

# RIO VERDE

# ROUNDUP

DEC.  
2013



15<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

*Celebration!*

On Saturday, October 19, the RVHA celebrated its 15th year anniversary at the Box Bar Ranch. It was a beautiful day at a perfect location and members enjoyed a fun afternoon filled with entertainment, free food and a trip down memory lane – 15 years of pictures were displayed featuring past events and longtime members enjoying different RVHA activities. The Quick Draw was a huge success and Gary Sprague, the singing cowboy, provided old time western music from the back of his horse, and photo ops for the kids. Members also created some friendly competition with a spirited horseshoe tournament and corn hole games. A special tribute was part of

the anniversary celebration, with a heartfelt thanks to the current president, Mo Wachman, and longtime board members, Judy Riley and Jenny Powers. And of course, we wouldn't be who we are or where we are today without Nena Henry, one of the original founders and past president. Thanks to her vision and her commitment to our community the RVHA is stronger than ever. Nena was instrumental in the original organization of the RVHA and the true inspiration behind our "protect and preserve" motto. Her dedication and vision for our community helped create and sustain a little piece of paradise that we're all able to enjoy today. *-by Carmela Lizzo*

# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association is dedicated to protecting all horse properties, large and small facilities alike, and to 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.

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---	--

## DIRECTORS

<p><i>Lori Bridwell</i> 480.471.3151 info@cowboycollege.com</p> <p><i>Dan Cohorst</i> 480.471.2822 Azdan60@hotmail.com</p> <p><i>Carmela Lizzo</i> 480.513.8119 carmela@earthlink.net</p>	<p><i>Claudia Jordan</i> 480.510.9903 claudiasellshomes@yahoo.com</p> <p><i>Terry Stecyk</i> 602.324.7099 terry@rvha.us</p>
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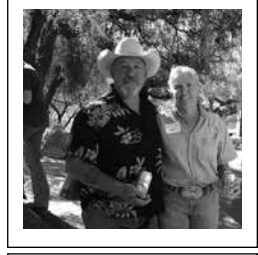
## RVHA COMMITTEES

<p><b>ROUNDUP EDITOR</b> <i>Amy Cohorst</i> 480.471.2822 azamy88@live.com</p> <p><b>MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMEN</b> <i>Mo Wachman</i> 480.471.3131 <i>Marjorie Porter</i> 480.471.3051</p> <p><b>TRAILS COMMITTEE CO-CHAIRMEN</b> <i>Cortland Parks</i> 480.948.0025 <i>Theresa Thraen</i> 480.528.9148</p> <p><b>SOCIAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN</b> <i>Carmela Lizzo</i> 480.513.8119</p> <p><b>HISTORIAN</b> <i>Nena Henry</i> 480.471.7678</p> <p><b>BYLAWS COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN</b> <i>Marjorie Porter</i> 480.471.3051</p>	<p><b>ROADSIDE CLEANUP CHAIRMEN</b> <i>John &amp; Cyndi Shy</i> 480.471.7667 azshys@live.com</p> <p><b>ADVERTISING</b> <i>Chris Estey</i> 480.313.5611 Chris@rvha.us</p> <p><b>TRAIL RIDE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN</b> <i>Terry Stecyk</i> 602.324.7099</p> <p><b>"AND THE WINNERS ARE..."</b> <i>Jenny Powers</i> 480.861.8392</p> <p><b>RVHA CLASSIFIED ADS</b> <i>Terry Stecyk</i> terry@rvha.us</p> <p><b>WELCOME COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN</b> <i>Claudia Jordan</i> 480.510.9903</p>
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RIO VERDE HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
28150 N. Alma School Pkwy., #103/112, Scottsdale, AZ 85262  
www.rvha-az.com

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# President's Corner

The year is almost over, but it's been a year of firsts in several ways for the RVHA. Our election process was revised. Terms for the board members have been changed and staggered. We voted for only four positions rather than the entire nine-person board. We changed to electronic on-line voting. It was a bit confusing at first, but overall much easier for all concerned.

This year was the fifteenth anniversary of the RVHA. We celebrated by having a wonderful get together for everyone at the Rio Verde Ranch (Box Bar) in October. Old members, new members and their families joined in the commemoration.

Our logo was updated, simplified and modernized this year. You'll see it on all our forms, website, etc. In September we reached another milestone: our membership hit 600 members....a first. And presently we're at 635 members. Since our memberships expire at the end of every year, our goal will be to once again top this year's count. We will strive for 650 members!

Even with all the milestones we've reached, we still have to remember the beginning. Fifteen years ago a number of people had the idea and insight to start this amazing association for horse owners and non-horse owners alike. To fight for those things that were important to retain the rural atmosphere we enjoy. As we near the end of this year, I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to past presidents....Nena Henry, Everett Raines and Margaret Scott, and to so many others who were there at the beginning. Thank you for helping to start this great organization, and we will do our best to keep it growing and prospering.

*Mo Wachman*  
RVHA President

*The Holiday Season is  
right around the corner.  
I personally wish everyone a very  
Merry Christmas and a  
Happy New Year.*

2014



Rio Verde Horsemen's Association

## MEMBERSHIP

by Mo Wachman & Marjorie Porter

This year has seen a membership milestone. After fifteen years we finally reached 600 members. Not only did we reach 600, we increased that number to 635 at this writing...and the year hasn't ended.

All annual memberships expire at December 31st unless you have a 3-year or lifetime membership. We'll be sending out reminders to renew shortly. The online renewal option has made it very simple by using PayPal. You can use a credit card and save on an envelope and postage as well.

The 2014 new membership and renewal forms are already on our website. To renew online, go to: [http://rvha-az.com/RVHA\\_membership\\_renewal.html](http://rvha-az.com/RVHA_membership_renewal.html) Of course, if you choose to renew via mail, you can download the form from the website.

*Below is a list of those who have joined the RVHA during the last quarter:*

Von Brady & Anita Gregory	Doug & Linda Little
Lisa Burkhardt	Skip & Barbara Maiorana
Rob & Sharon Burpo	John & Millie Nelson
Hal Cowles & Kimberly Brown	Tim & Mina Ouimet
Edward & Joyce Eve	Steve & Diana Packard
Cindy Gibson	Sue McLain & Steve Persing
Don & Sharon Hauerken	Rosalie Presseller
Sam & Gloria Henson	Mark & Kasey Reeder
Michael & Allison Hirano	Tim & Tina Sauber
Kathy Kehm & Jennifer Kiser	Melanie Schmitt
Wayne Leonhardt & Victor Holliger	

### *Welcome Back to:*

Tom & Christine McClammy  
Patrick & Dawn Morris

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, Marjorie or Judy. Membership Committee Contacts

Mo Wachman \* 480 471 3131

[mo@rvha.us](mailto:mo@rvha.us)

Marjorie Porter \* 480 471 3051

[marjorie@rvha.us](mailto:marjorie@rvha.us)

Judy Riley \* 480 471 0056

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*Everything good begins with a smile.*

*Here's a list of those who made Dynamite and Rio Verde Drive look beautiful again. And big thanks to John & Cyndi Shy who make this happen.*

- Robin Beckhardin
- Sharon Burpo
- Barbara Elliott
- Lisa Goettsche
- Randy Goettsche
- Robin Hardin
- Marlene Kinsella
- Jennifer Kiser
- Kyler Novotny
- Paul Novotny
- Lee Porter
- Marjorie Porter
- Cyndi Shy
- John Shy
- Don Stecyk
- Robert Thomas
- Deanna Thompson
- Melissa Thompson
- Theresa Thraen
- John Wachman
- Monica Wachman
- Joanne Wieck
- Steve Wieck

## ROADSIDE CLEANUP

*-by Mo Wachman*



After more than 5 months of paper, cans, tire parts, cigarette butts, signs and other debris, the good volunteers of the RVHA were out on October 5th to clean up our roadsides. It was just a wee bit chilly to start but after we put on our gear – bright orange vest, gloves, picked up our litter-getters and orange bags – we were all set to rid the roadside of trash.

We had 23 participants that Saturday morning and our thanks goes out to every one of them.

Some of these people aren't even RVHA members; they see the signs along the roadway the previous week and show up. Our next cleanup date is Saturday, December 7th. ☺



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# HEART OF A HORSE

By Amanda Moore  
Founder- Reigning Grace Ranch

For those of us who have lived in the Rio Verde foothills area for a spell, we recall the nomadic range horses that mingled and spread throughout the community, searching for a kind neighbor who might have left a flake of grass, a trough of clean water, or a tasty salt block. As they traveled about, some in the area may have felt those horses had been a nuisance, causing damage where they trailed. But for us, those range horses represented a sort of characteristic “West”—a place where the wild and the civilized comingled in a romantic sort of way. This was one of the many charms of our little community of Rio Verde. And it soon began to transform us. We soon became fluent with what we never imagined possible: horse language. It was through our relationship with these range horses that a little non-profit ranch, Reigning Grace Ranch, was born. Life would never be the same.

We were honored to rescue eight of these horses, a motley crew, desired by none. Onlookers watched in amazement as we incorporated into our herd four stallions, one bachelor gelding, two fillies, and their weathered, twenty-something-year-old matriarch mare we called Sugar.

*I am thankful for the shabby little bay mare who taught us profoundly about the importance community, family, the opportunity to impact others, . . . and, simply, to love.*

We often questioned our own sanity, but embraced the herd wholeheartedly, aiming to save them.

In turn, they have saved us.

Shortly after joining our existing herd, we noted the fascinating practices of these seemingly simple horses: they ate together, accepted each other, protected each other, and left no one behind. Community was everything to them. Their unspoken language was like

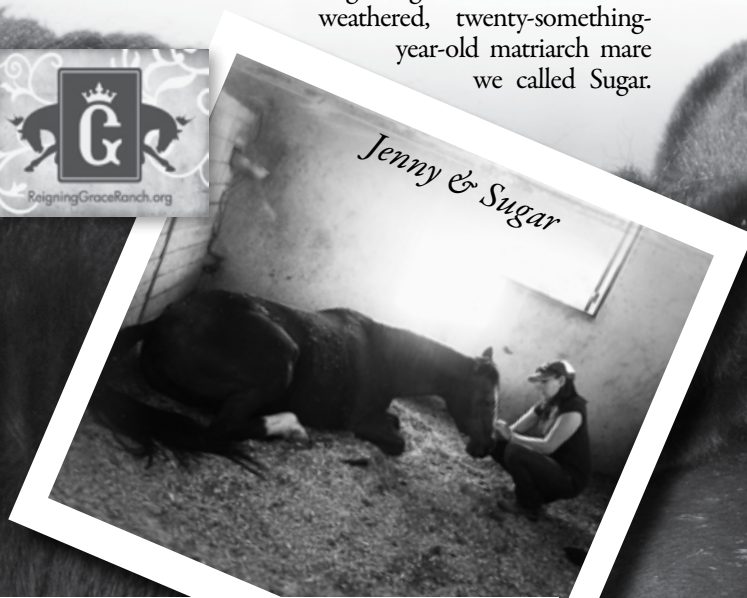
an old civilization, gone extinct. It was apparent that the family values these horses reflected were vital to their survival. Theirs is a scholarly lesson which can benefit any of their human counterparts, if only we watch and learn . . . fundamental values often lacking in families today.

Sugar, the matriarch mare, was no stranger to a hard life, having roamed the desert for more than twenty years. She held much of the weight of responsibility to keep her family protected, despite what range life threw her way. When we rescued her she was nearly seven months in foal. Additionally, on her side she had a yearling stud colt still nursing. To the herd, she was their calm in the storm, the constant, the knot that tied them together. Deep in her eyes, Sugar seemed to hold all of the wisdom and the secrets of life. She was an old soul with a gentle spirit.

We were privileged to have Sugar in our Reigning Grace Ranch working herd over the last three years. This wild and untamed mare spoke to the hearts of hurting and sick children in a way that healed souls and brought hope. She offered a soft whinny and a stable place to cry. She modeled tremendous strength. When Sugar became sick it was clear that the heart of the worn out little bay mare had permanently caused ripples in the lives of many. Her final moments of life were surrounded by abounding love. The community she created had learned ten-fold how to repay their teacher: by being by her side until the end. They now carry her legacy of lessons into the lives of others.

In this season of family, thankfulness and giving, it is crucial to not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the holidays. I am thankful for the shabby little bay mare who taught us profoundly about the importance community, family, the opportunity to impact others, . . . and, simply, to love.

To learn more about Reigning Grace Ranch, a non-profit children's horse ranch, please visit [www.azRGR.org](http://www.azRGR.org) or call 480-466-2154. ♡





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# RIO VERDE FOOTHILLS -- A SLICE OF HEAVEN

-by Jan Ferris

Growing up in Indiana, my knowledge of the Desert Southwest was through photographs, Western movies, and books. I remember a sentence in my eighth grade grammar book that had the words "Joshua tree" in it. I had no idea what it looked like, but I knew that it grew in the desert. The closest I came to seeing a desert in my formative years was the sand at the Indiana Dunes State Park. A cactus was one of those cute little novelties in a pot that sat on the kitchen windowsill.

Twenty-nine years ago, I moved to central Scottsdale from Green Bay, Wisconsin, and it was a major re-adjustment. Looking out my window at palm trees, my first thought was that I was on vacation in Florida, a state I had visited in the past. Instead of a little inside decorative cactus, outside there were cacti everywhere, and I eagerly learned about the native plants and animals of my new state. My first Christmas here was completely different from the snow and cold weather I was used to. When I decorated the outside of my townhouse with Christmas lights, I didn't even have to wear a jacket! Then I remembered that the first Christmas happened in a warm climate; that was a comforting thought.

My introduction to north Scottsdale was traveling north to Pinnacle Peak Patio for dinner. "This is quite a distance from central Scottsdale," I thought at the time, not realizing that farther north and east was an area populated with hundreds of people. I am now one of those hundreds of people because my home for nearly twelve years has been in the Rio Verde Foothills.

January 11, 2002, was move-in day, and during that first week of living in the desert, I heard the unmistakable sound of mooing. Several cows were making their way along the side of my house and continued to amble to the back of my property. A few months later, as I was sitting at my desk with the window open letting in the spring air, I heard heavy breathing which was a bit unsettling! I looked towards the window and there was a brown and white cow staring at me. She was probably thinking, "You don't look like me. What are you doing in my territory?"

In addition to the open-range cattle, there were open-range horses, and they all were allowed to go wherever they wanted. The cattle loved to eat flowers, and they especially liked my rose bush although I don't know how they avoided the thorns. Sometimes there

would be a big parade of cattle -- some adults and some calves. An occasional calf would lag behind, and its mother would send out a special 'Moo' to call her errant offspring. One day, I was inspired to write lyrics to "Oh Holy Night." My new title was "Oh Holy Cow." Here are the first few lines: "Oh Holy Cow, the calves are loudly mooing, they've lost their way and they don't know where they are." (If you're really interested, I can sing the entire song for you sometime!)

*Surrounding mountains have a myriad of colors, changing with the influence of the sun, clouds and wind.*

The cattle and horses no longer roam north of Rio Verde Drive; however, when I was working for the Census Bureau in 2010, south of Rio Verde Drive, there they were. I'm not sure if they are still there now, but I did snap a few pictures of them.

Of course, we have a variety of other animals and "critters" where we live. The coyotes are still here, and once I had a stare down with one. He decided to go his own way, and I was glad, even though I had the safety of being able to dash into my house if he decided to come closer. Another time, when I was driving home late at night on Alma School, I heard a thud on the driver's side of my car. A coyote was trying to cross the road and had an encounter with my vehicle. He went to 'Coyote Heaven' but my car went to Right Honda because along with the coyote, my engine also died. So, be on the lookout for Wile E. Coyote or his cousin when you're driving!



When my son from North Hollywood comes to visit with his cute little dog, Betsy, we make sure that somebody is always outside with her. I've heard too many stories of coyotes or hawks taking small pets, and they disappear forever. Rattlesnakes and Sonoran toads also present a danger to small animals.



## *The quietness of the desert is soothing to the soul*

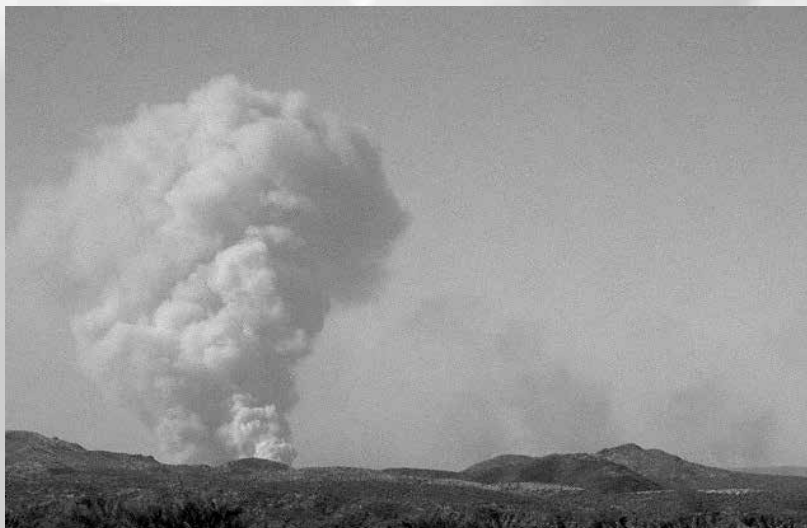
A few years ago, I was clearing some dead brush from under a tree and heard the scary sound of a rattle. There was Mr. Snake, upset over the intrusion and coiled under the tree. I abandoned any more thoughts of brush clearing and headed for the house. Later when I was positive that he was gone, I looked under that same tree and saw an empty Snickers wrapper. I guess he must have had a sweet tooth!

In the twelve years that I've lived here, I have seen quite a few changes. Roads have been paved -- mine isn't, but we have a wonderful neighbor who grades it after a rainfall. An exclusive golf club has been built, and new houses have sprung up. There have been at least two wildfires that were visible from my back yard. Although I wasn't concerned that the fire would get to my house, it still was sad but fascinating to watch from a safe distance. The "famous" rocks at the top of the hill on Dynamite are gone. (How many of you remember these -- hint -- they looked like the top part of a woman's anatomy.) Karaoke Night at Reata Pass is a "song of the past." I used to go and sing my favorite songs, but now I just sing at home.

Why do I live in the Rio Verde Foothills? The night sky is spectacular, especially when watching meteor showers. Sunsets are just as spectacular with vivid oranges, yellows, and reds. Seeing planes turning to follow the riverbed on their way to Sky Harbor is another night sky treat. Surrounding mountains have a myriad of colors, changing with the influence of the sun, clouds and wind. After a cold and rainy day, the Four Peaks are covered with snow, and I love looking at them the next day. The clouds in our area look fluffier and bigger, especially during monsoon season. Sometimes, they even seem to hug the McDowells.

The quietness of the desert is soothing to the soul, and only broken

by the neighing of a horse, braying of a donkey, or the whirring of an occasional helicopter. My son used to live close to downtown L.A., a fast-paced city with houses and people close together. Even though I enjoyed being there with him for a visit, I was so happy to get back home to 'my little corner of the world!' I love the wide, open spaces! Because I am a writer, the peacefulness of living here is a big plus.



Our weather is much better than in "The Flats," a term my neighbor and I coined for the lower elevations of the Valley. Summer temperatures are not quite as high, and winter temperatures are lower. In fact, I have experienced snow four times since I moved here. The March, 2006, snowfall of four inches was magical. My camera captured this white 'manna from heaven,' and for a while I almost thought I was back in Green Bay! I called several friends that day and invited them to come out. I said, "You gotta see this!"

The people who live here are very friendly, and when I'm outside and a car passes my house and someone waves, I wave back even if I don't know them! I have met many friendly people through the Rio Verde Horsemen's Association and hope to meet many more.

We live in this beautiful, scenic area because we love the lifestyle, whether through having horses or by being just plain happy desert dwellers. I am one of those happy desert dwellers, and I hope to continue to call the Rio Verde Foothills my home for a long time. So, let's keep on waving to our neighbors -- the human ones, that is!



# MCDOWELL SONORAN CONSERVANCY WANTS YOU!

-by Jenny Powers

Looking for a unique and rewarding way to share your love of our desert surroundings with others? If so, the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy Steward Program may be for you. With the recent 10 square-mile expansion of the McDowell Sonoran Preserve, the Conservancy is recruiting stewards to provide effective care for the Preserve and share their expertise. These activities will result in generations of citizens and visitors enjoying the Preserve in a respectful and informed manner.

The Conservancy offers several different paths of steward involvement. There is a mandatory training session at a one-time cost of \$35 to cover meals and materials. The training is offered at various times and upon completion of the training, a mentor is assigned to complete the process toward becoming an official steward. Stewards may participate in Preserve patrols, in ecological and historical research programs, public education and ongoing monitoring of the Preserve. There is no minimum or maximum time commitment and once training is completed, the stewards maintain an online log of their activities in the Preserve and note any issues such as areas where trail maintenance is needed.

Currently there are over 500 steward volunteers throughout the entire Preserve.

Recent graduates of the Steward Training Program are RVHA Board members Terry Holmes-Stecyk and Claudia Jordan, who are now working with mentors to complete their orientation. Terry and Claudia will join the equestrian patrol section of the steward program where volunteers are very much in demand. Because of the vast size of the Preserve, especially the newly opened northern areas, hikers are unable to effectively patrol the existing 55 miles of trails. With an additional 50 miles of trails planned from Dove Valley Road north to the Tonto Forest boundary, equestrian and mountain biking stewards are being recruited.

If this program sounds like a great way for you to give back to the community and share your enthusiasm for the extraordinary open spaces available to our residents, please visit [www.mcdowellsonoran.org](http://www.mcdowellsonoran.org) and click on "Volunteer" or contact Carole Burton, MSC Patrol Chair at 480-760-5945, [caroleburton@aol.com](mailto:caroleburton@aol.com)

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# DOGTOR T --- THE PET VET

-by Melissa Thompson, DVM



*help get kitty  
up off the  
couch*

The holidays are fast approaching. Next thing you know it will be Christmas, and then New Year's. If you are anything like me, you don't even know what you are having for dinner tonight, let alone what gifts to get for your friends and family. How about for your furry friend? Here are a couple ideas that may help for the gift giving season as well as maybe spur on some New Year's resolutions.

How about a nice new leash for your dog-loving friend? You can go to any local doggie boutique and find all types from solid colors, patterns, all forms of glitter and jewels or my personal favorite, a durable but soft leather leash. Not only is this a gift for friend and critter, it is also a motivational device to get out and walk. This is where resolution comes into play. Majority of America's dogs are overweight or obese, leading to other major health issues like diabetes, arthritis, breathing issues and poor overall health, in turn shortening their lifespan.

How about that family member that has everything and loves to try new things? Try a gift certificate to a dog training facility. This could be especially useful should someone get a new pet for Christmas. Training is just as important as healthy food and good vet care for a pet. The number one reason pets are relinquished by their owner is due to behavior issues. Training helps build a connection between dog and owner, and lessens the likelihood of behavior issues. Many people will say they already know how to train a dog, which may be the case, but most will not set aside the time. By having to go to class, they are more likely to work with their pet. But don't think that dog training is all about sit, stay, lay down. There are some really cool

things that people can do with their dog. There are training classes for agility, flyball, nosework, dock diving, Treibball, herding, the list goes on. Check out some local training facilities for the various classes they have. You will be surprised as to what is available. There are even classes to ready a dog for therapy work. Just make sure wherever you go, they use positive training techniques to make it fun for all involved.

Kitty cats need things too! Just because the cat lies around, doesn't mean she wants to, she may just be bored. Help her get out of her slump with a fun new toy. How about an interactive toy? Those little wands with feathers are great. They give you some one-on-one time with your cat, and help get kitty up off the couch. Laser pointers are fun too. There are now toys with little battery operated mice that move around under a blanket, enticing the cat to come on over and catch their prey. Kitty scratchers and condos are great as well. They provide the cat with high perches to sit on and surfaces to scratch on, which are both things that most cats enjoy.



There is always the fallback for animal lovers - the calendar. There are animal calendars for every breed and type of animal out there. Even many rescues make calendars of their breed and the proceeds go to helping more rescue animals. If you are really on top of things, you can even get a personalized one made with your family member's pets. That would definitely be a personalized gift.

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# ANNIVERSARY







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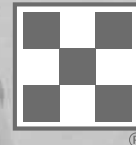




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# FOUR PEAKS ANIMAL RESCUE CORNER

-by Melissa Thompson, DVM

*Happy Holidays  
from Four Peaks!!!*

It has been a busy, but great year for our four-legged friends. We adopted out 120 animals this year (at time of printing). This was mostly dogs and cats, but also included 3 goldfish, a couple of chickens and a couple horses. Needless to say, we have been busy!

We would like to give thanks to all who helped take care of the animals; from bottle feeding babies, nursing sick ones back to health, to feeding and cleaning the animals. Thank you to those running adoption events and fostering, keeping those pets safe from harm's way until their forever home could be found. Also to those answering phones, keeping us organized, and those that cannot donate time, but helped by providing funds to keep us going. Without each and every one of you, this could not be done.

Here are some other reasons we are giving thanks...

**Phoebe**- an 8 year old Aussie mix with breast cancer, was saved from the euthanasia list and adopted out by none other than our own RVHA president. She is fitting in well with her other 3 doggie friends, and hardly ever leaves her new "mom's" side.

**Addison**- a 2 year old Anatolian Shepherd, saved from certain euthanasia at a high kill shelter in Texas. She is a very shy girl and after about a year in foster, has now found her forever home where she will have lots of land to run on and a family that understands her needs.

*We would like to  
give thanks to all  
who helped take  
care of the animals*

**Gracie Belle**- an 8 year old Aussie mix, was adopted out in 2012 and somehow found herself in a high kill shelter in New Mexico this past June, where a wonderful rescue from Denver found her and took her home. They then discovered she was micro-chipped and her info was traced back to 4PAR. Two great volunteers drove up to get Gracie and bring her back. Now this senior girl is living the life with her senior human companion. The two are inseparable.

**Lacey**- a Golden Retriever/Chow mix and Leroy Brown, a Cocker Spaniel, were both adopted from us this past year, both were on the euthanasia list at the shelter when we got them. Lacey is currently a therapy dog, visiting folks in hospitals and nursing homes, and Leroy Brown has almost completed his therapy dog testing so soon he can start work as well.

**Batman** and **Darla** are hoping to have a home to be thankful for this holiday season.

**Batman** is a 6 month old Lab/pit mix that was burned along his back. While healing from his wounds, he contracted parvo, we treated him and got him back to good health. He is a wonderful dog that loves people. He is very attentive and learns quickly. He is playing well with the other dogs in his foster home, and has been great with all the kids he has met at adoption events. He would do best in a home without cats or small dogs.

**Darla** is an active Sheltie/Aussie mix. She is a very sweet girl that needs someone to love. She would like to go out on walks, learn some cool tricks and just be with you. She plays well with the other dogs in her foster home and even gets along with kitties. For more information on either of these great pets or others we have available, please call 480-471-3520



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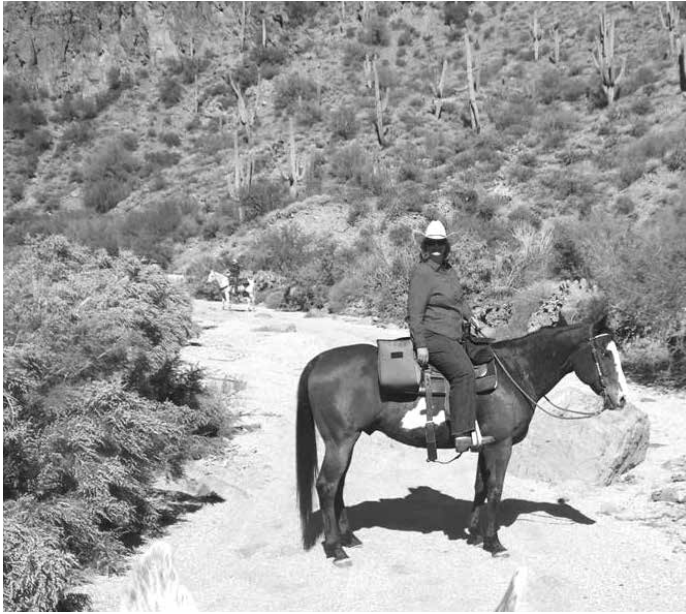
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# OCTOBER SYCAMORE CREEK TRAIL RIDE

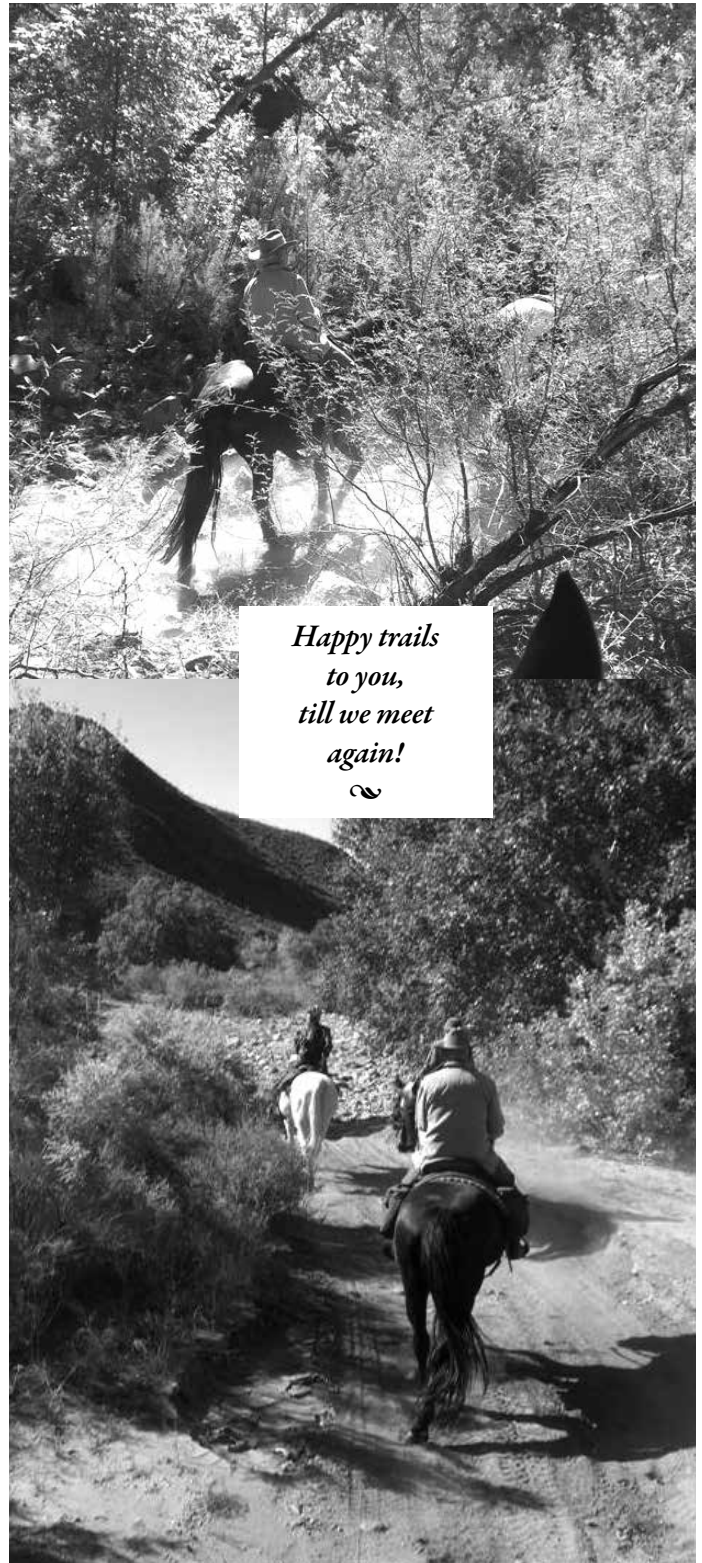
-by Terry Holmes-Stecyk



If you didn't sign up, you missed a gorgeous day riding along the Sycamore Creek area off the Beeline Highway. The sun was shining, the leaves were turning shades of orange or yellow and Saguaros heavily studded the bluffs above. Five riders joined the outing led by Nancy Wilford. We rode along the creek, over river rock and under rustling leaves changing color. Some Javelina and a couple of deer tried to join the party but finally spooked off into the desert. Lunch was enjoyed while sitting in the shade of trees along the creek so the horses could enjoy a drink and happily munch on grass. In honor of Halloween, candy treats were shared but no one was left completely unscathed without a bit of a "trick". One rider left her bridle behind (me!) and the trail boss was kind enough to share hers and used a halter on her very well behaved horse, Lashes. A broken rein, a missing shoe, a lost easy boot (later found) and a lost cell phone all added to the



days "tricks". BUT, yummy home baked brownies were shared at the end of a lovely day for a fine "treat" and new friendships were forged. RVHA has more trail rides in the works. Trail Committee chair Terry Holmes-Stecyk would love to hear feedback and suggestions for future rides. Contact her at [terry@rvha.us](mailto:terry@rvha.us).





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# RVHA CONGRATULATES A NEW US CITIZEN!

-by Terry Holmes-Stecyk



Congratulations to Don Stecyk, a new U.S. citizen and four-year resident of the Rio Verde Foothills. Don is the husband of our RVHA Board of Directors, Facebook Administrator and Classified Advertising coordinator, Terry Stecyk. Don is a Canadian-born citizen and met Terry while both were working in Saudi Arabia for the oil company, Saudi ARAMCO. They soon married and enjoyed long careers abroad, while spending much of their spare time traveling the world. Don retired in the summer of 2009 and Terry convinced him to relocate to Arizona. After the long process of paperwork and waiting, Don was sworn in on October 18 as a U.S. citizen. Don and Terry are active in RVHA as well as volunteering within the community wherever the need may be. Don still holds on to his Canadian roots through the sport of curling every Friday morning, but is finding time to hike Pinnacle Peak and our surrounding desert. Terry hasn't convinced him the best way to see the desert is on the back of a horse...YET. ☺



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George MacDonald

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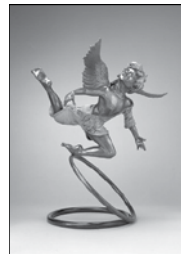
Originally created as sculpture in bronze by sculptor...James Farris...and now available in Sterling Silver Pendants and Earrings.

Proceeds from *An Angel Affair* sales will benefit the efforts of VerdeCares to provide non-medical services and care to Verde residents who are homebound, recovering from surgery, living with a disease or just need a little help from time to time.

"Guardian I"

"Guardian II"

"Guardian III"



The above images represent the original sculpture by James Farris created in the years 1994 thru 1996, and known as "The Guardian Trilogy".

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# RVHA PARTICIPATES IN BROWN'S RANCH TRAILHEAD OPEN HOUSE

-by Jenny Powers



There's more to explore in the northern regions of Scottsdale's McDowell Sonoran Preserve and RVHA helped celebrate the additions at a free, family-friendly event on October 19 at the newest trailhead.

The Brown's Ranch Trailhead is located on Alma School Parkway about 1.25 miles north of Dynamite Boulevard. The event featured speakers such as Scottsdale mayor, Jim Lane, state and local dignitaries and included the Arizona Color Guard, a Scottsdale Mounted Police Unit, a raptor release by Liberty Wildlife and a closing blessing by a member of the Fort McDowell Reservation.

RVHA's exhibit was part of a mix of vendors and services including the Arizona Geologic Survey, Arizona Parks and Recreation, the Arizona Horse Council, several outdoor adventure providers, Southwest Wildlife and the Scottsdale Police and Fire departments. Over 400 attendees enjoyed perfect Arizona fall weather and the spectacular scenery of this latest jewel in the preserve.

The Brown's Ranch Trailhead is the main entryway into the preserve's

unique northern areas. It features parking for 200 vehicles and a separate lot for 24 horse trailers. Drinking water, restrooms, an educational area and amphitheater are located at the trailhead that will soon include the Jane Rau Interpretive Trail named after the long-time desert preservationist. An overview of the northern preserve lands is available at <http://youtube/ufH&sXipgY>



Photo credit - Claudia Jordan  
Liberty Wildlife hawk for raptor release

The RVHA booth was staffed by Board members Jenny Powers and Claudia Jordan and by Theresa Thraen, chair of the Trails Committee. Visitors were provided business cards with RVHA contact information, sample newsletters, and assorted giveaways. There was considerable interest in associate memberships to provide access to trail rides and social events organized by RVHA. It was time well spent!

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# END OF THE SUMMER

-by Carmela Lizzo

We all survived the summer and celebrated at the “End of the Summer” Burger Night at Greasewood in September with over 100 people beating the heat at this fun mixer. The evening temperatures were perfect and we all stayed cool in the swamp cooled barn. Greasewood’s staff did an awesome job, and the price was right for the nice buffet that was provided (plus RVHA picked up the tab for part of it!). ☺





# BURGER NIGHT

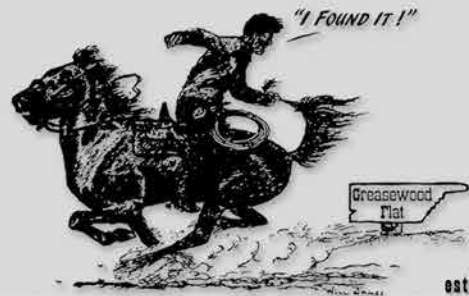




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## 2013 FALL

-by Carmela Lizzo

Our fall dinner dance was held at the new fire station on Rio Verde and 163rd Street. The station was transformed into an old-fashion barn dance, complete with hay bales, wagon wheels, twinkle lights and tons of candles. Dinner was catered by Famous Dave's, with yummy chicken and ribs, served by the station firemen and the Rural Metro fire chief John Kraetz, who were super accommodating and

## FALL DINNER DANCE AUCTION RESULTS

By Terry Holmes-Stecyk

"You have not lived today until you have done something for someone who can never repay you."

John Bunyan

RVHA sends a sincere thank you to these generous businesses and members!

Please support these wonderful folks who donated items and services for our Silent Auction and Raffle we held during the Fall Dinner Dance.

Scottsdale Gun Club - Terry Schmidt

Desert iNet - Jeff and Lisa Hardesty

Old Town Tortilla Factory - Jim and Joanne Flaum

Creations by Bonnie - Bonnie Revelle

Light Benders - Lee and Julie Prosser

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## DINNER DANCE

fun to boot! Music was provided by Shovelhead, a great country western band, who filled the dance floor with all the old time favorites (tunes and dancers). Special thanks to Tom Marchant and John Kraetz for all their help clearing space for parking, adding additional lighting, cleaning out the facility and making room for all of our guests. ☺



*Congratulations to all the winning bidders!*

And to our 50/50 winners, Bashi Buba and Rich Doyle.

Thanks, everyone, for making the Fall Dinner Dance a success so that we could help local organizations that are dependent on donations. We collected \$1705.50 through our Silent Auction plus the 50/50 raffle. All funds collected will be donated to local organizations and will be voted on at our January Board of Directors meeting.

We've already had an offer of 2 awesome items to be donated for our Spring dinner dance. If anyone wishes to donate an item for one of our Silent Auctions, or as a raffle prize, please contact any board member and we will happily collect it. ☺





# AND THE WINNERS ARE...

-by Jenny Powers

VHA members have been actively involved in a variety of competitions since our last issue. We congratulate everyone who arrives prepared for an event – you are all winners regardless of your placing in the competition.

Dennis and Susan Summers are widely recognized as top competitors in the sport of endurance riding. This year Dennis and Susan are in first place nationally for the American Endurance Ride Conference (AERC) Bob & Julie Suhr Husband and Wife Award with a combined 1,715 miles in completion. In Regional Best Condition standings Sue and her Arabian gelding, Mags Motivator, are in fourth place in Northwest Region where Dennis and Sue live during the summer. Dennis holds sixth place with his Arabian, Hey Soulsister, seventh place with Arabian, WMA Radiance, and eighth place with half Arabian, OMR Tsunami. At the Vettec National Championship Rides in Almo, Idaho, Dennis placed second in the 50 mile ride on Hey Soulsister on September 20. Sue and Mags Motivator were judged Best Condition in the 100 mile ride on September 22 and tied for third place with Dennis and AH Bantiki. Congratulations to Dennis, Sue and their stable of outstanding endurance horses!

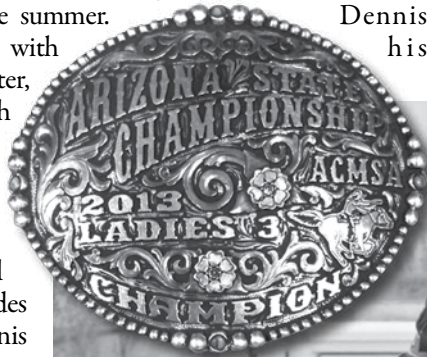
Clydea Hastie traveled to California in June to finish in seventh place in the Descanso 50 Mile Endurance Ride on her Arabian gelding, Ashquars Dream. On October 5, Clydea and Cheymas (Dude) finished a cold, windy and rocky Man vs Horse 50 Mile Endurance Ride in Prescott in third place. Dude, a gift to Clydea from a friend who moved out of state, is a low mileage horse usually used in Clydea's work as a trail guide for Windwalker Expeditions, which makes his Top Ten completion special.

Barb Debi and her Arabian gelding, Junior completed the Descanso Ride in 10th place. Barb took both of her horses to the beautiful Grand Canyon Ride on the North Rim over Labor Day weekend. She rode Junior two days while a friend rode Jet on one day of the 50 mile ride. Although this ride is blessed with an abundance of natural fall beauty, this year was challenging due to

excessive rain. Barb's husband, Scott was able to keep their rig from getting stuck, but many others had to be towed from the mud in base camp. Despite the rain, Barb expressed relief in escaping the heat of the Valley.

It is hard to believe that only two short years ago Tracy Reinhart began her cowboy mounted shooting (CMSA) career. In that time she has worked hard, changed horses and climbed the ranks of competition with amazing speed and success. Tracy and Steppin' Bill placed in the top 10 overall both days of the Williams Rodeo June 29-30 earning a qualified Ladies 3 win plus cash prizes. September 27-29 Tracy and Bill won her L3 class and were promoted to L4 at the 2013 Arizona State Championship at Horseshoe Park in Queen Creek. She won a gorgeous buckle, cash prizes and a gift certificate to a spa. The CMSA World Championships were held in Amarillo, Texas on October 17-19. Tracy felt honored to have qualified to compete with over 350 of the best competitors in the world. While she did not win her class, she left the event in awe of the surroundings and with confidence and determination to ride even faster the next CMSA season. Tracy ended the 2013 season as the Arizona Cowboy Mounted Shooter Association Ladies 3 High Point winner and finished the season in third place in both Arizona and the Southwest Region. We look forward to Tracy and Bill continuing their path to success in 2014! Congratulations!

Theresa Thraen and her amazing dogs adopted from Arizona Border Collie Rescue continue to achieve awards in agility competition. Bryn has now moved to the USDAA Master's division and started the national qualifying session off with a great start. In her first ever steeplechase event competing against previous world qualifiers all handled by professionals, Bryn received a qualifying score and placed second. This finish earned her an invitation for the finals round where she placed third. Bryn also entered her first Masters challenge on an extremely challenging course. Bryn placed first, but did not receive a qualifying score as she was .24 seconds over time. She was the only dog to stay on course with no penalties. Theresa's young dog, Hudson, had his first indoor USDAA trial and he and his brother, Renegade, earned qualifying scores and placed third in the pairs relay event. Two weeks later Hudson entered his first outdoor USDAA trial and earned qualifying scores and placed



*Championship buckle won by Tracy Reinhart*







*Bryn and Renegade - two amazing dogs adopted from Arizona Border Collie Rescue continue to achieve awards in agility competition.*

third in both a standard agility course and a gamblers course. Hudson also earned a third place in the point accumulating game of snooker. We can expect great things from Hudson, a young dog with many years of competition ahead. Congratulations to Theresa, Bryn and Hudson and best wishes for continued success!

We'd like to report on your competition. Please contact Jenny Powers at [jpowers@gorvw.net](mailto:jpowers@gorvw.net) or 480-861-8392 to discuss the events you are preparing for! ☺

### **Rio Verde Horse Boarding**



Horse boarding available at a small boarding facility in Rio Verde Foothills. The facility is in an area surrounded by miles of riding trails. Board includes a stall and turnout, access to a round pen, hay twice a day, fresh water every day, and daily cleaning of stalls and pastures. The ranch owner will take care of your horses as if they are her own.

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# VerdeCares Inc.

*... neighbors helping neighbors*

VerdeCares is located here in our Verde Community and provides non-medical services and care to Verde residents who are homebound, recovering from surgery, living with a disease or just need a little help from time to time. We are committed to improving lives and restoring the well-being of our neighbors. Thanks to our passionate team of volunteers, our neighbors are able to navigate their days with fewer challenges and less stress. Our no charge services include:

#### Transportation Services

- ◆ Medical Transportation
- ◆ Grocery Shopping

#### In Home Services

- ◆ Mobile Meals
- ◆ Caregiver Relief
- ◆ Minor Home Repair
- ◆ Weekly Visits
- ◆ Medication Management

#### Activities

- ◆ Men's Putting and Lunch
- ◆ Ladies' Putting and Lunch

#### Sharing Groups

- ◆ Memory Loss Caregivers Forum meets the first Tuesday of each month at 3:00pm at our office on Forest Road. VerdeCares' facilitators are certified by the Alzheimer's Association.
- ◆ Macular Degeneration Forum meets the second Tuesday of each month at 3:00pm our office on Forest Road.
- ◆ Loss of a Child Forum meets the first Thursday of each month at 3:00pm at the Rio Verde Community Center.

For more information about our services, contact Vicki Beseke at (480) 540-1312 or visit our website at [www.verdecare.org](http://www.verdecare.org). Stop in and visit us at 18934 Avenida Del Ray, Suite 106, Rio Verde, AZ. 85263 (beside the Fire District). VerdeCares is a 501(C)3 nonprofit company.

# RVHA TRAIL COMMITTEE

-by Terry Holmes-Stecyk

You have spoken and we have heard you! RVHA has amped the trail ride committee up a few notches and will sponsor/organize more trail rides for those with horses and those without. The trail committee currently is comprised of Board of Directors: Terry Holmes-Stecyk (Committee Chair), Claudia Jordan, Jenny Powers and Dan Cohorst, as well as RVHA member Cecil Honnas. We are compiling guidelines as well as finalizing a trail rating system so riders know which rides are best for them and their level of experience. Feedback and information is always appreciated. Feel free to write me at [terry@rvha.us](mailto:terry@rvha.us).

Claudia Jordan and I recently completed our Steward training for the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy. Twice a month we will lead rides from the Granite Mountain Trailhead and ride in and around the Preserve trails. Dates will be posted for each month. Rides should last 1-1/2 - 2 hours from the trailhead and are rated as easy to moderate trails with minimal elevation changes, all suited for beginners as well as advanced riders. To date we have offered these Thursday morning rides in October, November and December. We hope to make this a regular happening each month. Contact Claudia at [claudiasellshomes@yahoo.com](mailto:claudiasellshomes@yahoo.com) for more information or to RSVP for one of these rides.

Our next organized ride will be the Ho Ho Ho Ride out of Cave Creek Outfitters on December 7th. Members and guests are welcome to rent one of their very experienced trail horses at a special rate of \$30. For those bringing their horse, we'll gather for the ride into the Preserve at Cave Creek Outfitters at 9:00 am and be ready to head out at 9:30 am. A brunch prepared by Cheryl Ward will be served following the ride and guest speakers from the McDowell Sonoran Conservancy will be there to talk a bit about trails and proposed trails in our neighborhood as well as answer your questions. Brunch is \$10 for members, \$15 for guests.

On January 1st we will host a Happy New Year ride to be led by Cecil Honnas and Claudia Jordan. We will meet at the Granite Mountain Trailhead at 9:30 am and be ready to ride out at 10:00 am. We will ride the Granite Mountain Loop for this one. Ride should be 3½ - 4 hours. Bring snacks, lunch and plenty of water as we'll take a break on the back side before heading home.

We hope to have a late winter ride, and an early spring ride will be led by Cortland Parks. We'll also plan a ride from Bridwell Ranch so trail horses can be rented for those without a fine steed. Dates and details TBA. Please watch for emails from Mo and the RVHA Facebook page for updates on all the planned and "a work in progress" rides.

Several more ideas are milling within the committee. Stay tuned and keep ideas coming for what you want, where you'd like to go or if you'd like to join us and lead a ride yourself. ♡

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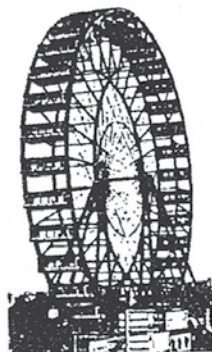
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25603 Danny Lane, in Rio Verde. 480-471-7239 [www.verdefaith.org](http://www.verdefaith.org)*

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# BACKCOUNTRY HORSEMEN OF AMERICA AND ARIZONA

-by Sara Goodnick

Trail riders, have you noticed there seem to be fewer trails in the national forests and wilderness areas open to horses, and even less trailhead parking than ever? We are losing ground, literally and figuratively.

Concerned horsemen, because of a real and urgent need to deal with these issues in a proactive way, formed the Backcountry Horsemen of America 40 years ago. There are now a BCHA organizational presence in 26 states and a membership level of 13,000.

They are still growing, but face evolving challenges to saddle and pack stock use of trails, other trail user encounters, and deterioration of trails. We here in Arizona have our own BCHA State organization, based in Prescott, and a chapter nearby in Apache Junction, the East Valley BCHA.

The purpose of the BCHA is:

1. "To perpetuate the commonsense use and enjoyment of horses in America's backcountry and wilderness.
2. To work to insure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
3. To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
4. To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the backcountry resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
5. To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations."

There is much more on the website of the national BCHA:

[www.backcountryhorse.com](http://www.backcountryhorse.com) Check them out and see what wonderful work they do.

A neighboring state chapter, the Four Corners BCH: [www.4cbh.org](http://www.4cbh.org) is very active with a website worth checking out, too.

When BCH members work with agencies managing our public lands, we log our hours, both horse and human. These number in the many thousands, and are impressive when presented to those agencies each year. By helping them, we help ourselves.

Only in the past 4 years have my husband Steve and I had the pleasure of owning true trail horses. Because of that, we have been exploring Arizona by horseback every chance we get. Our horses



were trained to carry packs before we bought them, so we are now getting some great overnight pack trips in, too.

However, there are very few places within a day's drive from here with suitable trails, sources of water, trailer parking, and more than just a few miles long. That has been an ongoing source of frustration.

Once we learned about the BCHA, we joined. There's no point in complaining unless you can do something to change the situation.

Last spring we helped the EVBCHA pack in supplies and tools for some volunteers helping the Forest Service clear a trail in the Superstitions. We also volunteered to clean the restrooms every week this past spring at Water Users Recreation area below Saguaro Lake, so the Forest Service would keep that popular parking area open. (Not part of our normal activities, but it needed to be done)

Last April, Steve and I decided to do an easy overnight pack trip below the Rim, near Christopher Creek. We called the Forest Service person in charge of that area and asked about the conditions of the trail we were planning to take. It is designated as a horse trail. We were told it was clear and good as there had been a marathon

race run there the week before. Well those runners must have been leaping hurdles and slithering under logs as they ran. We spent over 4 hours sawing logs and finding routes around the impassable parts. I don't think the forest service person knew much about horses. We ended up setting up camp in the dark, walking the horses down a steep trail to water in the dark, and highlining them in the dark.

The trails in Tonto and Apache-Sitgreaves NF have little help and really need work. That's where a group of BCHAers from the Rio Verde, Goldfield Ranch, Scottsdale, and Cave Creek areas could make a real difference. If you are interested in forming such a chapter, please contact Sara Goodnick at [sara@goodnickphotography.com](mailto:sara@goodnickphotography.com), or phone or text me at 480-595-8188. ☺



*There's no point in complaining unless you can do something to change the situation.*



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*Merry Christmas*



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# RIO VERDE HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

28150 N. ALMA SCHOOL PKWY. #103/112  
SCOTTSDALE, AZ 85262  
RVHA-AZ.COM

## 2014 APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

Member (1) \_\_\_\_\_ Member (2) \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from mailing address)

Property Address (If different from above) \_\_\_\_\_

### Phone Numbers:

Member (1) Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

Member (2) Home ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Cell ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

### E-Mail Addresses:

(1) \_\_\_\_\_

(2) \_\_\_\_\_

**Annual Dues:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 25.00 Single Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 35.00 Household Membership

**After July 1st** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 12.50 Single Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 17.50 Household Membership

**3 years** \_\_\_\_\_ \$ 70.00 Single Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$100.00 Household Membership

**Lifetime:** \_\_\_\_\_ \$250.00 Single Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$350.00 Household Membership

**New Member dues received after November 1st are accepted for the following year.  
Annual memberships expire December 31<sup>st</sup> each year. Paid dues are not refundable.**

**RVHA Application (Continued)**

**Membership Status:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Associate Member – Not a property owner in the RVHA\* area

\_\_\_\_\_ Voting Member – Property owner in the RVHA\* area

**(\*RVHA area is: East of Scottsdale city limits, south of the Tonto National Forest, north of McDowell Mountain Park, west of the Verde River, excluding the communities of Tonto Verde, Vista Verde and Rio Verde.)**

**For verification of voting member status, include parcel number # \_\_\_\_\_.**

**I/We would like to help with:**

\_\_\_\_\_ Social Events \_\_\_\_\_ Trail Rides \_\_\_\_\_ Trails Committee \_\_\_\_\_ Advertising \_\_\_\_\_ Roadside Cleanup

**The RVHA hosts various social functions such as our annual Chili Cook-Off, Trail Rides, Dinner Dance, General Membership Meetings etc. What other activities would you like? Suggestions or Comments.**

---

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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 to 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 "Homeowner's Association", we do not restrict, regulate or police.***

**If you can support our mission, we welcome you as a member.**

**I/We do support this mission:**

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Doc 1013

38 December 2013 Rio Verde Roundup



## REINDEER'S STORY AT CHRISTMAS



According to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, while both male and female reindeer grow antlers in the summer each year, male reindeer drop their antlers at the beginning of winter, usually late November to mid-December.

Female reindeer retain their antlers till after they give birth in the spring. Therefore, according to EVERY historical rendition depicting Santa's reindeer, EVERY single one of them, from Rudolph to Blitzen, had to be a girl.

We should have known... ONLY women would be able to drag a fat man in a red velvet suit all around the world in one night and not get lost.

# rvha-az.com



## RIO VERDE HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

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- BOARD OF DIRECTORS
- MEMBERSHIP
- COMMITTEES
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- AREA AWARENESS
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Incorporated in September 1998, 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. We are not a Homeowners Association, we do not restrict, regulate or police.



*Be Sure to Check Our Calendar*

The Rio Verde Horsemen's Association serves the unincorporated County lands north and south of Rio Verde Drive. Membership is open to all horse owners - and non-horse owners alike - who support this purpose. Associate membership applies to anyone not owning property in this area. Voting membership is only open to property owners in this area.

EMAIL



MISSION STATEMENT

The Association's purpose is to protect all horse properties and privileges, and to preserve the equine and rural lifestyles in this area.

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