!



# ENDURANCE RIDING RETURNS TO THE RIO VERDE FOOTHILLS!

-by Jenny Powers

Watch for a small village of trucks, trailers, and horses to develop at 164th Street and Wildcat as the AERC sanctioned Resolution Ride comes to our community. Riders from across the country will attend this three-day ride offering distances of 50/25 miles December 30 and December 31 and 55/25 miles on January 1. For more information please visit <https://sites.google.com/a/endurance.net/resolution-ride-2011/> This ride offers those interested in endurance riding an opportunity to try out the sport with limited distance rides and the full support of a team of veterinarians and volunteers. We all know about the excellent trails in our community so here's

a chance to ride them in a competitive environment. Come see what endurance is all about!

As you might imagine, putting on a three-day event requires a great deal of support. If you would like to volunteer, please contact ride manager, Rusty Toth at [rusty@endurance.net](mailto:rusty@endurance.net) or 480-390-9854 or Jenny Powers at [jpowers@gorvw.net](mailto:jpowers@gorvw.net) or 480-861-8392. All volunteers are greatly appreciated. You can help make this event a success and a memorable experience for the riders.

If you are interested in the limited distance rides as a newcomer to the sport, please contact Jenny Powers for more information at [jpowers@gorvw.net](mailto:jpowers@gorvw.net) or 480-861-8392.

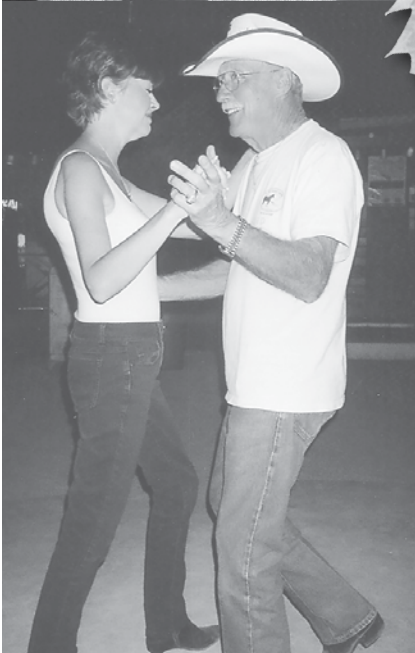
Enjoy the ride. To finish is to win





## RVHA FALL DINNER DANCE

On Saturday, October 16th the RVHA held its Annual Fall Dinner Dance at Greasewood. Over 100 RVHA members and their guests got together for a fun time. Everything was absolutely perfect from the weather to the burgers. "Thank You" to Ron and Wayne for making sure our event was a success. Thanks also to Buffy Minton for bringing the lighted pumpkins to dress up the tables.



# FALL TRAIL RIDE

TONTO  
National  
Forest

On Sunday, November 7th about 22 riders left Lorill Equestrian Center and rode out into the Tonto Forest behind the capable horse and wrangler team of Rocco and Gus (Gus was the horse).

It was a perfect fall day and as usual the Forest offered beautiful vistas for all riders, both seasoned and the newbies. Yes, we had some RVHA members join us for their first time with the group. Shannon Goldwater became an RVHA member just a few months ago, so this was her first trail ride. We hope Shannon and Lucky will join us again for the next one. We also had the pleasure of riding with the Johnson Family: Dean, Vicki, Nick and Faith. We don't often have kids on our ride so we were pleased they could come along.

Afterward we had a barbecue lunch at Lorill, certainly enjoying the camaraderie.

Thanks to Rocco our trail boss, Adam our wrangler, and Elaine who does a little bit of everything. Sorry Lori you had to miss it.

We'll plan another ride sometime in the spring of 2011. See you then.





# FOUR PEAKS ANIMAL RESCUE CORNER



Happy Howlidays from Four Peaks!

After a busy summer, the fall proved to be just as exciting at Four Peaks. We had a successful auction and raffle at the Putrino's Inspiration Ranch in late October. It sure didn't come a minute too soon either, as we have had a few tough medical cases over the past few weeks. Little Forrest, a kitten surrendered to a local veterinary hospital after being hit by a car, had his damaged right front leg amputated. He is recovering well from his surgery and will be available for adoption in the next few weeks. Newt, a tough Chihuahua, started having seizures after being with Four Peaks for the last month. After a myriad of tests, it has been determined that he has epilepsy. Lucky for Newt, he met some really great folks at the PACC 911 event at the Franciscan Renewal Center on Halloween. They are not deterred by this little guy's special needs, and are looking forward to bringing him home once his seizures are stabilized on his new medication.

Four Peaks has recently welcomed Lila and her pups to

the rescue. Lila came to us a few days before giving birth to four precious little puppies. Lila is a Chihuahua/Pug mix and by the looks of the puppies, it seems as though dad was a Pug too. We have 3 robust females and one male pup that will be looking for their forever homes right after the New Year. We are currently taking adoption applications for the puppies. Just like all of Four Peaks' rescues, they will be spayed or neutered, microchipped and up to date on vaccinations before going to their new homes.

Another special girl we have available is Gracie. Gracie is a 6 year old Border collie/Australian shepherd mix. Gracie is a sweet dog that was loved a little too much. Given her mix of breeds, she should be about 60-65lbs. Well, when she first came to us a month ago, she tipped the scales at 104 pounds! Gracie is doing well in her foster home on her strict diet and exercise program and has lost about 10 pounds in her first month.

For more information about Four Peaks Animal Rescue, our available pets, events, etc, please visit our website at <http://www.fourpeaksanimalrescue.org> or check us out on Facebook.

\*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

Four Peaks Animal Rescue  
28150 N Alma School Pkwy # 103/470  
Scottsdale, AZ 85262

## ROADSIDE CLEANUP

-by John Shy

Our first Roadside Cleanup had a great turn out. The first one after summer always has the most trash to be picked up, but it was done quickly by our 26 volunteers. A big thank you goes out to all of them! And we look forward to seeing all of them again along side more of our members at the next Roadside Cleanup slated for Saturday, January 8th, 2011.

### Roadside Cleanup Participants October 23, 2010

- |     |                   |     |                  |
|-----|-------------------|-----|------------------|
| 1.  | Nanci Arvizu      | 14. | Lauren Pura      |
| 2.  | Chuck Basnight    | 15. | Mike Pura        |
| 3.  | Dick Bianchi      | 16. | Lynn Scott       |
| 4.  | Bob Bohannon      | 17. | Margaret Scott   |
| 5.  | Margaret Bohannon | 18. | Cecile Rudis     |
| 6.  | Bonnie Burke      | 19. | John Shy         |
| 7.  | Glenn Chispell    | 20. | Cyndi Shy        |
| 8.  | Harry Duggan      | 21. | Chris Stasik     |
| 9.  | Janet Duncan      | 22. | Terry Stecyk     |
| 10. | Jack Knight       | 23. | Melissa Thompson |
| 11. | Chuck Monroe      | 24. | John Wachman     |
| 12. | Avril Neilon      | 25. | Mo Wachman       |
| 13. | Les Neilon        | 26. | Jim Winter       |



# AND THE WINNERS ARE...

-by Jenny Powers

As we finally enjoy relief from the seemingly endless summer, our riding opportunities just keep getting better and better. There are so many things to do with our horses this time of year it is hard to choose!

Too many RVHA members to mention individually have been enjoying informal, friendly competition in team sorting at local ranches. These lively, fun events are perfect to try something new with your horses. Everyone is forgiving of mistakes and supportive of newcomers. Congratulations to everyone getting out there and making an effort.

This time of year there are many endurance rides in the southwest region and our RVHA endurance riders are making the most of these opportunities. Over the Labor Day weekend RVHA members Barb Debi and Kevin Myers competed in the Paunsagaunt XP multi-day ride held in Tropic, UT near Bryce Canyon National Park. This is a beautiful ride of 50 miles each day for five consecutive days.

Kevin rode Auli Farwa (Far) to a sixth place finish on Day One and Farrabba (The Stoner) to a fourth place finish and the coveted Best Condition Award on Day Two. Barb completed Day Four on JC Mackay (Junior) in 20th place. At the Las Ciengas 100 Mile Ride in Sonoita, AZ on September 18, Clydea Hastie finished eighth riding Ashquars Dream (Ash), Kevin on Far finished 10th and Rusty Toth riding FV Aul Mystery (Ripper) finished 11th. At the same ride, Barb and Junior finished the 50 mile distance in 15th place.

A unique event, the Man Against Horse Race was held in Prescott, AZ on October 2. This is a tough trail covering long sandy washes and steep rocky trails over Mingus Mountain. The runners in both the 25 mile and 50 mile distances run the same trails as the horses and everyone begins at the same time. This can make an exciting start to the race since most horses are unused to people running along side! Kevin rode The Stoner to a fourth place finish in the 50 mile ride and Barb, riding Junior, tied for the Turtle Award in last place – it is a very challenging ride!

The Arizona Arabian Horse Association sponsored their first endurance ride on October 30 at McDowell Mountain Park. The Halloween Ride was well attended and the Arabian Club did an excellent job of providing guidance to first time riders and presented a well-managed, successful ride. Rusty rode The Stoner to a first place finish and also won the Best Condition Award. Clydea and Ash finished second and Barb and Junior finished in the Top Ten. Rusty and Clydea were invited to ride their horses in the Parade of Champions at the Scottsdale Arabian Show in February.



Not to be outdone by their outstanding horses, Rusty and Kevin have taken up the sport of ultra running. While Kevin was riding the Man Against Horse Race, Rusty ran the 25 mile distance finishing in eighth place with a time of 5:26. They both completed the 25K (15.4 miles) Javelina Night Run under a full moon at McDowell Mountain Park on October 23. Kevin finished with a time of 3:45 and Rusty in 3:50. On November 6 both Kevin and Rusty ran the Sedona 50K with times of 7:54 and 7:59,

respectively. Congratulations to Kevin and Rusty on these impressive athletic accomplishments!

Theresa Thraen and her rescued Border collie, Cookie, have had continued success in the agility ring. Early in October they competed in their first AKC trial - yes you can compete in American Kennel Club events with a rescue dog. They need to look like the breed and you apply for papers. In two of three classes they received qualifying scores. This means they were within the time limit and had no penalties. They were also 2nd in the FAST class which is a series of jumps, weaves and contact obstacles where each obstacle is worth so many points. The object is to get as many points as possible in the allotted time. Then if you earn enough points in the opening seconds you can earn a bonus by doing the gamble. This is a series of 3 obstacles that you send the dog to; they must complete them in a specific order and the handler has to stay behind the line anywhere from 6 to 12 feet from the obstacles. Last weekend they competed in their first USDAA trial and again Cookie earned qualifying legs in two of the three events entered.

# BORDER COLLIE RESCUE UPDATE

-by Theresa Thraen



Arizona Border Collie Rescue -www.azbordercollierescue.com is thrilled to announce we have rescued our 1000th dog. Her name is Katy she is a 3-4 month old pup that came from Utah. ABCR is the rescue for Border collies from New Mexico, Utah, Texas and parts of Colorado so we are often called on to help dogs from these areas. A non-profit 501(c)(3) staffed totally by volunteers so all funds raised

and donated go straight to the dogs. Our big fund raising project is our 2011 calendars. They are really a stunning work of art and my girls are Miss April. These calendars list all the dates and information for agility, herding, obedience, rally rescue events and disc dog -so you can plan to attend any event that may interest you and ALL the money goes to the dogs. So please go to the website and take a look at some of the pictures and then order one; I can deliver it to you.

I work closely with ABCR in many capacities including fostering dogs. My newest foster is Toby, a one year old silly playful BC pup. Fostering is one of the biggest needs a rescue has. People do not realize that it can even be just for a day that we would need a temporary foster, most times it is a matter of weeks or a month or two. The availability of a foster home can mean the difference between life and death. The other thing that is very helpful is providing transportation. This can be as little as across town or a drive to Texas. I urge all of you to help the rescue of your choice in any way you can...the rewards are a hundredfold. And remember, a rescue dog does not mean a damaged dog. I know you have heard stories of rescues gone bad but there are many, many more that are very happy successes.

## DOGTOR T --- THE PET VET

-by Melissa Thompson, DVM

For those of us with horses, it is part of our routine. Every six to eight weeks, we go to the feed store and get a dose of de-wormer. Some of us have our favorite; others rotate, this one for tapes, that one for strongyles or a combo to treat both. Most of our horses are in stalls, hardly ever in contact with any manure but their own, but we are still religious about getting that de-wormer on time. This is excellent husbandry for our horses, but when was the last time your dog or cat received their de-wormer?

There are many intestinal parasites that can affect our furry four-legged friends. The most common are roundworms, hookworms and tapeworms. They can be transmitted in various ways including from mom's milk as a puppy or kitten, coming in contact with infected feces, parasite eggs shed in the environment, and even fleas. These parasites can cause a variety of clinical signs in our pets, from diarrhea to weight loss, poor hair coat, blood loss, liver and organ damage, and blindness...the list goes on.

What is even worse is that some of these common parasites of dogs and cats are zoonotic, meaning they can be transmitted to humans. According to the Kansas State University Veterinary website, three to six million people in the U.S. are infected with roundworms each year. Unfortunately, children tend to be more exposed than adults as they are more likely to be playing in areas

that have been contaminated. And many of the clinical signs we see in our pets are the same we see in affected people.

The good news is that all of this can be prevented! Twice a year your pet should be tested with a fecal analysis to check for intestinal parasites and given an oral de-wormer. It is still important to check the fecal sample for parasites as the commonly used de-wormers do not rid your pet of all parasites; just like in horses, certain medications will only kill certain types of parasites.

The Centers for Disease Control's recommendations for parasite control include hand washing after handling pets and picking up pet waste. To best control the spread of parasites, fecal matter should be picked up regularly. The infective eggs found in contaminated feces can be spread by wind, rain, and other animals. They can even remain in the environment for months. For more information on preventing and treating intestinal parasites in your dog or cat, ask your veterinarian at Fido's or Fluffy's next exam. And don't forget to bring in a fecal sample to check for those intestinal parasites.

**Dr. Thompson is a Rio Verde Foothills resident and RVHA member. She practices at Banfield, The Pet Hospital, at 7077 E. Mayo Boulevard.**

# MCDOWELL PARK ASSOCIATION

*-by Pam Griffin*

McDowell Mountain Park is our neighbor to the south which provides open desert space and trails for hiking, mountain biking, and of course, horseback riding.

Although riding in the National Forest is heavenly, the Park has an added lure because motorized vehicles are not allowed on the trails, a blessing to all of us who enjoy trail riding.

The main entrance is only a 15 minute drive out of Rio Verde towards Fountain Hills, but did you know that there are two entrances on the northern boundary, i.e. our side of the park?

The first is on 158th Street and Jomax. The second is at the end of 150th Street, south of Rio Verde Drive. Both entrances are accessible to hikers, mountain bikers and horseback riders. No motorized vehicles can enter at these points. There is limited parking just outside the

gates. Iron rangers are present and the fee is \$1.00 per person. Don't cheat! The park needs the money to survive.

Annual passes to the park can be purchased for \$75.00 at the main entry gatehouse.

The McDowell Park Association is a group of people, mostly from Rio Verde and Tonto Verde, who formed together over 15 years ago to fight a land swap which would have decimated this wonderful wilderness preserve we have on our doorstep. The MPA is mainly a watchdog group, but also assists the park financially on occasion.

If you ride in the park, please consider lending your support by joining the McDowell Park Association. Contact Pam Griffin at 471-0056 for information.

## OPERATION HOMEFRONT ARIZONA

*-by Buffy Minton*

RVHA was represented at the Operation Homefront Benefit located at the Ben Avery Trap Shooting Range on October 16th, 2010. The mission of Operation Homefront Arizona is to provide the emergency support and morale to our military troops, the families they leave behind during deployment, and wounded warriors when they return home. The event was a great success, and fun was had by all.

To learn more about Operation Homefront Arizona and the great services they provide please check out their website:

<http://www.operationhomefront.net/arizona>



# WHAT'S UP WITH THAT? THE BAREFOOT HORSE

-by Kristin Walker

There are few trail rides that you will go to these days without noticing the sometimes barefoot, mostly booted horses on the trail. So what's up with that?

Through scientific research and experience many have come to know that it is best to keep a horse as natural as possible. Come to find out, many of the ways we treat our horses' hooves is doing damage. People are coming to barefoot for a number of reasons. Whether it is healing out of pathology, or as a measure of prevention, horse and rider are back on the trail performing. We are seeing this in all regions, all over our country and across the world. So why are riders making this choice and how are we helping to get our horses to a high level of barefoot performance?

It is a matter of health. Proper blood circulation through movement is very important for the horse. Without it, the hoof wall becomes weak, thin and unable to hold a shoe. In order to get the best circulation, the foot needs to work properly. Hoof mechanism, the ability for the heel of the foot to expand when loaded, the loading of the sole from the ground, and the ability of each side of the heel to twist and torque builds a good foot. Hoof mechanism is the necessary ingredient to building structure in the foot. Soft tissue structures such as the digital cushion, lateral cartilages, tendons and ligaments are located towards the back of the foot. These tissues are very much affected by good pressures and stresses. They are like a muscle that must be built through weight lifting. Like the dumbbell is to the weight lifter, movement is to the horse. "Use it or lose it".

Proper balance to the feet is important. Balanced trimming promotes health and circulation and minimizes negative pressures and load leveraging of the hoof wall. Choosing the right Hoof Care Person or Farrier is very important, not only for the trimming, but to help guide people with the other aspects of

the horse's life. The horse's transition to barefoot, the diet, footing, living conditions, saddle fit, stress level, dentistry, all matter. Not everyone has all the answers, but we can guide people to the abundance of information written by scientific researchers, dieticians and very experienced horse people. Your management choices will be made from what you learn. Remember, our horses' feet are affected by almost everything that touches their life..

**More riders are becoming educated, comfortable and confident with their choice to go barefoot with their horse.**

As the reasons for going barefoot become more available and published throughout our magazines and organizations, the mystery is taken away from how the horses feet work, grow and are effected by our domesticated environment. More riders are becoming educated, comfortable and confident with their choice to go barefoot with their horse.

As a Natural Hoof Care Provider, I help to answer a lot of questions concerning the subject. I hope my answers to the following common questions help to take some of the mystery out of this new movement called the "Barefoot Performance Horse".



## **Q. What is Natural Hoof Care?**

A. It starts with a way of thinking. Think about how an animal has evolved and should live to be happy and healthy. That is what they truly need. It is when we take them too far away

from their natural way of living that we get them into trouble. Horses have lived without us for thousands of years. Domestication is the culprit. We all do it to our horses. But... we can achieve a more natural way through our horse-keeping methods.

## **Q. Can my horse go barefoot?**

A. "Well sure". It is important that you find an educated trimmer to help you through the transition period to high performance. They will help to set expectations as to the current condition of the feet, the time it will take to become a performance barefoot

horse, and how to manage the process. All aspects of the horse's life should be addressed.

**Q. Can a horse really perform barefoot?**

A. Yes, we see them all over the 25 mile to 100 mile endurance trails.

**Q. What are the characteristics of a good-footed horse?**

A. Soundness, a wide heel and frog, thick hoof wall, concavity, balance, connection of the hoof to horse seen in the white line to name a few.

**Q. What are the characteristics of a bad-footed horse?**

A. Lameness, contracted heels, long toes, high heels, thin hoof wall, flat feet, thrushy bacteria filled frogs and flaring of the hoof wall to name a few.

**Q. Is it possible for a barefoot horse to do a trail ride barefoot?**

A. It is possible if the horse's hooves are healthy and conditioned for it. Nothing we do with horses is 100% natural, in particular riding them over varied terrain at a fast pace. So booting them is a great precaution.

**Q. Will my horse be sore when he goes barefoot?**

A. Possibly. Every horse is different. Each has their own conformation, genetics and set of circumstances. When the hoof and nerve endings start to work properly, the horse regains the sensitivity he should have in his feet. No horse should be sore, but as they begin to heal and grow a better foot, what we may sense as soreness does go away. The good news is horses do not necessarily have to grow a whole new foot to become sound and able to achieve high performance. That puts you back in the saddle quicker.

**Q. Will boots interfere with Natural Hoof Mechanism?**

A. No. Hoof boot material is pliable. The hoof is able to expand, to torque and twist as if the horse were completely barefoot. Remember, this mechanism is what builds a robust healthy hoof.

**Q. Why should I wear boots?**

A. Why not? We know that moving at a fast pace over a varied terrain is challenging for both rider and horse. Horses may choose to naturally slow down over rocks. When booted they are protected and can keep the pace. Like the body builder who lifts heavy weights may choose to wear a weight lifting belt for protection.

**Q. What boots should I use?**

A. Boot design and technology has drastically evolved in just the past few years. It has led to better fit, less invasiveness to the hoof wall and reduced rubbing on the heels. The boots are easier to put on and they stay on. They have become very convenient and can be applied without much effort. There are many choices out there. Research and make your choice!

**Q. What should I bed my horse on?**

A. Horses feet will adapt to what they live on. If they live in a turnout with a varied terrain such as rocks, dirt, sand and river rock, they will no doubt build a thick tough callous. This will allow the horse to handle most terrain. If they live in a soft pasture, they will have healthy hooves but may need to be booted when taken out on a rocky trail. So, bed your horse on what you want to ride on.

**Q. Should I take my horse barefoot?**

A. That is up to you. I would suggest reading the current research on the barefoot horse, talk to an experienced trimmer and your friends that are successful with their barefoot horses. Build a pro and con list of reasons you are considering it, and make your choice.



**Happy trails!**

Kristin Walker is a certified Natural Hoof Care Practitioner in Arizona, has a degree in Equine Science, and enjoys the AERC endurance rides throughout the Southwest. She can be reached at 602-818-4996 or kristinmwalker@aol.com

# RVHA WEB SITE

-by Mo Wachman

When you have a few minutes, check out our Website. Last year we had it totally re-done by RVHA member, Frank Turben, and his company Computer Help, 123computerhelp.com

Check the Calendar page to find out what upcoming events are planned. If you want information on how you can help out the RVHA, go to the Committees page. To advertise in our newsletter, check out the Advertising link for any information you might need. There's an Off-Trail Rides link with information and photos of our past rides. We've also included links to several other sites relative to our common interests, such as AzHC, Four Peaks Animal Rescue, etc.

Our new Membership link now contains 2 methods of completing an RVHA application. We have the standard PDF version you can download and print, fill out and mail it in with your check. Or, Frank has added an online version which can be completed online, submitted and paid for using the secure PayPal option.

For our upcoming renewals we will also offer an online form with the PayPal option making it really easy for everyone to continue their membership.

We've added an Archive page with photos from all of our past events. Click on the thumbnail photo to enlarge it. If you attended one of these events, you'll probably find your photo there. Also in the Archive section you will find previous issues of our quarterly newsletter.

If you have any comments or suggestions, you can send them to me in an email to [mo@rvha.us](mailto:mo@rvha.us)

***Keep checking back, and we hope you like what you see!!***

## FALL YARD/TACK/EVERYTHING SALE

Saturday, November 13 was a beautiful weather day...a little morning chill...but it turned out just perfect for the RVHA member Everything Sale at the Reata Pass parking area.

We had consigned 16 spaces to people who brought stuff from brownies to saddles. We had jewelry and a variety of good-smelling scents. We had chairs and tables, as well as cactus plants. Carrie Wright's Fedwell

Farm was also there with several dogs up for adoption. Although the street traffic wasn't as great as we would have liked, I think everyone had a good time, made a few bucks, and hope we'll see them again at our next big sale.

