



**Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council  
Wishing All Our Friends  
Merry Christmas  
2018**



**The horse knows the way to carry the sleigh  
Through white and drifted snow**

In 2018, the equestrian community continues to be engaged and active by “keeping horses on trails” and on our countryside of rural landscapes. As urban development replaces open space lands, horse owners preserve and protect our pastures, meadows, scenic by-ways and vistas to sustain and protect land for their horses. The RFBVC is your voice, defending horseback rider’s historic right to access and enjoy trails, while promoting the tradition of using horses on ranches; in competitions; for therapeutic riding programs and to preserve our Western Heritage for our grandchildren and future generations.

**Looking back on the year 2018, we are thankful for:**

- The brave fire fighters, who saved the town of Basalt and El Jebel from the July 4<sup>th</sup>, Lake Christine inferno. 18,000 acres burned, three houses were lost and our heroes stopped the fire spreading across Missouri Heights, “Heart of Horse Country.” Thanks to all property owners who took in the evacuated horses during the fire.
- Our time of knowing “Anita Witt”, an icon in the ranching community. She touched so many lives with her unbridled energy and her clear mission to document, protect, and preserve our Western Heritage. The Missouri Heights School House was saved by this wonderful lady. She was dedicated to her horses and dogs, and passed away on September 4, 2018. She will be missed.
- The many dedicated equestrians who teach our children and adults about horsemanship by carrying on the tradition of responsibility, work ethic, kindness and patience with animals, and joy of caring for and riding horses. The many children’s camps, the Pony Club, Gymkhanas, 4-H programs, and WindWalkers Therapeutic Riding are a success. These programs all contribute to health and well-being in our society by using the connection of education and healing through horses.

- Thank you Pitkin County BOCC and OST for designing and providing excellent truck and trailer equestrian parking and an enjoyable, up-hill trail with wide and gentle switchbacks for equestrians and hikers only at the Glassier Open Space property. Horseback riders are passionate and appreciative about this trail and many others in our valley. Thank you for recognizing that including equestrians on trails will insure preservation of a Western Heritage tradition by keeping horses on trails.
- Thank you to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for committing to improve equestrian parking at our beloved Sutey Ranch Homestead property. We are waiting for their management decision for Sutey Ranch. Hopefully they will see the benefit of keeping the land for the wildlife, hikers and horseback riders, as it has been, “A place for beginners and novice horseback riders and families with children, where everyone can enjoy trails without mountain bikes.”
- Finally we are thankful that we have horses in our lives. These magnificent animals bring grace and beauty and as our silent companions, they help us through difficult times. There is nothing better than the feeling of the wind on your face as you ride your horse along a steady path. The passion that horses inspire within us is the sustaining joy of every day. We are thankful!

The RfVHC wants to hear from you. Our Open Meetings have turned into pot luck, sit-down dinners, where everyone can share ideas, visit with friends, and help guide the organization towards goals designed by all of our members.

The next Open Meeting will be at Rumble Ridge, at 6:00pm, January 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019.

Please become a member or renew - [www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/membership.html](http://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/membership.html)  
[www.facebook.com/keephorsesontrails/](https://www.facebook.com/keephorsesontrails/) [rfvhc.colorado@gmail.com](mailto:rfvhc.colorado@gmail.com)



Gratitude unlocks the fullness of life. We are Grateful.



*The Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization*