



# SUPERSTITION HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

## Pony Tracks

www.SHA4U.org

Facebook.com/SHAofArizona

FEBRUARY 2026

ISSUE 5 — VOLUME 45

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### Chairman

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

Roger Luth

 [SHA4HORSES@gmail.com](mailto:SHA4HORSES@gmail.com)

### BOARD MEETINGS:

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

### 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** - Open Position

**Parade** - Liz Eason

**AJ Rodeo Grounds** - Jeff Watson

**Road Cleanup** - Roger Luth

**Program Director** - Sheila Shattuck

**Trail Ride Committee** - Jeff Watson

**Editor** - Lisa Rogers

[SHAPonyTracks@yahoo.com](mailto:SHAPonyTracks@yahoo.com)

## 5th Annual - SHA Pony Express Saturday, March 7th, 2026

Superstition Horsemen's Association, in conjunction with the Hitching Post Saloon proudly presents the 5th Annual Pony Express here in Apache Junction on Saturday, March 7th, 2026.

Come on out and watch the riders carry the mail as a reenactment of the original Pony Express. Riders will carry post cards that can be purchased at the Hitching Post Saloon, Paula's Crazy Horse Saddle Shop, the Superstition Mountain Museum, the Lost Dutchman Days rodeo - SHA booth, and from a Pony Express rider. Post cards are \$5 each. You provide the address and a short note to your loved one. We will provide the postage to anywhere in the world. Then, your postcard will be carried throughout Apache Junction by horseback and delivered to the Post Master at the Hitching Post Saloon. From there, it gets delivered to the address on the post card by normal methods.

The Map is the route the riders will take with the first leg starting at City Hall at 10 am, and the last leg ending at the Hitching Post Saloon.

Please visit our Website and Facebook to see more details including Route Map and exact locations for Hand-offs and approximate times.

[SHA4U.ORG](http://SHA4U.ORG)

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHAofArizona](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHAofArizona)

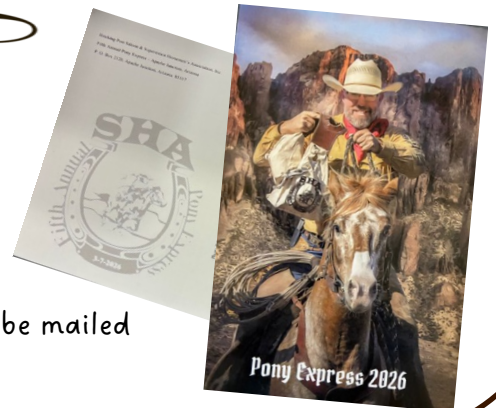
Proceeds from the sale of these cards will benefit SHA and its Equine Welfare program, Cowboys for Kids (501c3) and other local charities.

**Come on out and cheer on the riders as they ride throughout AJ helping to keep the spirit of the West alive and Strong in Apache Junction!**

**BUY A POSTCARD  
to be CARRIED BY  
HORSEBACK**

*Only \$5 each*

\* Price includes postage and will be mailed anywhere in the world!





## SHA Board Meeting Minutes of February 4, 2026

**The SHA Board Meeting was held at Tina's on Wednesday, February 4th, at 7:01 pm.** Board members present were Sheila Shattuck, Peggy Wilson, Roger Luth, Lisa Rogers, Darryl Cross, Judy Hood and Pam Gaston. Jan Kramer and Jeanne Kennedy were on ZOOM. Other SHA members were Chip Wilson, Bev Dougherty, Bob Diroff, Sharna Watson, Jeff Watson, Kim Luth and Cathy Diroff.

- **SECRETARY** – The Secretary's minutes from January were approved. Pam Gaston made a motion for the minutes to be accepted, and Roger Luth seconded it. All were in favor.
- **TREASURER** – The regular checking account balance is \$9007.87. The Equine Welfare Account balance is \$3297.99. Total deposits are \$150. We received \$150 for membership. Outgoing monies for January were Liz Eason for \$180 for Division One Parade Fee, \$23.40 for stamps for Pony Tracks mailing, and \$163.23 for Pony Tracks printing, Domain filing \$39 and \$160 for MGC Room Rental, Insurance was \$1279.68, there was \$50 for a business license, \$400 to the Food Bank, \$2 for AZ Dept of Revenue License fee. Outgoing monies total expenses are \$2297.31 and incoming monies

total is \$150. Sheila Shattuck made a motion that Jeanne Kennedy and Darryl Cross combine the interest-bearing CD accounts to make more money and Peggy Wilson seconded it. All were in favor.

- **MEMBERSHIP** – There are thirty-five individuals and twenty-nine families plus five honorary memberships. We have ninety-six members currently. New members are Tiffany Nicolls-Single, Elaine Sherer-Single, Karen Otterstein and Brian Bloomfield Family.
- **POLITICAL – EQUINE WELFARE** – The City got a notice from a person who crosses at Meridian and Lost Dutchman on his horse and he is having problems getting across the road without rude drivers driving at a high rate of speed and yelling obscenities. The City of AJ has told him to come up with license plate numbers of offensive drivers, and the owners of the license plates will receive a warning.
- **PARADE** – Lost Dutchman Days Parade is happening on February 28th, 2026. See Liz Eason if you are interested in riding in the parade.
- **STORE DIRECTOR** - Ann Adkins has resigned as the Store Director. Anyone who is interested in being the Director of the SHA Store, please let Darryl Cross know if you would run the store. Discussion ensued about what we will do with the leftover T-Shirts at the Lost Dutchman Days Event.
- **PROGRAM DIRECTOR** – We will have a reptile specialist from Reptile Junction to come and talk to us about retiles since the snakes are just now coming out.

## OLD BUSINESS

- **ROAD CLEAN UP** - On March 14th, we will have the next Road Clean up. We need more people to work on our segment, and it takes only about an hour, especially if there are more of us working. It starts at 8 am with donuts and coffee. We have pickers and bags so please come and join us.
- **PONY TRACKS** - There will be 300 Pony Tracks printed this month. We will have extras to give out at the Museum and some for the Rodeo at Lost Dutchman Days.
- **INSURANCE TRAILER** - Roger Luth has already picked up the SHA Trailer Insurance for the next six months.
- **5TH ANNUAL SHA PONY EXPRESS** - This will be on March 7th in Apache Junction. We need to update dates on sandwich boards and banners, get postcards and meetings going. Queen Creek Pony Express will be on the 21st of March, and the following weekend is the Comanchero's Pony Express. We have the Postcards for sale for \$5.

## NEW BUSINESS

- **THE HITCHING POST** - The Hitching Post won an award for Best of Business Rating for 2025 Pizza Restaurant put out by Google. Congratulations to the Hitching Post!
- **SHA TRAIL RIDE** - On February 21st there will be an SHA ride at Coon Bluff and Phon-d-Sutton at 9 am. Sheila Shattuck made a motion that we provide \$25 for snacks and Judy

*...Continued on Page 3*

## Board Meeting Notes

Continued from Page 2...

Hood seconded it. All were in favor. We will also have iced water too. On March 21st, there will be a trail ride at Prospector Park at 10 am with a Pizza Party at the end.

- NEW YEAR'S WINTER PARTY FOR MEMBERS - Roger Luth suggested we have a New Year's Winter Party in 2027 for members instead of a Christmas Party. Location to be determined and details to be determined in place of the Christmas Party.
- HIGH-DENSITY THREE-STORY APARTMENTS VOTE - The City Council of AJ voted on the idea of this Apartment to be constructed according to the Master Plan. It did not pass 5-2 and was voted down. Sheila Shattuck thanked Mo and Cathy Diroff for their comments and for Chip Wilson and Darryl Cross for their vote against the project. Discussion ensued about Apache Junction is a Horse Community and we need to protect us. Mo stated people are welcome to come and park their rigs in his parking lot when there is room.

Pam Gaston made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Sheila Shattuck seconded the motion. All were in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

## 5th Annual SHA Pony Express

Saturday March 7th 2026



## SUPERSTITION HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION

### Membership Renewal

Please join  
or renew today!

SHA Membership Year  
OCT 1, 2025— SEPT 30, 2026

SINGLE membership  
only \$20.00

FAMILY membership  
only \$30.00



## Bi-Annual Adopt-A-Road Cleanup

March 14, 2026 at 8AM

We will need more people to work on our segment, and it takes only about an hour, especially if there are more of us working. It starts at 8 am with donuts and coffee. We have pickers, bags and vests, so please come and join us.

Mark your  
calendars



## MEMBERSHIP NEWS



FEBRUARY 2026

Submitted By: Jan Kramer  
Membership Chair

Our current roster now totals  
96 individual members in the  
following categories:

- ◆ Single - 35
- ◆ Family - 28
- ◆ Honorary - 5

Welcome  
New Members

- Tiffany Nicholls
- Elaine Sherer
- Karen Otterstein
- Brian Bloomfield

Hope to see you at some of our upcoming events. There are a variety of activities available this month for your participation including the membership meeting, trail ride, and the Lost Dutchman Days parade.

Also, stop by our booth at the Rodeo Grounds during Lost Dutchman Days.

As always, feel free to contact me regarding any membership questions or concerns.

You can email me at:

[imareadertika@icloud.com](mailto:imareadertika@icloud.com)

**SNACK  
ATTACK**

**TRAIL RIDE**



**SATURDAY, FEB 21**

**Snack Attack!** *By Sharna Watson*

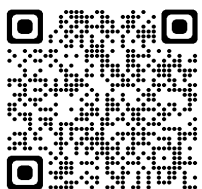
**SHA members only trail ride, Saturday, February 21, 2026**

- Location is **Coon Bluff** trailer parking area. No Tonto passes needed. **Coon Bluff Rd, Mesa, AZ 85215**
- **Be ready to ride at 9:00 AM.** Ride is approximately 6.5 miles, and 2.5 hours. No water crossings. Parking can get a little crowded, so catch a ride with a friend if possible.
- **Be sure to remember a chair so you can sit an visit with friends while enjoying SHA provided delicious snacks.** Water will also be available.

Questions: [jwconnected@hotmail.com](mailto:jwconnected@hotmail.com)



**MEMBERSHIP**  
**SHA4U.ORG**



**Superstition Horsemen's Association, teaming up with Hitching Post Saloon**

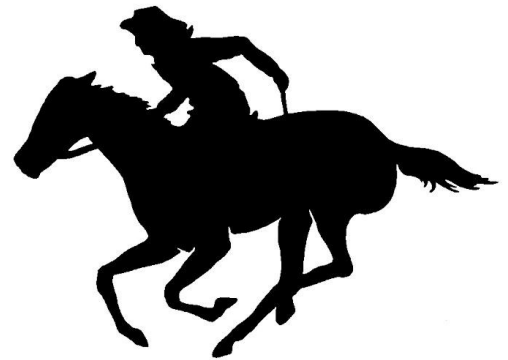
**PONY EXPRESS, 5th Annual, March 7th, 2026**

**Pony Express Proceeds will Benefit**

**Superstition Horsemen's Association of Apache Junction**

**And the Hitching Post Saloon charity "Cowboys for Kids" 501c3**

*(tax deductible donation)*



**Superstition Horsemen's Association, Inc.**

**In 1980, the Superstition Horsemen's Association was created by a handful of equine owners in the City of Apache Junction, to support and maintain the rural and western lifestyle for the equine community.** This includes working with various local governmental agencies involving land, street, and trail usage. SHA committed itself to the creation of a safety program educating the community on safety for all regarding motorized vehicles, equines, and their riders. In addition, SHA works with Federal agencies regarding trail cleanup, maintenance, and work projects in and around the Tonto National Forest and City of Apache Junction Adopt a Mile.

**SHA, is an independent group of members, a 501c4 tax exempt organization that is currently celebrating 46 years of working with trail partners such as East Valley Back Country Horsemen, Superstition Area Land Trust (SALT), The Ari-zona Trail and Pinal Partnership to clear and maintain trails.** The SHA organization coordinates with East Valley Back Country Horsemen, the Arizona Horse Council, and the Tonto National Forest to ensure trails are open to all hikers, bikers, and equestrians to have outdoor and wilderness experiences. Currently SHA is extending a request for a service agreement with the Tonto Forest Payson Ranger District to partner and assist with clean up, work projects, and pack-ing to support the Houston Mesa Horse Campground, and the 9-mile Houston Mesa Loop Trail. Included in this proposal are petitions with over five hundred signatures of people who want to see these trails improved and other trails created to accommodate everyone for access to a greater wilderness experience.

**The Safe Ride Program was developed by The Superstition Horsemen's Association in 2021,** after several traumatic incidents occurred at dusk/night between motor vehicles and a horse/riders due to lack of visibility. The Safe Ride Program encourages horse owners to situate light reflective slap bands on the horse's legs and red blinky lights on the tail and breast collar for better visibility of the horse to others. A brochure was also created to share with the public and to assist in educating the community about courtesy rules to follow when sharing roadways and areas with equestrians. The City of Apache Junction supported this program and bought blinky lights and slap bands to be given to all who were willing to utilize them. This program is currently ongoing and is combined with outreach to The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) and the City of Apache Junction to build intersections that are well marked, lighted and signaled for equestrian crossings.

In addition, SHA has held Chili cookoffs, corn hole tournaments, trail rides, chuck wagon dinners, obstacle events, campouts, a Christmas Party for charity work, and sponsoring concerts. SHA along with the Hitching Post Saloon started a Pony Express reenactment 5 years ago. SHA distributes a newsletter once a month online and in local shops. They also host educational General Membership Meetings that are fun and informative every January—March. SHA tries to give folks the opportunity to participate in community functions as a group and to represent the horse community. These are just a few of the things that SHA offers to its members and to the public.

***Thank you for your support!***  
***Superstition Horsemen's Association***

*Darryl Cross: Chairman; Superstition Horsemen's Association*  
*Text: 602-820-9583*  
*Email: darrylcross.local669@gmail.com*



Our most recent **SHA Store Manager**, Ann Adkins, has resigned and **we are looking for somebody else to run the SHA Store.**

*We are very grateful to Ann Adkins for her hard work and service and appreciate all she has done for SHA. She will be missed.*

Some of us have been thinking about an online presentation of jackets, shirts, t-shirts, hats, caps, and anything else some might want to purchase.

**Please contact Pam Gaston** if you are interested in this position.



**Congratulations Mo & Tina**



**EAST VALLEY BACK COUNTRY HORSEMEN**

To learn more about EVBCH visit our website at [EVBCH.org](http://EVBCH.org)



Apache Junction, AZ

**WANTED**

**SHA HISTORIAN**

We need an SHA Historian to keep our history alive through pictures and write-ups.

**If you like to scrap book or keep memorabilia, this is the job for you.**

If you are interested, please notify Pam Gaston, Secretary.

*We need a Historian desperately!*



# Calendar



## of Events

### SHA Membership Meeting

WED, February 18th at 7PM



There will be an SHA Membership Meeting on WED February 18th, at 7 pm, at the Multi-Gen Center in AJ, to the right - in the first room on the right.

*\*There will be a Pony Express meeting at 6 pm in that same room so please enter quietly if you come early.*

**We will have a reptile specialist from Reptile Junction talk to us about reptiles since the snakes are just now coming out.**



Pony Express postcards will be on sale and we will have sign-ups for volunteers for the upcoming SHA & Pony Express Booth for Lost Dutchman Days, Feb 27—Mar 1 .

**Come and join us for an evening of information and fun!!**

### MEETING: SHA Pony Express

WED FEB 18 at 6PM

Multi Gen Center in AJ



### 5th Annual - SHA Pony Express

Saturday, March 7th, 2026

SPONSORED BY

THE SUPERSTITION HORSEMEN'S ASSOCIATION  
AND THE HITCHING POST SALOON

Watch for updates on SHA Facebook and Website:

[WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHAofArizona](http://WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/SHAofArizona)

[SHA4U.ORG](http://SHA4U.ORG)



## TRAIL RIDE COMMITTEE



### Scheduled rides...

- ⇒ Saturday, FEB 21st— **Update...**SHA ride at Coon Bluff at 9AM. Snack Attack - See page 4.
- ⇒ Saturday, MAR 21st – SHA ride at Prospector Park at 10AM with Pizza Party at the end.

Questions? Please email Jeff at:

[jwconnected@hotmail.com](mailto:jwconnected@hotmail.com)

### Lost Dutchman Days — Parade

Saturday, FEB 28th at 9AM

Superstition Horsemen's Association and SHA Pony Express members that would like to ride in the parade, please contact Liz Eason.

*Route: On Apache Trail, between Idaho and Ironwood - begins at Phelps, just west of Idaho and goes west to Ironwood and returns. This parade allows viewers to see and line up on either side of the route.*



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](http://AZCowgirls4Christ.com)

Facebook: [click on this link](#)

# Important Dates to Remember



- February 18, 2026 —SHA Pony Express Meeting, 6PM at MultiGen Center in Apache Junction
- February 18, 2026 —SHA Membership Meeting, 7PM at MultiGen Center in Apache Junction
- February 21, 2026—SHA trail ride at Coon Bluff, Mesa, at 9AM. Snack Attack!
- February 27—March 1, 2026— Lost Dutchman Days SHA & Pony Express booth at AJ Rodeo Grounds
- February 28, 2026—Lost Dutchman Days Parade at 9AM in Apache Junction
- March 7, 2026 - SHA 5th Annual Pony Express in Apache Junction
- March 14, 2026—SHA Road Clean-up in Apache Junction
- March 21, 2026—SHA trail ride at Prospector Park at 10AM with Pizza Party at the end
- March 18, 2026 —SHA Membership Meeting, 7PM at MultiGen Center in Apache Junction

**UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS: MAR 4, APR 1 and MAY 6.** The Board meets promptly at 7pm. Anyone is welcomed to attend 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.

Superstition Horsemen's Association, Inc.

P O Box 2120

Apache Junction, Arizona 85117

[www.sha4u.org](http://www.sha4u.org)



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