

# EAST VALLEY enapter N.E.W.S

ISSUE 1 • VOLUME 1
NOVEMBER 2021

# Visit the chapter website at www.EVBCH.org

# From your Outgoing President

#### **BIFF STRANSKY**

Dear EVBCH Members: For those of you that haven't read my latest email, I have resigned as president effective 10/15/21.Ido understand that it's poor timing on my part, but we are



selling our AJ home and moving back to CO to be with family and friends.

It's been a privilege, although challenging, to be part of the upgrade of our chapter. Every Board member chairs a committee or serves in an additional capacity. We now have additional liaisons, a website, and newsletter. Exciting times are ahead. The infrastructure is in place. Now more than ever, we need your continued support. Our public lands need continued vigilance.

Mreen Helm, my successor, has incredible energy and knowledge. Already she's accomplished so much. Please join me in wishing her the very best.

Sincerely, Biff Stransky

# From your Vice President / Incoming President



**MREEN HELM** 

It is with a sad heart that we see Biff resign. We have been blessed to have Biff and Tess's skills and knowledge these past years and are grateful they will still be available to offer guidance moving forward. Biff will continue to be our Forest Service Advisor to help us navigate the ins and outs of working with our partner agencies. Tess will continue to be on the Board of Directors and act as Education Committee Chairperson until her term is up in January.

The January elections are right around the corner. Succession planning is vital to the continuity of the Chapter. We will be working to identify members who are interested in leadership positions, either on the Board or our committees. With the events of 2020 and Biff's departure we are reminded that things can change quickly, and we need to be ready for those changes. One thing that never changes, though, is that public lands and trails need Back Country Horsemen of America to help keep trails open for everyone.

I'm looking forward to seeing everyone on the trails and at our General Meetings.

Mreen Helm

# Activity Calendar

#### 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 Christmas Party**

Tuesday, Dec. 14, 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. Multi-Generational Center, Rm 114 1035 N. Idaho Rd., Apache Junction, AZ Watch for details in the December newsletter.

#### **EVBCH January Festival**

Saturday/Sunday, January 29 & 30, 2022 Apache junction Rodeo Park 5090 E. Lost Dutchman Blvd. Apache Junction, AZ 85119



# Meeting 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.

# Tues. Nov. 9 General Meeting

# GUEST PRESENTATION

Charlie Goff is the current president of SALT (Superstition Area Land Trust). SALT's mission since its formation in 1993 has been "....to conserve the natural Sonoran Desert open space surrounding the Superstition Wilderness Area (SWA) for this and future generations." This includes the predominantly AZ State Trust Land south of the SWA north and east of Gold Canyon.

Using the major map from SALT's Superstition Area Land Plan, Charlie will review efforts to conserve the Superstition Foothills through the Superstition Area Land Plan, Superstition Vistas, the Pinal County Open Space and Trails Master Plan, and the Pinal County Comprehensive Plan. He will clarify how the recently withdrawn AZ State Land Department's proposed major Pinal County comprehensive plan amendment may have contributed to conservation of the Superstition Foothills, and how approval of the Resolution Copper Mine could also contribute in a major way toward that goal.



Displaying our chapter banner in the The Lost Dutchman Parade 2019



#### **TESS STRANSKY**

EVBCH Education Committee

Education is an important and a critical feature of what we do. The goal of the Education Committee is to keep our volunteer members informed, trained, and up-to-date. We offer a variety of educational programs. Educational topics rotate from year to year depending on member preference. A few examples of educational programs offered in the past: Leave-No-Trace, CPR/First Aid, Trail Etiquette and Rules, Desert Survival and Safety Training, GPS Land Navigation, Pack Clinic and Techniques (in conjunction with Pack Committee), adherence to USFS guidelines, and more. We offer a monthly New Member Introduction meeting for any members to learn more about our mission. Members who no longer ride have found they can provide important support to EVBCH through supporting our educational activities.

Programs have been planned for our General Membership Meetings this season. Please make a note that they will take place on the second Tuesday of each month beginning with November at the Multigenerational Center beginning at 6:30 for social, 7 pm program. Charlie Goff will present what S.A.L.T is and the topics they will address this year. You'll be receiving an email with current news. Hope to see you then.

If you would like to join the Education Committee to assist with any educational events or planning, please contact our Education Chairperson, Tess Stransky at education@evbch.org

#### **MREEN HELM**

EVBCH Membership Committee



EVBCH is a group of volunteers who love to ride and want to ensure that trails remain open and accessible to equestrians. Our chapter is unique with 75% of members being from out of state and having dual memberships. We need to continue to attract members who are wintering in Arizona, as well as singles and families from the local community, who are like-minded and want to see our trails remain open for future generations of equestrians. Our Membership and Retention Committee needs your enthusiasm and talents to help the chapter grow and maintain sustainability.

There are many ways our members can get involved, whether it's joining or leading a social, recon, or work project ride, becoming involved in a committee, taking part in a membership drive, volunteering to help with our January Festival, submitting content for our Facebook, website, or newsletter, or helping to put on a safety, Leave No Trace ethics or packing class, or simply inviting friends who also love the trails, forest and wilderness areas to become members, too. Your skills are needed and valued.

If you are interested in joining the Membership and Retention Committee, please contact Mreen Helm at membership@evbch.org

# 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. Last season our committees faced special challenges and had

to tailor activities to align with CDC safety guidelines. While many social activities had to be put on hold, thankfully, we were still able to continue our trail activities and have a successful, productive season. Again, this year, we will be following the most current CDC safety guidelines for all planned activities.

Going into the 2022 season, we now have a vibrant Fundraising and Special Events Committee handling our larger events. Smaller social activities, including social rides, meeting at a local watering hole to listen to live music, setting up for our monthly general meetings, or organizing a post-ride happy hour, will fall under the Membership Committee and will be coordinated with other committees.

If you are interested in leading a social ride, please contact Roy Alisoglu at trails@evbch.org.

#### STEVE McCLINTOCK

EVBCH Special Advisor



#### **EVBCH** is moving Forward

EVBCH has been taking several initiatives that reflect we are becoming a more mature organization. First, in March 2021, EVBCH became an Arizona Nonprofit Corporation and completed our application with the Arizona Corporation Commission. Second, on Oct. 18, we were notified that our 501(c)3 tax exempt corporation designation was approved. As a 501(c)3, donors are able to make tax deductible donations to EVBCH in order to help fund various trail projects and educational programs. In addition, we can now undertake tax exempt, fundraising initiatives. It was a long and complicated process, and Chip, Shirley, CPA Jeannie Kennedy, and I put in many hours. Third, it became apparent that EVBCH should have a general liability, insurance protection. This insurance should be in place by early November. We are moving forward and appreciate your support: "Keeping Trails Open for All."

Steve can be reached by email at: EVBCHadvisor@evbch.org



#### **ROY ALISOGLU**

EVBCH Trails Committee

The article in the Spring BCHA Newsletter describes our last season very well. The article can be found on our website www.evbch.org under the Announcement section.

In the 2021 season, we were able to successfully recon all 14 trails in our Forest Service Agreement and had 4 productive work parties. The trails focus last year was to complete recons of all of our 14 trails. That was accomplished.



Work crew coming back from a Work Project in the Grotto Area of the Dutchman Trail. 2021

The focus of this upcoming season will be to complete some work projects that were generated by those recons, schedule some "trimming" rides, and be available for any work projects or packing support that the forest service may request.

Our first work party of the season is on Dec. 6, 2021 for our annual Water's Users Parking Area Cleanup. We'll meet at 10:00 a.m., work till noon, and then the Special Events Committee is putting on a Post-cleanup BBQ for ALL EVBCH members. Come on out, help with the cleanup, and enjoy some great food.

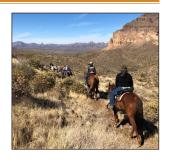
We also began offering Trail Boss and Drag Rider Orientation last season and had many people attend. In EVBCH, we have an abundance of experienced, skilled riders who are familiar with the trails. The purpose of orientation is not so much to "train", but rather, to make sure everyone is on the same page and following the same rules and guidelines set out by the Forest Service, BCHA and Leave No Trace principles. Going forward, instead of offering group orientations, we'd like to sit down individually with our members who are interested in being Trail Bosses or Drag Riders. If you're interested in leading a social ride, recon or work project ride, please email: Roy Alisoglu at trails@evbch.org.

For ride rules, safety and etiquette guidelines, downloadable medical information card, and USDA and FS Trail Maintenance Guidelines and Booklet, go to our EVBCH website at www.evbch.org.

Hope to see you down the trail.

#### **MREEN HELM**

EVBCH Trails Coordinator



Last fall EVBCH started using Facebook as the main method of putting out ride information and taking RSVPs for the rides. It went well, so we will continue to use Facebook as our primary means of dissemination. To accommodate members without Facebook, we will also utilize email, our website, and text. Transitioning to Facebook was not only a way to incorporate technology as we strive to attract families and youth, but also to help EVBCH adhere to BCHA and Leave No Trace principles by limiting the size of rides to a maximum of 10 participants.

To facilitate Facebook and incoming RSVP's, the position of Trails Coordinator was created. This person posts rides on Facebook, takes RSVP's, closes the ride, and emails confirmations to the Trail Boss and participants. Having a Trails Coordinator helps our Trail Bosses facilitate well-organized rides to safely and efficiently complete recons and trail

projects. Since our rides only have a maximum of 10 participants, it also ensures a good rotation of riders.

It's always good to have more than one person trained for positions. If you would like to be a Trails Coordinator, please email: trailscoordinator@evbch.org.

> Cheryl Davidson and Roy Alisoglu clearing a saguaro cactus from the Dutchman Trail

> > Jerry Lenz and Cathy Nelson trimming trails

Did you know?



In 2021, EVBCH is 115 members strong! Photo of members and guests attending Florence Prison Wild Horse Inmate Program Presentation given by Randy Helm 2019, We had a great turnout for this amazing event.





#### **ANN ADKINS**

#### **EVBCHA Liaison to the LOST (Legends Of Superior Trails).**

We will soon be discussing Arnett Creek, Telegraph Canyon and more. I have been receiving information on trail damage and tentative plans for repairs. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Ann Adkins 641-990-1664. Email: LOSTliaison@evbch.org



#### **ELIZABETH BUTLER** EVBCH representative to RUG and START

#### What is RUG?

The Recreation User Group (RUG) was created in 2015 at the request of the Forest Service (FS). The FS was aware that many different types of recreationists wanted to submit mitigation plans for the Resolution Copper Project. Rather than receiving multiple plans, the FS preferred that the recreationists agree and then submit only one plan.

The RUG was formed as a subcommittee of the Superior Community

Working Group. Using professional facilitators hired by Resolution Copper Company, the RUG was designed to resolve conflicts, make decisions that incorporated the interests and concerns of all affected users, and meet the needs of Tonto National Forest decision-makers.

Hikers, mountain bikers, equestrians, ranchers, OHV users, climbers, Town of Superior leaders and others worked together to develop a trail plan for the area South of Hwy 60 and West

of Hwy 177 to the Arizona Trail. The plan included 55 miles of trails. That plan was submitted as part of the final Resolution Copper Project Environmental Impact Statement. It is currently uncertain when the EIS might be approved and therefore when the RUG trail plan might move forward.

Having fulfilled its original mission, RUG members were discussing "RUG 2.0" or "What to do next?" when the FS proposed START (see What is START?). With START taking over the regional trail planning, RUG will reduce their meeting schedule to quarterly.

#### What is START?

The idea for the Superior Tourism and Recreation Team (START) was created on May 27 when the Tonto Recreation Staff Officer for Globe Ranger District, met with Globe District Ranger and the Mayor of Superior to get the leaders' intent for the next recreation planning project. Unlike the RUG, START will be a FS led project and Southwest Decision Resources is expected to facilitate START meetings.

The Town of Superior and the FS have mutual interests in improving recreation and tourism. The primary goals of START are tourism and supporting rural economies. Therefore, new or enhanced recreation opportunities are expected to be tied into Superior as much as possible.

During the past few years, the FS land around the town has been receiving increasing visitation. START will focus on planning recreation opportunities that increase tourism in Superior, are

sustainable, protect resources, and provide public access as well as public education. In addition, each proposed recreation opportunity will be accompanied by a maintenance plan.

The Telegraph and Mescal Fires delayed the initial START meeting which is now expected to be held in October.

For further information on RUG and START contact Elizabeth at: STARTliaison@evbch.org



#### PAM GASTON

EVBCH Public Affairs Advisor

A petition concerning Houston Mesa Horse Camp in Payson, AZ will be available to sign until Dec. 1, 2021, at Crazy Horse Saddle Shop, 1484 West Apache Trl Ste 3, Apache Junction, AZ.

The East Valley Back Country Horsemen access, and are in the Tonto National Forest in Arizona. In the northern part of this forest, there is a small community called Payson. Within the town of Payson is the Houston Mesa Campground which has trails that are located in the Tonto Forest. Currently, one campground is a regular campground and the other is a horse campground. Horsemen have been fighting for some years to have trails developed around this campground that are not accessible to OHVs but unfortunately that is not the case. The Forest Service states they are not registered trails, yet they are listed as Forest Service Trails on Maps and signage. The horse campground is not utilized much by horsemen as a result of the poor condition of the trails due to OHV use, and the lack of variety; therefore, the horse campground is now being used as overflow for regular campers. Pens are in disrepair and are disappearing. Offers to assist by East Valley Back Country Horsemen and Superstition Horsemen's Association have been ignored. There is a petition being circulated to show the USFS how many people are concerned about this situation. If you get a chance, please sign one to show your support for the continuation of this horse campground and better maintained trails.

#### From BCHA:

Horse Camps Occupied by Parties without Stock-US Forest Service Update. "BCHA coordinated a written response with the American Horse Council responding to the U.S. Forest Service draft whitepaper, "Managing Equestrian Use Sites at Developed Campgrounds." The paper includes recommended best practices for agency field personnel in order to minimize the degree to which parties without stock occupy horse camps. BCHA views the paper as a critical first step toward educating Forest Service field staff, campground hosts and visitors about the needs of equestrians and the lack of ample substitute campsites should parties without stock occupy equine campsites. The issue is a significant concern, as it prevents many backcountry horsemen and women from conducting work parties and accessing national forest trails."

Reach Pam Gaston by email: publicaffairs@evbch.org

# To pay 2022 EVBCH Membership Dues or join online there are 3 easy steps:

Go to our EVBCH website at www.EVBCH.org Select the Membership page, then click on Benefits/Join/ Renew.

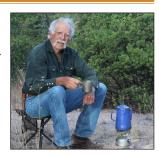
1. Complete the Hold Harmless Agreement (HHA) form below. After clicking SUBMIT, you will be taken to step 2.

Complete the Membership Application. Click SUBMIT to go to a PayPal link for step 3.

3. Select "FRIENDS AND FAMILY" option, and then pay the appropriate membership fees. DONE!

#### **BILL VICARY**

EVBCH Liaison to the Arizona Trail Association



The Arizona Trail Association (ATA) has a Trail Operations & Protection Committee, which provides guidance to the Arizona Trail Association Board and Staff on annual Trail Operations priorities, and provides input during the public comment process when projects come along that may impact the trail. This can be everything from authorization of helicopters in wilderness for wildlife monitoring to a new Forest Plan to utility lines and open pit copper mines. ATA wants a diversity of perspectives within the trail community, especially from equestrians, and reached out to EVBCH for representation last spring.

At the last committee meeting in May, the committee was split into 2 groups. One group will address the challenges of reining in the "unofficial" Trail Angels who leave water jugs and other supplies in appropriate locations along the trail. The second group split up the entire trail and was tasked with evaluating all of the water sites along the trail, ranking them from 1-4, (unreliable to reliable). The next meeting will be in November, but a date has not yet been set.

Reach Bill Vacary by email: AZTliaison@evbch.org

#### 2022 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.

Online submission of dues is prefered, however, you may also pay dues or join EVBCH by downloading and mailing the membership forms located at the bottom of the Membership page on the website.

All members should have a new HHA and updated information on file each year. Please, fill out the forms and send them along with your check to:

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



#### SHIRLEY RIGHI

#### Fundraising and Special Events Committee

Your EVBCH Fundraising Committee; Chris Larson, Shirley Sova, Sandi Ciaramitaro, Pam Gaston, Sheila Shattuck, Amy and Juan Silvestre, and Shirley Righi have worked through the summer to organize a January 2022 Festival. The committee hopes in addition to raising funds to support our work the festival will provide a time to celebrate and share our mission "To ensure that public lands remain open to all."

"The committee views the festival as a time to celebrate one another," said Shirley Righi, Committee Chair. "And it's also a wonderful opportunity for us to showcase EVBCH and share our love of horses."

#### PLANNED EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

#### • Poker Ride -

Participants will visit checkpoints where they can draw a playing card and deliver it to the scorekeeper at the end of the ride.

- Each horse group will ride 5-6 miles on well-defined park trails.
- Hikers will walk a separate well-defined park trail of 2-3 miles.
- **Silent Auction** The silent auction will have items that guests can bid on. The items will cover a range of things including, art, destination packages, gift baskets, gift certificates, and more.

50/50 Raffle- Participants can buy a ticket for a chance to win half of the money collected.

- Food Truck Extravaganza Food truck catering will allow guests to keep eating as much as they want, when they want, throughout the day. Food Trucks will also allow a variety of food choices.
- Introduction to Orienteering Orienteering is like a mounted treasure hunt, it tests the individual's horsemanship, map reading ability, and compass skills. The object is to ride as a team on a prescribed course approximately 3 miles and find the hidden Object Stations and get back to the starting point.
- Live Country Band Reigning Country

Vendors and Community Artist – Includes Iron work, Decorative Horseshoe, Leather Creations, and western wear and a variety of local artists.

- Featured Horseman Randy Helm will provide a 2-day clinic. The clinic will focus on developing a foundation and helping owners with training and routines. Randy's Clinics have been presented for the State Prison, general public and the U. S. Border Patrol. In addition, Randy has provided demonstrations for a variety of events, such as working with special needs, military and law enforcement with PTSD, charitable organizations, and government organizations on training wild horses.
- **Sunday Services** Randy will join Buckboard Ministries to provide Sunday worship services.

Once Liability Insurance is secured the EVBCH Festival will take place January 29th and 30th 2022 at the Apache Junction Rodeo Grounds. We need volunteers to help with the activities! To volunteer, get a full schedule and more information on the festival contact Shirley Righi at:

srighi76@gmail.com or text (602) 931-0929.



Come on out and help with the Water User's Parking Area Cleanup. This year, the Water User's Parking Area Cleanup will be held on Monday, December 6, 2021 from 10:00 a.m – 12:00 p.m. immediately followed by the Work Party BBQ hosted by the Fundraising and Special Events Committee.

Although not a trail, Water User's Parking Area is one of the 14 trails in EVBCH's Forest Service (FS) Agreement. Sacks and grabbers will be provided, but participating members should bring gloves and extra grabbers, if they have them. In the past, EVBCH was not only responsible for keeping the parking area clean, but also held responsibility for weekly upkeep and cleaning of the restrooms. Fortunately, the Forest Service contracted out this service and put EVBCH out of latrine duty.

ALL EVBCH members, whether participating in the cleanup or not, are invited to the post-cleanup BBQ. Shirley Righi will set up her LQ trailer again, and the Special Events Committee will be serving morning coffee and snacks, and a gourmet noon meal.

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

#### ROY ALISOGLU EVBCH Pack Committee



EVBCH partners with many agencies and organizations that might call on us for pack support. Already this year we have had inquiries about pack support for later in the spring. This support might include packing in equipment, water and supplies for work crews, hauling trash and other debris out of the desert, or carrying signs and equipment to mark trails. The Pack Committee is looking for members who would like to be on call to help with pack projects as they arise. The committee also needs members who are experienced with packing to help with demonstrations and pack clinics, plus we will need riders and pack stock to showcase during the Lost Dutchman Days Parade.

If you would like to be a part of the Pack Committee, and/or have stock for packing, please contact Roy Alisoglu, Trails Committee Chairperson, at trails@evbch.org.

Top photo L to R: Bill Schroeder, Juanita Gibney and Pam Cowtan heading into the Superstitions to haul out an abandoned camp for the Forest Service.

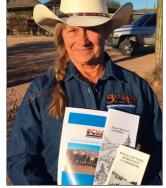
Lower photo: Tom Colbert (right) and Derrick Higdon (left) at EVBCH's Pack Clinic 2019

#### Leave No Trace

(LNT) was created by the U.S. Forest Service in the 1960's, when

recreation on public lands increased significantly, with a corresponding level of damage to these wild places. Then in the early 1990s, the Forest Service

worked with the National School develop to based minimum impact motorized recreational encourage, and solicit in the wise and back country resources the general public. This for the BCHA LNT Stock Program. The BCHA Board we become the primary in LNT principles and



Outdoor Leadership hands-on, science-education for non-activities. Toeducate, active participation sustaining use of the by horsemen and statement is the basis Users Education has directed that trainer of stock users practices nationally.

The program is a partnership between BCHA, State and Affiliate Members, the U.S. Forest Service and LNT Inc. BCHA coordinates, manages, and monitors the program in cooperation with State and Affiliate memberships. Qualified BCH members are selected to become LNT Master Educators.



#### NOVEMBER SAFETY TIP by Steve McClintock

The local Police and Sheriff's Departments have asked EVBCH to encourage all horse riders to carry I.D. and phone numbers on their person as well as on their horse. The telephone number on the horse should be the stable or spouse, not the rider. The horse's name is also very useful. Some riders have bridle I.D.s, while others prefer Velcro bands — placed just above the horse's hoof — that wear well and are easy to use. EVBCH's Membership Committee has these velcro bands for sale in many colors at a cost of \$3.00 each.

The bands will be available for sale at our next General Meeting at the Multi-Generational Center Rm. 114, Tuesday, November 9, 6:30 pm, followed at 7:00 by the guest speaker, Charlie Goff from S.A.L.T.

In addition, it is useful to carry a medical card on your person as this will help first responders to more quickly assess any medical situation.

These medical cards are on the EVBCH website evbch.org under the Trails section and can be downloaded.



# **East Valley Chapter JANUARY ELECTION**

by EVBCH President, Mreen Helm

To vote in the January election for Officers and Board Members, dues for 2022 must be paid on or before January 1.

In addition, anyone running for an Officer or Director position must pay dues on or before January 1, to qualify as a candidate.

Remember, dues can be paid online, and membership forms can be downloaded (to mail in or bring to a general meeting) through EVBCH's website under the Membership section. www.evbch.org

#### Valued members, East Valley Back Country Horsemen needs you.

As an organization, we must always be mindful of sustainability, and put thoughtful effort into succession planning. In January, we will have  $\frac{1}{2}$  of our Board positions up for re-election, and we will have at least 1 or more vacancies to fill. We already know Voting Board Member, Tess Stransky will be moving away, plus the Vice President position might still be vacant.

# Please consider taking your membership and involvement to the next level by running for a Board position.

Marj Christensen (marj@evbch.org) and Roy Alisoglu (trails@evbch.org) are on the Nominating Committee and will be accepting official nominations. Please submit all nominations along with a brief bio and clear photo by December 26, 2021.

# The following 2-year Board positions with terms ending in 2024 are up for re-election or will be vacant and need filled:

**Vice President** ~ currently vacant, \*Membership & Retention Committee Chairperson

**Secretary** ~ currently held by Karen Otterstein

 $\textbf{Voting Board Member} \sim \text{will be vacant, currently held by Tess Stransky, *Education Committee Chairperson}$ 

**Alternate Board Member** ~ currently held by Shirley Righi, \*Fundraising and Special Events Chairperson

\*Committee designations are secondary and can be delegated to other EVBCH members.

#### Board positions with terms ending January 2023:

President: Mreen Helm Treasurer: Chip Wilson

Voting Board Member: Roy Alisoglu, \*Trails and Pack Committee chairperson

Voting Board Member: Marj Christensen, \*EVBCH membership list