

## From your President

**MREEN HELM**



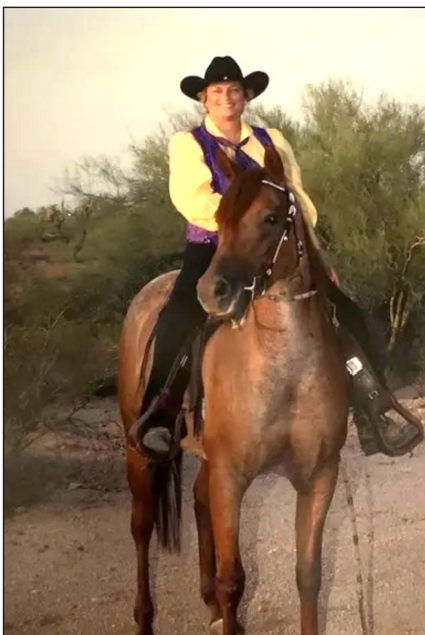
November was a productive month and things are moving along as we head into the New Year. We are in the process of negotiating and signing our Forest Service Volunteer Agreement, and working hard to build relationships with agencies and organizations. The Trails Committee and Pack Committees are geared up for another busy season. Education Committee has arranged an amazing line up of guest speakers for our General Meetings, and we have the upcoming online Board elections and EVBCH Fundraising Festival, both in January. The festival will be an "ALL HANDS ON DECK!" event needing plenty of volunteers to keep things running smoothly. Invite neighbors and friends to stop out, enjoy the many diverse family-friendly activities, and support EVBCH. There will be something for everyone to enjoy.

Here's to having a strong finish to 2021, and riding into 2022 and our first Fundraising Festival with the "can do" spirit of Back Country Horsemen!

### BCHA MISSION STATEMENT

*The purpose of this organization shall be:*

- To perpetuate the common-sense use and enjoyment of horses in America's back country and wilderness.
- To work to ensure that public lands remain open to recreational stock use.
- To assist the various government and private agencies in their maintenance and management of said resource.
- To educate, encourage and solicit active participation in the wise use of the back country resource by horsemen and the general public commensurate with our heritage.
- To foster and encourage the formation of new state Back Country Horsemen's organizations.



The Board is pleased to announce that Alternate Board Member, Shirley Righi has agreed to accept the vacant Vice Presidency position. Her instatement was approved unanimously on Wed., Nov. 24th.

### **Let's welcome Shirley Righi as the Chapter's new Vice President!**

Shirley is an avid horse enthusiast who has participated in a variety of disciplines; however, her greatest love is trail riding. Her interest in BCHA began in New Mexico while riding with a friend who packs and clears trails with the New Mexico Gila Chapter. After Shirley's recent retirement from Nursing where she was VP Chief Nursing Officer, she turned her focus and energy towards helping the equine community. Fortunately for EVBCH, Shirley has combined her love of horses with the skills she learned through her professional career, first as Membership Committee Chairperson, and now as Fundraising and Special Events Chairperson and Vice President.



## A note from your EVBCH Board of Directors...

*We would love to hear from you!  
Input from members is always welcome!*

If you have suggestions, ideas, concerns, or constructive criticism, and would like to present them at a board meeting, submit an email to [president@evbch.org](mailto:president@evbch.org) at least 1 week prior to the board meeting to be put on the agenda. Time will be allotted during the board meeting for presentation and discussion.

Submissions should be presented as well-developed concepts with clear intent, supporting information, and desired outcome or resolution, if necessary. Board meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 9:30 a.m., MST.



## East Valley Chapter JANUARY ELECTION

The New Year is quickly approaching along with our annual EVBCH Board Elections.

Again, like last year, the elections will be held online,  
and there will be a two-day voting period,  
January 12th and 13th.

Voting will close at 10 p.m. (MST). To qualify to vote or run for an office, 2022 dues must be paid by January 1.

Each member will receive one ballot sent to the email address provided on their membership forms.

Two ballots will be sent to couples using the same email address.

Nominations are being taken by Marj Christensen ([marj@evbch.org](mailto:marj@evbch.org)) and Roy Alisoglu ([trails@evbch.org](mailto:trails@evbch.org)) until 10:00 p.m. December 26th. Positions up for election or re-election this year include:

- **Vice President** ~ Nominee: incumbent, Shirley Righi
- **Secretary** ~ Nominee: incumbent, Karen Otterstein
- **Voting Board Member** ~ Nominee: Sheila Shattuck
- **Alternate Board Member** ~ Nominations Needed

*Consider throwing your hat in the ring.*

*We are still needing nominations for Alternative Board Member (nonvoting).*



# Calendar of Events and Activities

Please watch email, Facebook and website for updates, cancelations, optional Zoom information, and specific information about each event. CDC guidelines will be followed at all in-person meetings.

## Meeting Calendar

## Activity Calendar

Agenda items should be submitted at least 1 week prior to both Board and General Meetings.

### Board Meeting:

First Tuesday of the month

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

Location will be emailed to Board members and interested EVBCH members.

### General Meeting:

Second Tuesday of the month

6:30 p.m. – 9:00 p.m • Room 114

Multi-Generational Center, 1035 N. Idaho Rd., AJ

Potential members are invited.

Social time, followed by speaker and meeting.

For safety purposes we will not have snacks at this meeting.

Following CDC Covid guidelines, those not vaccinated should wear a mask and all need to socially distance themselves.

### Trails Committee Meeting

Thurs., Dec. 2, 2021, 10:00 A.M.

OK Corral, upfront, 2nd LQ trailer (black) to the right  
2655 E. Whiteley Str., Apache Junction, AZ

Bring lawn chairs

### New Member Welcome

Last Saturday of the month

12:00 noon – 1:00 p.m.

Behind the Apache Junction Public Library  
1177 N. Idaho Rd., Apache Junction, AZ

For parking, use Multi-Generational Center entrance  
Bring chairs, sun protection, and water.

\* all times shown are in Arizona (MDT) Time.

### Breakfast Meetings

November – Mon., Nov. 29, 9:00 a.m.

December – No Breakfast Meeting

AJ Sports Grille, 725 Apache Trail, Apache Junction, AZ.

### Water User's Parking Area Cleanup

Dec. 6, 2021, 10 a.m – 12 p.m. Bush Highway

### Work Party BBQ

Water User's Parking Area, Bush Highway

Monday, Dec. 6, 2021, 12 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

All EVBCH members are welcome.

### EVBCH Holiday Party

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m.

Multi-Generational Center, Rm 114

1035 N. Idaho Rd., Apache Junction, AZ

### EVBCH January Festival

Saturday/Sunday, January 29 & 30, 2022

Apache junction Rodeo Park

5090 E. Lost Dutchman Blvd.

Apache Junction, AZ 85119

**GPS CLASS** by Doug Matthewson coming soon! Details and sign up information will be announced in the January Newsletter. Thanks, Doug! We sincerely appreciate your time and effort!

*See Events in our Facebook group and Calendar on our website [www.evbch.org](http://www.evbch.org) for more activities.*

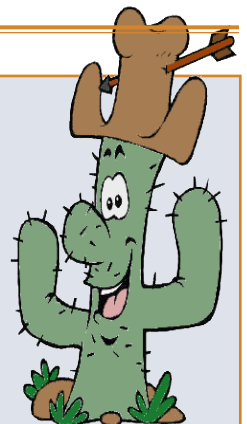
## Social Activities

*Please keep a close eye on EVBCH's Facebook and website calendars and announcements, and watch email for updates and cancelations.*

The health and safety of our members and animals is always at the forefront of everything we do. Again, this year, we will be following the most current CDC safety guidelines for all planned activities.

### TRAILS, FRIENDS & FOOD

As the Trail Meister, says, "Back Country Horsemen chapters are focal points for social events and trail stewardship efforts. A big reason for joining Back Country Horsemen is the camaraderie of people who have the same interests ~ horses and trail riding."



## 2022 MEMBERSHIP DUES and RENEWALS

Thank you to all of our past and present members. We hope to see you back in 2022. Please, share EVBCH's newsletter and website with a friend who may be interested in joining, or invite them to come along to one of our General Meetings.

Individual Membership ~ \$35

Family Membership ~ \$40

Members from other AZ Chapters or non-Arizona Chapters  
(Dual Membership) ~ \$20

Memberships run January 1, 2022 to December 31, 2022.

For new members or returning members that did not join in 2021, dues paid in November or December 2021 are covered through December 31, 2022.

There are 2 ways to pay dues or join EVBCH, either by going to the Membership page on our website, completing the online forms, and paying through PayPal, or by downloading, printing, completing and sending in the forms along with a check to the address provided.

EVBCH - Membership  
P.O. Box 2928,  
Apache Junction, AZ 85119

All members should have a new HHA and updated information on file each year.

### **DONATIONS ARE NOW TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

As you know, EVBCH has now approve as 501©3 nonprofit. This means that donations made to the Chapter are now **TAX DEDUCTIBLE**.

Much to our surprise, we have received \$1500 in donations in the last month.

We appreciate these donations and the generosity of members and friends of EVBCH.

EVBCH Advisor, Steve McClintock  
EVBCHAdvisor@evbch.org



**CHIP WILSON**

**EVBCH Treasurer**  
**treasurer@evbch.org**

## About our membership and dues ~

### *We are 121 members strong!*

In 2021, EVBCH had 75 memberships and 14 dual memberships with a total of 121 members, including 3 youth under the age of 18.

Our membership consisted of:

- 53 ~ \$35 single memberships
- 22 ~ \$40 family memberships (totaling 47 members)
- 14 ~ \$20 dual memberships (7 single and 7 couple/family totaling 21 members)

For national dues, EVBCH pays \$18 for every member ~ whether they are single or family ~ and \$5 for their state dues. If someone is a member of another Back Country Horsemen chapter in another state, we do not pay national dues, but we do pay state dues in Arizona.

Dues paid to State and National are paid in January for the previous year. For 2021, EVBCH will pay \$1350.00 for National dues and \$445.00 for State dues.

The family verses single rate started two years ago because it was just \$35 for both single and family memberships, and \$18 for someone that was a member of another BCH chapter.

Recently a comparison of dues was done with Arizona and other BCHA chapters in the western states. Kingman pays \$35 for both single and family membership, and Central Arizona pays \$35 for single and \$40 for family. The average dues paid in 14 randomly chosen western states chapters are \$37 for single and \$49 per family. The Board assessed our dues and concurred that EVBCH dues are in line with AZ Chapters, and below average for the region.

## *Did you know?*

**www.bcha.org** Back Country Horsemen of America has an incredible website full of useful, informative tools and educational materials for Chapters to utilize. All members are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the BCHA website and the resources it offers.

## EVBCH Volunteer Hours Coordinator (VHC) is a very important job

According to EVBCH by-laws, the Vice President oversees Membership and Retention, and reporting of Volunteer Service Hours (VSH). Those duties can be delegated to other (willing) EVBCH members. Since EVBCH committees began in 2019, the Membership and Retention Committee Chair position was first held by Tess Stransky, and then Shirley Righi, finally going to Mreen Helm when she became Vice President in 2021.

Each chapter and State have a Volunteer Hours Coordinator (VHC) or committee responsible for reporting the hours and other expenses that members incur during their service. Shirley Righi has been the VHC for several years. Board Members, Committee Chairpersons, and activity leaders keep track of the hours they and their committees or crews work and then record them on a Volunteer Reporting Form (VRF). The forms are then turn in to Shirley in a timely manner. Shirley compiles the information and submits it to BCH National and other agencies on a monthly basis, or as often as needed.

EVBCH  
Membership  
Committee

[membership@evbch.org](mailto:membership@evbch.org)



*Shelley Hunter at November membership drive*

## Another Successful Membership Drive

On Nov. 17th & 20th, the Membership Committee set up a table at Crazy Horse Saddle Shop's 19th Anniversary Sale and had a successful Membership Drive. Many people stopped by the table to talk and ask questions about BCHA and our chapter. For both days, 8 memberships were received, 35 brochures and applications were handed out to interested parties, 18 ID leg bands were sold, and 58 signatures were collected for the Houston Mesa Petition.

A very special thank you from EVBCH to Crazy Horse Saddle Shop owners, Craig and Paula Smith, for allowing us to set up during their sale.



**Do you have  
your EVBCH  
NAME TAG yet?**



To order your EVBCH name tags, talk to Tess Stransky at General Meetings or at a New Member Welcome, or email [education@evbch.org](mailto:education@evbch.org)

## 2022 EVBCH FUNDRAISER FESTIVAL January 29th & 30th

**SHIRLEY RIGHI**

Fundraising and  
Special Events Committee

[fundraising@evbch.org](mailto:fundraising@evbch.org)



Fundraising is integral to the health and longevity of any nonprofit organization. A fundraising event not only connects people, provides a wonderful way to raise awareness of our cause, it assists in recruiting new EVBCH members and generates revenue to support our mission “to keep trails open for all”

Using a glass half full approach, one may view Covid as contributing to EVBCH's focus on fundraising efforts. Last year, when in person meetings were not possible, Mreen facilitated the first successful online silent auction. In part, due to the success of this fundraiser the Board considered how these, and future funds could support members and the EVBCH Mission. Thus, the Fundraising committee was formed. The enthusiastic and hard-working members worked through the summer to evaluate, plan, and work toward this year's fundraising event that would provide the funds to support our work. Due to the work of this committee the first EVBCH Festival will be held January 29th and 30th 2022.

**For more information on how to register or volunteer text or call 602-931-0929 or email [srighi76@hotmail.com](mailto:srighi76@hotmail.com)**  
*The hard-working committee members need your assistance by volunteering for one of the following roles:*

Role	Times/Days	Number of Volunteers Needed
Registration/ Waiver/50/50 Raffle	7AM- 9AM	3
Gate Starter	Saturday 8AM – 11AM	2
	Sunday 8AM - 10AM	2
Tally Poker Results	Saturday 11AM – 3PM	
Silent Auction	Saturday 8AM - 11AM	2
	Saturday 11AM – 2PM	2
	Saturday 1:30PM – 2:30 PM	3 (Highest Bidder Tally)
Parking	Saturday 8AM - 11AM	3
	Saturday 11AM – 2PM	3
	Saturday 1:30PM – 2:30 PM	3
General Support	Saturday 8AM - 11AM	3
	Saturday 11AM – 2PM	3
	Saturday 1:30PM – 2:30 PM	3
Kid Activities	9AM-12AM	2
	12PM-3PM	2

# 2 Day Horsemanship clinic Apache Junction Az

Saturday and Sunday January 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>  
Rodeo grounds - 1590 E Lost Dutchman Blvd



This clinic will focus on:

- Practical Horsemanship
- Obstacles
- Carrying - dragging - pushing
- Routines
  - for safe confident riders
  - For relaxed responsive horses
- Having fun



Cost \$350.00  
\$200.00 will go to EVBCH  
No charge to audit  
[helmhorsemanship@gmail.com](mailto:helmhorsemanship@gmail.com)  
for application and PayPal invoice



This clinic is designed for beginner through intermediate riders  
You should have basic riding ability and experience and your horse should  
have foundational cues, stop, back and be able to walk on a loose rein.  
If you have questions feel free to email me.

# FESTIVAL PROGRAM

## Saturday Jan. 29th

7-8AM Registration  
Poker Ride & Walk

9AM – 1:30PM Silent Auction

9AM Randy Helm Horseman Clinic

1PM-4PM  
Music by Reining Country

## Sunday January 30th

7AM -8AM Registration for  
Competitive Mounted Orienteering

8AM Cowboy Church  
and Buckboard Ministries

9AM Randy Helm Horseman Clinic

9:30AM Competitive Mounted  
Orienteering Orientation

## BOTH DAYS!

8AM- 5PM

Food Truck Extravaganza  
Western Artwork  
Ironwork  
Pack Demonstration  
Equestrian Clubs/ Groups  
Youth Events  
Meet Blue the Pony  
AJ Royalty Court

# Poker Ride & Walk JAN 29, 2022

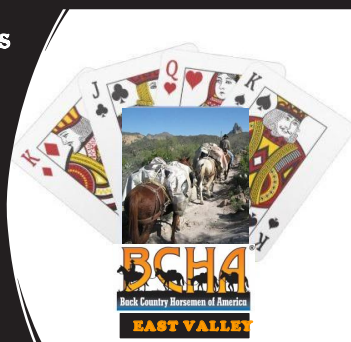
RIDE/WALK LIMITED TO 50 RIDERS AND 20 HIKERS  
TO REGISTER CONTACT

REGISTRATION BEGINS AT 7:0000AM  
EVENT STARTS AT 9AM TIL END

PRIZES FOR FIRST 3 PLACES

\$15.00 INCLUDES RIDE/HIKE  
\$ 5.00 PER EACH ADDITIONAL POKER HAND

HELD AT APACHE JUNCTION RODEO GROUNDS  
1590 LOST DUTCHMAN BLVD APACHE JUNCTION, AZ



## Committees, Advisors and Liaisons



**ROY ALISOGLU**

**EVBCH  
Trails Committee**

**trails@evhbc.org**

We are continuing to move forward with our goals for the 2021-2022 season. On Nov. 13th, a successful work project was completed on the Dutchman trail. We had a total of 7 riders who rode in 7 miles and cleared approximately one-half mile of trail, which was badly needed. Thanks to all who participated including Mreen Helm and Sheila Shattuck who served as trail boss and drag rider respectively.



***Above: Dutchman Trail work crew, Left: Bill Klink and Roy Alisoglu clearing Dutchman Trail.***

Our next work party is being planned for November 30 on Arizona Trail #18A (AZ trail north).

A couple of our members recently reconned that stretch of trail and reported back that it was in need of some attention.

Looking ahead, we are in the planning phase of completing a recon ride on the entire Dutchman trail. This will be a 20-21 mile, all day ride, leaving from the Peralta trailhead and ending at the First Water trailhead. This recon ride will have space for ten riders and sign up will be through Facebook. We are currently recruiting "rig jumpers" to move vehicles/trailers from Peralta trailhead to First Water. Anyone interested in jumping rigs that day, please contact me at [trails@evbch.org](mailto:trails@evbch.org). Tentatively, this recon may lead to a work party camping at Charlebois with pack support. We are planning to make Dutchman a priority this year.

Requests for packing support for various projects have also been finding their way to us for the 2021-2022 season. It's shaping up to be a busy year for our packers.

We currently have thirteen trails in our forest service agreement. We are in discussions to add or subtract from these trails. If any member has thoughts on trails we might want to consider, join us at a Trail Committee Meeting to share your thoughts. The next trail committee meeting is on December 2, 10:00 at OK Corral Horse Camp. See you down the trail.

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**MREEN HELM**

**EVBCH  
Trails Coordinator**

**trailscoordinator@evbch.org**



EVBCH is handling rides differently from past years, so it's a good time to go over our ride guidelines.

To be an EVBCH sanctioned ride, it must be organized through the Trails Committee, covered by our insurance, properly documented and reported, and follow BCHA, LNT and FS guidelines and principles. All rides are "members only" with no joining or signing up at the trail head.

Rides are posted at least one week prior to the date except for recon rides. Since there are only 4 riders per recon, names are taken and called as the recons are arranged. For social and work party rides, an email will be sent out to all members at least one week prior to the ride, then it will be posted in the Events section on Facebook. Sign up is through Facebook, or those without Facebook can email, text or message the Trails Coordinator directly.

Social Rides: Maximum 10 riders. These rides are intended for social and enjoyment purposes only, and no trail work is done. We will try to hold at least one per month.

Recon Rides: Maximum 4 riders unless more are required. Recon rides are intended to fulfill our agreement with the USFS to survey and access trails for any work that may need done.

Work Project Rides: Maximum 10 riders. These rides are intended to complete work projects on FS trails that have been previously reported and discussed after a recon ride.

Recons and work projects require documentation of Volunteer Service Hours, mileage, stock hauled, etc. which is turned in to the Trails Chairperson for reporting to appropriate agencies. Forest Service dispatch must be notified prior to the ride and after completion, along with sign in at Trailhead, when available.

EVBCH wants to provide well-organized rides concentrating on safety and risk reduction. If you have any questions, would like to organize and/or lead rides, or would like to participate in recons, please come to the Trails Committee Meeting on Dec. 2nd or contact the Trails Committee Chairperson ([trails@evbch.org](mailto:trails@evbch.org)) or Trails Coordinator ([trailscoordinator@evbch.org](mailto:trailscoordinator@evbch.org)).

***Crew returning from the Dutchman Trail Work Party.***





## Committees, Advisors and Liaisons



### TESS STRANSKY

**EVBCH**  
**Education Committee**  
[education@evbch.org](mailto:education@evbch.org)

Since change happens to be part of so much these days, just know there will always be a program presented at our general meetings. We hesitate to post for the entire season because things just happen. For now, plan to attend Dec 14th to hear Brad Sorenson, speak about fire ecology, and learn more about last summer's fires in the Superstition Wilderness and Arnett Canyon. It was a pleasure to meet and speak with Brad personally at a recent FS Meet and Greet gathering. He is a law enforcement and fire officer for the Tonto NF.

Learning and educating others of the LNT Principles is one of the 5 mission statements of BCHA. Plan to attend January 11th to hear Larry Gowey, a certified LNT instructor working with the Tonto NF. There will be a short basic video/discussion followed by Stock LNT assistance by Biff/Tess Stransky. Expect to hear reminders of polite outdoor ethics and how you can pass considerate behaviors to others on and off your horse!

If you would like to join the Education Committee, contact Tess Stransky at [education@evbch.org](mailto:education@evbch.org)

### **LEAVE NO TRACE** **December** **TIP OF THE MONTH** by Tess Stransky [education@evbch.org](mailto:education@evbch.org)

Most of you have been following the FaceBook Group Site by acknowledging the LNT tips posted by Education. Here's one that has not been addressed:



*Dale Pace holding pottery shards*

### **LNT #4 Leave What You Find**

*People spend time outdoors for many reasons, among them to explore nature's mysteries. When we leave rocks, shells, plants, antlers, feathers, fossils, and other objects of interest as we find them, we pass the gift of discovery on to those who follow. Leave What You Find means retaining these special qualities of lands used by the public for recreation ... for the long term.*

### BIFF STRANSKY

**EVBCH**  
**Agency Advisor**  
[agencyadvisor@evhbc.org](mailto:agencyadvisor@evhbc.org)



On Nov. 13th, four EVBCH representatives attended the Forest Service Meet and Greet at the Monestary in Mesa. Many great connections were made, putting faces with names, and touching base with contacts that haven't been seen in a while. As a result of the meeting, we were able to network with SHA and direct a Cub Scout Troup to Jackie Cross for a horse care demonstration. The Education Committee was also able to find a speaker for the December General Meeting, and made other connections for future programs. All in all, it was a very productive evening.

### **Report from Pack Committee Chairperson, Biff Stransky, [pack@evbch.org](mailto:pack@evbch.org)**

### **Pack Committee looking for a cargo trailer for equipment**

The Pack Committee has begun its search in earnest for a cargo trailer to store and transport pack and other equipment. Keep on the look out for a new or used, 10-12 ft. long trailer that is 5 ft or wider, 6 ft tall with tandem axle. Single axle is ok if the trailer is in exceptional condition. It should have a spare tire, lights, bumper pull hitch, good wiring, and newer tires. If you see something that fits the bill, contact Biff Stransky ([pack@evbch.org](mailto:pack@evbch.org)) or Roy Alisoglu ([trails@evbch.org](mailto:trails@evbch.org)).



## Committees, Advisors and Liaisons



**PAM GASTON**

EVBCH  
Public Affairs Advisor  
[publicaffairs@evbch.org](mailto:publicaffairs@evbch.org)

### Houston Mesa Horse Camp Petition

The petition for the USFS to develop trails, mark trails for OHV and equestrian use, and repair corrals at Houston Mesa Horse Camp will continue to be available for signature at Crazy Horse Saddle Shop through Feb. 1, 2022.

### Ride Safe Program with Superstition Horsemen's Association

by Pam Gaston, EVBCH Public Affairs Advisor,  
[publicaffairs@evbch.org](mailto:publicaffairs@evbch.org)

The Superstition Horsemen's Association is creating a RIDE SAFE PROGRAM to assist people when they ride their horses in the early dusk of the evening or in the dark. Several months ago, a horse and rider were hit at night by a vehicle and the rider was critically injured and the horse was killed. Tragedies like this could be prevented if the horse and rider could be seen from a distance by the drivers of the vehicle.

RIDE SAFE will be SHA's way to give back to the community. We want to make lights and reflective equipment for peoples' horses available so when they ride at dusk or night or they just do not make it back from a ride before it gets dark, they are visible to all around them. We are also working with the City of AJ to make all multi-user trails and fence crossings to be marked with signs to alert motorists of horses and riders crossing the road. We want to promote a "RIDE that is SAFE" for our horses and promote safe driving around equines as well.

We also want to not only supply equipment to riders for their horses so they can be seen at a distance but to also educate the community about driving around horses that are walking along roadways.

THE RIDE SAFE PROGRAM is being kicked off in December. We want to make Apache Junction a safe place for riders, horses, and motorists alike. Be on the lookout for a RIDE SAFE PROGRAM event near you and light up your horse so you can RIDE SAFE!!



**ELIZABETH BUTLER**

EVBCH representative  
to RUG and START  
[rugliason@evbch.org](mailto:rugliason@evbch.org)

### Recreational Users Group (RUG)

Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) employees spoke about two US 60 bridge replacement projects between Superior and Miami at the RUG meeting on 10/13/21.

- The \$40M Queen Creek Bridge at milepost 227.71 and the \$4.2M Waterfall Canyon Bridge further east.
- The project will be between US60 mileposts 227.51 and 229.55.
- The "advertising date" (when ADOT starts soliciting bids for construction) is expected to be summer of 2023.
- Construction is expected to start in 2023 and take 2 years.
- There will be some delays and some full closures of US 60 during the project.
- There will be trail and trailhead access restrictions between Superior and the Waterfall Canyon bridge including the Canyon Segment of the LOST.

ACTION: If you use trails or trailheads accessed from US 60 between Superior and US 60 MP 229.55, or have any other concerns about the project, please contact ADOT or [rugliason@evbch.org](mailto:rugliason@evbch.org)

### Superior Tourism and Recreation Team (START)

START will be lead by the Forest Service (FS) and facilitated by Southwest Decision Resources (SWDR). SWDR has been interviewing RUG members. They expect to hold an organizational meeting in late November or early December and the initial full team meeting in January 2022.

ACTION: Look for more information in the next Newsletter.

For further information on START contact Elizabeth at:  
[STARTliaison@evbch.org](mailto:STARTliaison@evbch.org)

**"No hour of life is wasted that is spent in the saddle."**

– Winston S. Churchill



## OPPORTUNITIES TO GET INVOLVED

According to BCHA national guidelines and common sense, once a chapter grows, it needs to establish Committees to run more efficiently. In 2021, EVBCH had 121 members! That's a lot of members to keep organized. If each member could do just one thing - it promotes purpose, involvement, and working together. That's success. That's FUN!!!!

We've all heard the old saying, "many hands make light work". Since EVBCH implemented committees in 2019, the committees have grown and expanded, and are still developing and evolving. Please consider joining a committee or learning a position as a "back up" to help keep EVBCH running smoothly.

## THE IMPORTANCE OF DOCUMENTING AND REPORTING VOLUNTEER SERVICE HOURS

by Mreen Helm

BCHA is a volunteer service organization that is committed to protecting the use of public lands by equestrians. A key point of our mission statement is to assist government agencies in the maintenance and management of public lands in our effort to continue the enjoyable, common-sense use of pack and saddle stock in the backcountry.

The hours logged by BCH volunteers are one of the most important resources used to gain representation with public lands managers and agencies. Over the last 46 years, BCHA has accumulated more than \$175 million in volunteer time. We accomplish this by documenting our volunteer hours, not only for recons and work parties, but also for trainings, and preparation time for mission-based activities. By doing this, BCHA earns a seat at the table representing the interests of equines on the trail and can continue the dual mission of "Keeping Trails Open for All" and "Keeping Public Lands in Public Hands."

Unfortunately, volunteer service hours are consistently under-reported. By properly documenting and reporting the use of our time and resources, we are helping to ensure that public land remains open to recreational stock use. Volunteer service goes beyond the hours we put in on the trails. Other reportable hours include time devoted to the management planning process. Our travel time, stock use, stock and equipment hauling, and in-kind donations are also reportable and add to the value of our volunteer service. When you add all of this up, it considerably increases the value of an individual's volunteer effort.

The BCHA Board and multiple land managers ask for the following to be reported:

- All volunteer trail work completed on public land, including preparatory work or meetings for trail work
- meetings with agencies discussing recreational trail usage or maintenance
- Phone calls with managers discussing trail preservation or maintenance
- Stock and equipment usage
- Vehicle mileage and travel time
- All Leave No Trace Education hours and preparation hours
- Planning and hosting clinics that provide LNT education.

Make your efforts count. If you would like to organize a recon or work party, contact EVBCH Trails Committee Chairperson, Roy Alisoglu at trails@evbch.org, so all activities can be properly documented and reported. Help to build relationships with our partner agencies and organizations, and keep our voice heard by agencies managing public lands. It is difficult to close trails to saddle and pack stock use when BCHA provides a large portion of volunteer efforts to keep them open.

- **MEMBERSHIP & RETENTION COMMITTEE ~**  
Chairperson Needed, membership@evbch.org
- **EVBCH NEWSLETTER ~**  
Editor, Juanita Gibney, newsletter@evbch.org
- **VOLUNTEER HOURS COORDINATOR (VHC) ~**  
Shirley Righi
- **TRAILS COMMITTEE ~**  
Chairperson, Roy Alisoglu, trails@evbch.org
- **PACK COMMITTEE ~**  
Chairperson, Biff Stransky, pack@evbch.org
- **TRAILS COORDINATOR ~**  
Mreen Helm, trailscoordinator@evbch.org
- **EDUCATION COMMITTEE ~**  
Chairperson, Tess Stransky, education@evbch.org
- **FUNDRAISING & SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE ~**  
Chairperson, Shirley Righi, fundraising@evbch.org
- **SOCIAL COMMITTEE ~**  
Chairperson Needed
- **GRANT WRITING COMMITTEE ~**  
Chairperson, Shirley Righi
- **IT COMMITTEE ~**  
Administrators, Ann Adkins & Mreen Helm, admin@evbch.org

***Your talents and skills are needed. If you'd like more information about a committee, please contact the Committee Chairperson.***

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# What BCHA has done for trail riding communities across America

Since 1995, BCHA members contributed a value equal to \$170.8 million in volunteer hours. With facts, numbers, and metrics, it is possible to “get a seat at the table.” Groucho Marx said, “If you don’t have a seat at the table, you are likely on the menu.”

Volunteer activity has been monetized to show the true dollar value of the work. These are set, measurable objectives that can be tracked and used to evaluate our performance.

BCHA has a mission to “keep trails open for all.” We have 13,000 members in 32 States including Canada. Because BCHA has wide coverage of the U.S., it is sometimes useful to look at numbers to get an appreciation for the size and scope of the maintenance challenges.

## THE USFS DEFERRED MAINTENANCE CHALLENGE

Deferred trail maintenance refers to trails with maintenance that should be done or are due to be done but are not. If trails are not maintained ~ meaning maintenance is either deferred or not done ~ the trail deteriorates. It eventually becomes unsafe and will usually result in closure.

Deferred trail maintenance on USFS trails is estimated at \$314 million. Total miles of deferred trails are 158,000 with 2/3 non-motorized and 1/3 motorized. The USFS’s goal is to maintain 25% of trails “at standard”, which is a very low number and quite concerning. Currently, To put this into perspective, 31% percent of trails are maintained “at standard” and 69% are not maintained “at standard”.

The USFS lacks manpower and resources to significantly reduce the number of deferred trails and the closing of more system trails is forecast due to safety issues. BCHA volunteers try to help with trail maintenance and remediation, but there is only so much they can do. In addition to the \$314 million that is needed to address deferred trails, another \$210 million is estimated in deferred capital expenditures to rebuild bridges, trailheads, buildings, etc.

BCHA bolsters the USFS efforts to address deferred trails and ease their As you can plainly see, BCHA efforts are greatly needed to bol workload. There are many trails in the Superstition Wilderness and Tonto National Forest, especially less accessible trails, that are deferred and in danger of being closed. During the 2021 season, the Trails Committee reconned all 14 trails in our Forest Service

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EV BCH Advisor  
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Volunteer Agreement. Of those 14 trails, three trails out of Miles Trailhead were assessed and determined to be nearing the point of no return, if not already there. The challenge of deferred trails highlights our need to develop strong partnerships with other like-minded organizations. We are working hard to build relationships with Friends of the Tonto, Legends of Superior Trails (Liaison, Ann Adkins), the Arizona Trail Association (Liaison, Bill Vicary), Recreational Users Group (Liaison, Elizabeth Butler) and others, and have let them know we are available to offer pack support for trails projects as manpower allows.

## WHAT IS THE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF U.S. HORSE INDUSTRY:

*A study by the American Horse Council*

The horse industry contributes \$39 billion in direct economic impact creating 1.4 million jobs. When direct and “downstream” spending are combined, that number jumps to \$102 billion added to the United States Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

Recreation horses and pack stock are the largest user of trails. Estimated number of horses by activity:

- **Recreation** 3,906,923 (42.5%)
- **Showing** 2,718,954 (29.5%)
- **Racing** 844,531 (9.0%)
- **Other** 1,752,439 (19.0%)


## The estimated GDP economic impact of horses by activity is

- **Recreation.....\$32 billion (31.4%)**
- **Showing.....\$29 billion (28.4%)**
- **Racing.....\$26 billion (25.5%)**
- **Other.....\$15 billion (14.7%)**

**TOTAL.....\$102 billion**

As you can see, the largest group of horses by activity are recreation users at 42.5%, and recreation horses are the largest users of trails. Second, recreation horses provide the largest estimated GDP economic impact of horses by activity at 31.4%. Hopefully, these statistics will give a better idea of the BHA mission and its challenges, and why it is so important to cultivate and grow partnerships and relationships with policy-making agencies and other like-minded organizations.

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## Ask Ramblin' Rose

Arkansas Jack writes,

"Dear Ramblin' Rose,

My gal is constantly naggin' at me to drink water, especially when we're out ridin'. I keep tellin' her I drink a pot of coffee every day! Isn't that enough?"

Dear Jack,

I have to agree with your gal on this one. Staying well hydrated on the trail is extremely important. Dehydration can be severe and affect the entire body. It may cause rapid onset of fatigue, a drop in blood pressure, increased heart palpitations, angina (chest pain), weakness, abrupt mental confusion, and coma. In short dehydration can become life-threatening very quickly.

As we get older, it is even more essential to pay attention to water intake. People over 60 generally stop feeling thirst and consequently, reduce their intake of fluids. Although they are partially dehydrated, they don't feel thirsty, and the levels of water in their bodies drops to about 50% of what they should be. Therefore, many people over 60 have very low water reserves.

The good news is that dehydration is easily preventable. The bad news is that nothing replaces water. Coffee, tea, and sodas are diuretics and contribute to loss of water. Trail Boss Sam says, "If you ain't peeing, yer dying! Hydrate!!" Let's be safe on the trail and stay well hydrated for ourselves and our companion riders. Start hydrating the day before a ride, carry plenty of water, and continue to hydrate throughout a ride. Being nagged is unpleasant, but not nearly as unpleasant as suffering from dehydration on the trail.




**Season's**  
**Greetings**  
**to all!**

