



SUPERSTITION HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Pony Tracks

 www.SHA4U.org

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APRIL 2025

ISSUE 7 — VOLUME 44

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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Darryl Cross
(602) 820-9583

Vice Chairman

Sheila Shattuck

Treasurer

Jeanne Kennedy

Secretary

Pam Gaston

Membership Chair

Jan Kramer

Director-at-Large

Peggy Wilson

Lisa Rogers

Judy Hood



SHA4HORSES@gmail.com

BOARD MEETINGS:

First Wednesday of every month at 7PM
at "BREAKFAST AT TINA'S"
on N. Apache Trail
next to Hitching Post Saloon

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Political - Darryl Cross

Equine Welfare

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

Bylaws, Rules, and Conduct

Chip Wilson

SHA Store - Ann Adkins

Parade - Liz Eason

AJ Rodeo Grounds - Jeff Watson

Road Cleanup - Roger Luth

Program Director - Sheila Shattuck

Editor - Lisa Rogers

SHAPonyTracks@yahoo.com

TO ALL EQUESTRIANS WHO LIVE HERE OR VISIT AND RIDE IN ARIZONA !!

By Chip Wilson

This means every corner of the state -- the motorized bikes are coming for your quiet trails. ALL land managers will look at this plan, and public comments and most likely will fold and allow e-bikes. **This will be a tragedy for equestrians.** Some other states have folded already. We can't let this happen in Arizona.

This proposed State Trails plan will be for the next 10 years (not 5) and once released at end of June, will be a primer for every land agency.

It is 142 pages long. You can scroll down thru all pages or look at these pages: 1 thru 14 , pages 23, 32, 38, 53, 62, 103. [Click here to review full draft.](#)

We have been on this committee for 2 years and a couple of us have been fighting to keep motorized devices off our back country trails. This is so critical if we don't let them know NO e-bikes on our trails -- or they will allow Level 1 e-bikes -- and that only opens the flood gates for level 2, & 3 that have throttles and any motorized device that comes down the pike. They already have e-trail motorcycles. I know a past president of a mountain bike group in Tucson that is totally opposed to e-bikes on back country trails -- he was once run off the trail by one. We think allowing motorized travel on our back country trails will end up with injury or death for horse or rider.

They claim "**they are here to stay**" --- a bad statement, the homeless camps are here to stay? Do we do nothing about those? So, let's give them hundreds of comments.

I am counting on all of you. Please do this now before you forget.

The 2025 Arizona Trails Plan is now available at azstateparks.com/2025-trails-plan for public comment!!!! Their website shows: Feedback will be accepted through April 10, 2025 at 5 p.m.

Please send comments to email: TrailsPlan@AZStateparks.gov

Thank you to all!



SHA Board Meeting Minutes of April 2, 2025

The SHA Board Meeting was held at Tina's on Wednesday, April 2nd, 2025 at 7PM. Board members present were Pam Gaston, Judy Hood, Jeanne Kennedy, Lisa Rogers, Peggy Wilson, Sheila Shattuck, Jan Kramer and Darryl Cross. Other SHA members were Chip Wilson, Bob Diroff, Barb Houck, Ed Kramer, Vinnie Mendes, and Roger Luth. John Mack was present and was a presenter.

The following are "Consent Minutes and Agenda" for the upcoming meeting. Things that have an asterisk were not discussed at the meeting. Order of business was to approve the minutes of the last meeting and then a motion was made by Pam Gaston for the Consent Agenda to be accepted, Sheila Shattuck seconded it. All were in favor.

- * **SECRETARY** – The Secretary's minutes from March were approved online. Pam Gaston made a motion for the minutes to be accepted, and Sheila Shattuck seconded it. All were in favor.
- * **TREASURER** – The checking account has \$8240.19. The Equine Welfare Account has \$3297.99. There was the AJ Business license for \$50, AZ Trails Membership for \$104.10, Zelle to Lisa Rogers for the

Pony Tracks for \$200.64, stamps is \$36.50, Zelle to Pam Gaston for \$1,620 for horse training, Pony Express Placards \$68.57, stamps for Pony Express Stamps is \$280 to Sheila Shattuck, Zelle to Sheila Shattuck for \$448.59 for Divine Signs for Canopy and Zelle to Sheila Shattuck for black plastic frame for Pony Express \$310.86 were the expenses. Credits are \$40 from AZ Cowgirls for Christ for memberships for Randy Helm and Brandon Paul was \$40. The balance is \$8240.19.

- * **MEMBERSHIP** – Jan Kramer sent a report. There were forty-six individuals and thirty-seven families plus five honorary memberships. This equals one hundred and twenty-five members in SHA thus far this season.

- **POLITICAL** – Chip Wilson wanted to bring up from the AZ Horse Council.

EQUESTRIAN CALL TO ACTION !!!

Chip Wilson wanted to call this to our attention.

Just wanted to bring this up again and now is the time to make comments and the more we get in against this will be better. Also make sure everyone states that the electric bikes are quiet and the horse is a prettier animal and will run when they are spooked by a movement that makes no sound. This will lead to possible injury to the rider or riders in the area. The council is pushing for as many comments as possible.

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Board Meeting Notes

Continued from Page 2...

I am counting on all of you. Please do this now before you forget. Thank you all.

The 2025 Arizona Trails Plan is now available at azstateparks.com/2025-trails-plan for public comment!!!!

Comment to email:
TrailsPlan@AZStateparks.gov

Thank you. Please forward this to your horsey friends!

- * **EQUINE WELFARE** – The rescue horses are now in fosters for adoption. Dude, Believe and Bliss are happy and doing well in separate homes in different cities and are being nurtured and loved.
- * **PARADE** – Nothing for parades – next parade is November 11, 2025.
- * **STORE DIRECTOR** - Nothing to report.
- * **PROGRAM DIRECTOR** – There is a Trail Ride at Prospector Park this Saturday on April 5th. We will have sub sandwiches and chips and water after the ride. Pam Gaston made a motion to set aside up to \$200 for the cost of the sandwiches/chips and Sheila seconded. All were in favor.
- **PONY EXPRESS** - We had a successful year with the Pony Express. We sold just under 1000 postcards. Approximately 970 were sold as a total. Darryl Cross read a great thank you letter from Thom Parker. Looking to the future of our Pony Express, the Postmaster General would like to ride next year, and Darryl Cross will make him the honorary rider.

There was some conversation about riding from Superior next year. Discussion ensued. The discussion also was about making every rider more engaged by selling ten postcards per each rider and a sponsor placard. Also, a scholarship for a high school student was mentioned to engage folks more, so they are excited about the outcome. Discussion ensued. Our sponsor totals this year were \$1525.00 and there were fifteen of them.

OLD BUSINESS

- * **PONY TRACKS** - Lisa Rogers stated we need 250 copies for the Pony Tracks.

NEW BUSINESS

- **KATHLEEN CHAMBERLAIN – Contract with Salt River Horses that will be presented by John Mack.**

What is happening at the river with the Salt River Wild Horses is not being managed well. John Mack is a Historian and an Author and worked in the non-profit world with 501c3 entities. Financial irregularities and lack of transparency are part of the problem. John has spent time with the Audubon and several other agencies and the area around the river is a mess from too many horses in too small of a space. There are 150 horses behind the Salt River Management Facility, and they are being fed premium alfalfa. These horses are not wild horses but rather feral horses and are reservation horses that have been released.

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Membership NEWS

April 2025

Submitted By: Jan Kramer
Membership Chair

April Membership Update...

Here are our latest membership numbers:

125 total members

- ♦ Single - 46
- ♦ Family - 37
- ♦ Honorary - 5

Thank you to all our members for your continued support. If you have any membership questions or concerns, please email me at: imareadertika@icloud.com

SUPERSTITION HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

Membership

**Please join
or renew today!**

SHA Membership Year
OCT 1, 2024— SEPT 30, 2025

SINGLE membership
only \$20.00

FAMILY membership
only \$30.00



Board Meeting Notes

Continued from Page 3...

Here are the problems:

- ♦ **Lack of transparency and Public Oversight**
- ♦ **Financial Accountability Issues**
- ♦ **Environmental Destruction**
- ♦ **Threats to Long-Term Sustainability**

The contract for this organization is coming to an end. The call for bids on the contract is open to everyone and has to be filled by May. John stated this has not been done before and now is open to the public. The Management Group for Salt River Horses is the only group that gives out information which is false and untrue. The Department of Agriculture is strictly responsible for information given to them by the Foundation which is false as well. The ADA says there are 293 horses in the Salt River Horse group, but there really are over 400 horses that are tucked away on paper. Discussion ensued.

Darryl Cross asked John Mack if he had a Plan of Action.

John Mack responded that putting in a bid would be helpful. Discussion ensued. One of the ideas would be to get the horses adopted so the herd would go down to 50 to 75 altogether. Discussion ensued.

The truth needs to be put out to the public and a website needs to be created about the unscrupulous behavior of the Salt River Horse Foundation. Salt River Horses exposing the truth is currently a Facebook page.

Prjmack1@yahoo.com is John Mack's email address if you have any questions, ideas or thoughts.

• **CHIP WILSON – E-Bikes**

Nationally it is proposed to let a type 1 E-Bike on trails where there are horses and hikers. This is a problem for horses because they are prey animals and often, they spook at something going that fast and silently comes into the horse's area suddenly. This is out there for all trails in Arizona. All members need to write comments and let the state know that it is dangerous for E-bikes on back country trails and they should not be allowed.

• **TRAIL RIDE – THIS SATURDAY**

There will be an hour and a half to two-hour ride that begins with coffee and donuts at 9 am and the ride will leave at 10 am at Prospector Park. There will be a "build your own sandwich" at the end.

- * **ROAD CLEAN UP** - The road cleanup was a success and there will be another in the fall.

Pam Gaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheila Shattuck seconded the motion.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 pm.



THIRD SHA MEMBERSHIP MEETING was on WED, MARCH 19, 2025

By Pam Gaston

The meeting was held in room 117 of the Multi-Gen Center, on Wednesday, March 19, 2025. There were twenty-five people in attendance and the meeting began at 7 pm.

Welcome – Pam Gaston

Pledge of Allegiance – Pam Gaston

Introduction of Phil Staley – Pam Gaston

PHIL STALEY



Phil Staley talked about Apache Land, an old-time western set in Gold Canyon once upon a time. Most westerns made in the forties were filmed in Tucson with shows like Little House on the Prairie and Gunsmoke. Then a movie called "Arizona" was filmed and people began to search for a place to film westerns. The Arizona Motion Picture Studio bought an area where Apache Land was built in what is now Gold Canyon. The first show was "Have Gun-Will Travel." After that they sold the land several times and the last time it was sold for \$36,000. The actors came to Apache Junction and stayed at the Grand Hotel.

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THIRD SHA MEMBERSHIP MEETING

Continued from Page 4...

Michael Dante was often cast as a Native American, but he was Italian and from Connecticut. Audie Murphy was also in many movies and was here quite often. The barn that is at the Superstition Mountain Museum was in all 110 films that were shot there. Gunsmoke did a lot of things on the sound stage but filmed in Tucson. **Death Valley Days came next, and Ronald Regan saved it and made it very popular.** Next was Elvis Presley who filmed Charro, which features the Chapel at the Superstition Mountain Museum. It was the only film where Elvis had a beard and did not sing in the show although the theme song was sung by him. The Ballad of Cable Hogue was next. On May 12, 1969, Apache Land had eight buildings burn with \$600,000 in losses. Local ranchers came out and helped to rebuild the set and then came The Virginian and Little House on the Prairie. Due to poor attendance in westerns, Apache Land was shut down and it reopened in 1973.

Kenny Rogers and Linda Evans did the second sequel of The Gambler. Blind Justice followed in 1994 and then the set was closed. Ed and Sue Birmingham bought the set and by 2004 they were running a Steak House and there were little to no visitors on the set. On February 14, 2004, sparing only the Elvis chapel, the Barn and The Gallows, another fire burned Apache Land to the ground and there was \$500,000 of damage. They never rebuilt. The Church, the Barn and the Gallows were all that survived both fires. Those buildings are still at the Superstition Mountain Museum.

By the way, John Wayne never worked at Apache Land, but he did emulate Wyatt Earp as he was the grip on the set in California and became a cowboy with Wyatt's guidance.

TOMMYE STALEY

Tommye Staley talked to us about Arkansas and about the photos in her new book. She lived close to James Arness in Hawaii and often



his son would swim in her pool. She was often introduced to folks as a "country cousin" by her city folk cousin and she often felt that God led her to certain parts of her life without her realizing. Her horse, Flick, knew her so well that she often rode her without a saddle and a bridle. Tommye loved to barrel race, and she used her dad's wild horse to do this. He would practically drag his butt around the barrels. Tommye's horse, Flick, also hated to go across the wooden bridge and often danced across it. These are just some of the stories in her new book. **The name of her new book is "Jumping on Snakes," and it costs \$20.**

Pam Gaston gave cards to the Staley's for their time and trouble and their lovely presentations.

Pam Gaston had two raffle drawings. Jeff Watson won a small knife with a key chain and the other winner was Roger Luth who won \$20.



DARRYL CROSS -CHAIRMAN

Darryl Cross talked about Pony Express.

He spoke about the great post card sales that peaked at one thousand cards. He also mentioned this year the ground crew were given new yellow polo shirts. Every rider got a nice Pocket knife with engraving on it. It was a successful event.

He also talked about Thom Parker, who was the honor rider. He is from the Police

Department of AJ, and he rode the first leg from The AJ City Hall. Thom Parker wrote SHA a marvelous thank you note for the experience, and he put together a song with his beautiful thank you letter. We also had a marvelous Public Service Announcement that was put together and aired on the internet. Thom Parker assisted with that, and it was a tremendous success.

Pam Gaston drew two more raffle tickets and Sally Poklen won a scarf and Kirk Kennedy won a nice knife in a pouch.

Thanks were said to Bob Diroff who brought the water and to Lisa Rogers for her help in setting up.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:12 and we filled up on Subway cookies.



**SHA members only trail ride
was Saturday, April 5th**

By Sharna Watson

The day began with cinnamon rolls and coffee, then 12 riders left Prospector Park for a nice ride. Upon returning to the staging area, riders enjoyed a lunch with a "sandwich bar" of various breads, lunch meat, cheese and all the fixings to make themselves a delicious sandwich. Chips and water were also provided. Everyone enjoyed relaxing and visiting with friends before leaving for home. **The weather provided us with a perfect day, the horses and mules all behaved wonderfully and we even welcomed a new member.**



*Thank you Sharna & Jeff
~ from SHA members*



Calendar

of Events



EQUESTRIAN CALL TO ACTION !!!

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AZCowgirls4Christ.com - 1Cor:13

COWBOY CHURCH - Every Sunday @ 10 AM

Services are held at the Superstition Mountain Museum

See *Arizona Cowgirls for Christ* website and Facebook for schedule

Website: AZCowgirls4Christ.com

Facebook: [click on this link](#)

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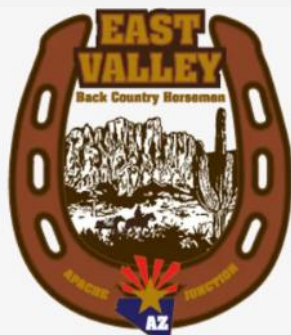
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Important Dates to Remember



- **UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: MAY 7, JUN 4 & JUL 2.** 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: ALL BOARD MEETINGS WILL TAKE PLACE BY ZOOM & IN PERSON. 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



Use your smart phone camera
and scan this QR Code to take
you directly to SHA website!