

SUPERSTITION HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Pony Tracks

www.sha4u.org

sha4horses@gmail.com



facebook.com/superstitionhorsemensassociation

October 2021

Vol. 41 No. 1

Hi SHA Members,

On November 6th, at the home of Shirley Righi, SHA is hosting a Cornhole Tournament with prize money and a Shirley Surprise Breaking of Bread Dinner following the tournament and an ice cream bar for dessert. There are currently 7 teams signed up. The Tournament will be Round Robin...everyone plays everyone...and courts are rotated. At the end of the Tournament, the team with the most wins earns \$25 a piece, second place is \$15 a piece and third place is \$5 a piece. The Tournament begins at 3:30 pm and will last until it ends which is generally about 5 pm. You will need your tennis shoes, your sunglasses, your hat your wat or drink and a willingness to laugh and have fun. Rounds will last ten minutes. Whoever is ahead when the 10-minute whistle blows, wins that round if they are ahead.

Spectators are welcome and if you are interested in coming to his event, playing or not, please send me your name by email to rrr97w@msn.com so we know to expect you.

We hope to see you there!!

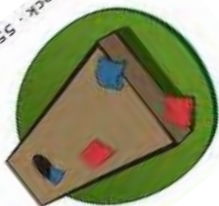
Take care,
Pam
Vice-Chair, SHA
602-320-3185
rrr97w@msn.com



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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Darryl Cross (602) 820-9583
rktmn@netzero.net

Vice Chairman

Pam Gaston (602) 320-3185
rrr97w@msn.com

Treasurer

Jeanne Kennedy (480) 396-2534
jrkepa@gmail.com

Secretary

Shirley Righi (602) 931-0929
srighi12@hotmail.com

Membership Chair

Barb Houck (480) 474-8976
bghouck@live.com

Director-at-Large

Bob Diroff (419) 266-2638
rdiroff@gmail.com

Director-at-Large

Jackie Cross (480) 907-4791
KnowledgeRoom402@gmail.com

Director-at-Large

Peggy Wilson (602) 510-9398
walterchip@aol.com

Remember:

The board meets at 7:00 p.m. the first Wednesday of every month at Breakfast at Tina's on North Apache Trail next to the Hitching Post Saloon.

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Political

Darryl Cross (602) 820-9583
rktmn@netzero.net

Equine Welfare

Jeff Watson (480) 628-6454 or
Chip Wilson (602) 361-6135
walterchip@aol.com

Bylaws, Rules, and Conduct

Chip Wilson (602) 361-6135

SHA Store

Ann Adkins (641) 990-1664
amadkins1148@gmail.com

Parade

Pam Gaston (602) 320-3185 rrr97w@msn.com

Historian

Connie Cazier

Road Cleanup

Cathy Diroff

Program Director

Sheila Shattuck (317) 374-4601



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November 6th Road Clean-up

It's that time again and we will be having our fall adopt-a-road clean-up on Saturday, November 6th. We will meet at the AJ rodeo grounds on Lost Dutchman Rd. at 8am. As usual we will provide coffee, donuts and water. The city provides us with vests, gloves, bags and pickers. We'll break up into groups and pick up trash between Idaho Rd. and the Apache Trail. With lots of volunteers we are usually done within an hour. Look forward to seeing you there.

Submitted by Cathy Diroff

MEMBERSHIP REPORT

Submitted By: Barb Houck

Membership renewal time! October 1 always begins our new fiscal year, and we're hoping our current membership will continue their support of the western lifestyle here in our community. Over the last 40+ years SHA has been instrumental in establishing the current conditions favorable to horse ownership here, and your support is always important in that endeavor. And besides, our horse activities and get-togethers are fun, and make for enjoyable and educational times with like-minded individuals.

Currently, we count 37 renewals, including 45 individual members. And we'd like to introduce our latest new members: Kym Rappert, Maggie Stewart, and Phil Fedor. Welcome to SHA! We look forward to meeting you.

Hi SHA Member,

The petition concerning Houston Mesa Horse Camp in Payson, AZ will be available to sign from Oct 13 - Dec. 1, 2021, at Crazy Horse Saddle Shop, 1484 West Apache Trail Ste 3, Apache Junction, AZ.

Here is some information about Houston Mesa and its on going problems with appropriate trails. This is an on going problem and any SHA Board Member has a petition. Please read below:

In a small community 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 in the Tonto Forest. Currently, one campground was a regular campground and the other was 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 horse campground is not used very much by horsemen because the trails are in such disrepair from OHV traffic. The Forest Service states they are not registered trails, yet they are listed as Forest Service Trails on Maps and signage. The campground is not utilized much by horsemen because of the poor condition of the trails and the lack of variety; therefore, the campground is now being used as overflow for regular campers. Pens are in disrepair and are disappearing and offers to assist by EVBCH and SHA 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.

Happy Trails!!
SHA

**The Superstition Horsemen's
Association Board Meeting
Minutes for October 6, 2021**

**SHA BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF
OCTOBER 6TH, 2021**

Due to the Corona Virus Pandemic, the SHA Board Meeting was held via ZOOM and in person at Breakfast at Tinas. The meeting started at 7:05 pm. Board Members of SHA who were present were: Darryl Cross, Pam Gaston, Barbara Houck, Bob Diroff, Jackie Cross, Jeanne Kennedy, Peggy Wilson and Shirley Righi. Other members who were present were: Tom Tuft, Mo from the Hitching Post, Roger Luth and Sheila Shattuck, Program Director and Chip Wilson for Equine Welfare and Political Committee Maggie Stewart, Bev Dougherty and Cathy Diroff. Ann Adkins was absent SHA Store Director, and we currently have no Historian.

SECRETARY – The Secretary's minutes from September were approved. Pam Gaston made a motion for them to be accepted and Peggy Wilson seconded the motion. All were in favor.

TREASURER – Expenses for September in total were \$17.40 out. This was the \$17.40 for the Pony Tracks. The total of the checking account is \$2552.02. Equine Welfare has \$1301.19.

MEMBERSHIP – Barb Houck reported there are thirty-one memberships and thirty-nine members.

Political – Chip Wilson stated at the City Council they annexed a historical piece of property of 6,000 acres. There are two parcels....one is for 10,000 homes and businesses and one is still owned by State Land for a potential of additional sales. This could be business opportunities and residential. It is a controlled growth for part of the community, and it will not affect the Northern or Eastern part of the community. The voters approved this.

EQUINE WELFARE – No calls this last month. There was a call from Animal Control

regarding shades and pen size of which there is no regulation.

PARADE – There will be a Veteran's Day Parade and SHA will ride in it on November 11th in Apache Junction. The SHA Parade Unit will ride in full uniform and thus far eight riders will represent SHA. There will be two practices before the parade. One practice will be on the 28th of October behind the AJ Rodeo Grounds in the back parking lot. The lot will open at 3 pm and practice will start at 4 pm. Practice will be over at 5 pm. The same will happen on November 4th. Practice is not in uniform. The day of the parade we will meet at 7:30 am. The place where we will stage is yet to be determined.

SHA STORE – Ann is at a horse ride, but she stated prices have been removed from the Pony Tracks because the cost of items has increased.

PROGRAM DIRECTOR – Sheila Shattuck stated the campout is not going to make it due to the Forest Service cancelled the registration for the Group Fox site. This caused the musician to cancel and so we decided the way the weather is going that we need to cancel the campout. It has been decided we are going to have a day ride that day at Millside Canyon/Hewitt Station. Chris Larson and Shirley Righi said they would pre-ride it and lead it as well. This would happen on October 30th. Also, petitions are being circulated and Bev Dougherty has sixty signatures regarding the Houston Mesa Campground and the trails. There will be petitions at Paula's Crazy Horse for people to sign.

Road Clean up – On November 6, we will have a road cleanup at 8 am sharp. We supply the pickers, bags and gloves plus coffee and donuts, and you supply the energy, grit and determination to keep our area clean. We will meet at the west end of the rodeo grounds by the gate. Remember, the more we have working, the faster we get done.

OLD BUSINESS

Pony Tracks – Bob Diroff stated we need 150 copies for the Pony Tracks. Paula Childo Smith is going to put a flyer in the Pony Tracks for her annual sale in November.

Elections – The current SHA Board has been re-elected. A Big congratulations to all the folks that took such an interest and committed to SHA. Sheila Shattuck will be the substitute

Membership Application – We will include the SHA Membership Application in this month's Pony Tracks. On October 1st, everyone's membership must be renewed for the new season. The outlook for this season is exciting-please renew.

Pony Express – Darryl will be meeting with several folks that have created and administered several Pony Express rides. Darryl will be meeting with them at 6 pm tomorrow evening.

Horse Accident – The Safety Campaign is off and running as Darryl shows the group some wrist bands who glow with led lights....12 inches long and an inch and a half wide. They have rechargeable batteries. Darryl is going to take some screen shots of them and send them to the Board. Discussion ensued. We decided to make it "ride safe" for the campaign logo. Safety awareness for getting lights and signage in front of the Hitching Post to ADOT would be marvelous. We need riders on horseback so we can take some photos and video. Sheila Shattuck suggested doing a trail ride. Darryl Cross suggested it needed to happen quickly so perhaps this coming Saturday. Tom Tuft has volunteered as well as Shirley Righi and several others to do this task.

NEW BUSINESS

Musical Concert – Notable Exceptions has been booked on the 11th of February for a musical concert. Sheila Shattuck spoke about having a dinner special for that Saturday since it is close to Valentine's Day. Discussion ensued. The concert venue has not been confirmed.

November Doings – Some suggestions were made for the Christmas Party such as a Chuck Wagon and a Trail Ride with a donation to the needy. Discussion ensued. Also November is a busy month so it was suggested that some folks might be interested in a Corn Hole Tournament and an Ice Cream Social. Pam Gaston is going to send out an email blast for the 6th of November doings to see if people are interested.

Pam Gaston made a motion for the meeting to be adjourned. Bob Diroff seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

SHA Store

Jackets for sale and long-sleeved denim shirts on hand, t shirts too. Ann

Adkins amadkins1148@gmail.com.



Place your orders early before the riding season so you can show off your support everywhere you go! Nice gift too.

SHOUT OUT

Thank you to Connie Cazier, a former Board member for many years, stepping in to take on the role of HISTORIAN for SHA. Connie put together many of our display boards we still use with all the various pictures of events that SHA has done. Connie will be a perfect addition to this position, and the Board thanks her for taking on this task. We are glad to have you back in action again Connie and appreciate everything you do!

The SHA Board

PONY EXPRESS UPDATE

Our Chairman, Darryl Cross and member Phil Fedor drove the route for the Pony Express to be taken on March 5th, 2022. We are working on applications for interested parties to fill out and proceed to fill in the links/miles for riders to take. Darryl spoke to the owners of Tortilla Flat facility there in the tiny town, and they are ecstatic to have their location as one of the passes of the satchels carrying the mail!

There are a few other things being set up now with all riders coming together at the Superstition Mountain Museum and riding the last leg together down to the Hitching Post Saloon and Cantina for the final pass of the Mailbags to our Postmaster of Apache Junction. We are hoping to set up a gathering either at the Rodeo Grounds, or Prospector Park for anyone that wants to ride then across desert to one of these locations that is determined to have a dinner or form of gathering to highlight the days event.

We have additional persons interested in assisting with the set up and making the arrangements with the different places on the route. So, we look forward to all the festivities leading up to this inaugural ride that we hope to establish and do every year in honoring the Western Lifestyle that SHA promotes and maintains with our Equine friends!

WHY WE NEED TO WEAR REFLECTORS

Last month, here in Apache Junction, a horse and rider were hit by a motor vehicle. The rider was severely injured with a multiple broken bones including her back. Fortunately, her spine was not severed, and she will walk again. The horse she was riding did not fare so well. He was killed on impact.

I need not go into details of the horrific seen. Trust me, it was bad. On behalf of SHA, we offer our condolences to the horse owner and pray for a speedy and healthy recovery of the rider.

Being at the scene of this accident and helping with the aftermath it was quickly apparent a couple major issues were noted. First, the area in which the riders were crossing the rode was not marked as a trail crossing. Second, neither rider nor the horse had any reflective material or lights for riding at night. (Accident occurred around 8:30 pm)

My understanding is the driver of the car was taken into custody for DUI of prescription drugs and other possible charges. It has also been stated that the driver may not have had his lights on. (His parking lights were on when I arrived on scene) My thoughts are; might he have seen the rider if the horse had a small blinking tail or saddle light on?

With that said, I would like to announce a safety campaign promoted by SHA to get every rider here in Apache Junction a set of reflective bands to place on their horse along with a flashing light. There are a lot of riders that like to ride at night, and I encourage them to wear reflective equipment. This equipment will be small enough to fit into any horn bag or cantele bag for regular use or the occasional emergency when you get caught out after dark. I will also get with the city to make sure all crossings are marked with proper signage.

To help kick off this campaign on a financial note, I am pledging to personally donate \$100.00 for the above-mentioned equipment. If you would like to donate, please let me know or mail a check to SHA.

Please Everyone, always ride safe and be seen.
Safe trails,
Darryl Cross
Chairman, SHA

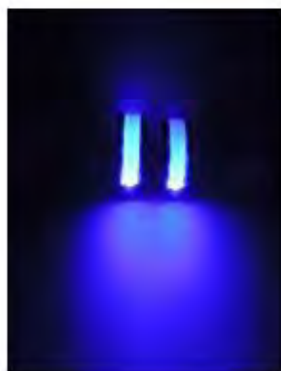
New Year – New Advertising

YOUR AD COULD BE HERE! The New Year for the Pony Tracks starts in October. If you would like to take out a business card size ad for the upcoming year, please go to sha4u.org and we now have PayPal option to pay for this. It is only \$75.00 for the entire year, and it is seen both in print on newsstands but also online on our website!

SHA SAFETY CAMPAIGN



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IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

TRAIL RIDES –

November – to be determined



PARADES – November 11th Veteran's Day and December Light Parade

SPECIAL EVENTS – Road Clean -Up November 6th Corn Hole Tournament November 6th

UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: November 3rd, December 1st, January 5th, 2022, February 2nd, March 2nd, April 6th, May 4th and June 1st. The Board meets promptly at 7pm. anyone is welcomed to attend either in person or online via ZOOM and hear what they are working on and planning for the yearly events. You may volunteer to assist with upcoming events or be part of a planning committee! In person meetings are being held at Breakfast at Tina's next to the Hitching Post Saloon in Apache Junction.

NOTE: DUE TO COVID – 19, ALL MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE BY ZOOM UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. PLEASE CONTACT THE CHAIRMAN PRIOR TO THE MEETING IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE CONNECTED IN THE ZOOM BOARD MEETINGS EACH MONTH TO LISTEN IN TO THE BOARDS DISCUSSION OF OLD AND NEW BUSINESS. IF YOU DO CONNECT, PLEASE MUTE YOUR MIC.

Superstition Horsemen's Association, Inc.

P O Box 2120

Apache Junction, Arizona 85117

www.sha4u.org

