Roaring Fork Valley Horse Council

Wishing All Our Friends

Merry Christmas 2022

And God took a handful of southerly wind, blew His breath over it
and created the horse.

Bedouin saying

NOT JUST A PONY

When you give a kid a pony, you give them more than just a four legged furry friend. You give them a sport, a talent, hopes, dreams, and friends - friends who become family, a place to learn about life, room to grow as a person, where they can push themselves to their very limits and bravery, and courage, and memories… Oh the memories that will last a lifetime. And a LIFE. They will have ALL THESE THINGS simply because you gave a kid a pony…

Because you gave a kid a pony, you too will develop new lifelong friendships, developed solely from the same passion for the sport and the love of your barn family and team. You will root together. And cry together. And laugh together. All because you gave a kid a pony…

Then one day - years from now… They will be in their room and a picture of that pony will catch their eye. When they look at it they will know instantly that when you gave that kid a pony you gave them a childhood that they will never forget. They will realize that everything YOU gave up along the way… was worth it.
All because you gave a kid a pony…
~ Anna Ingram Knowles

The RFVHC works for you –

Horsemen and Horsewomen; horses and mules are our priority.
We continue to promote equestrian activities through continuing education programs, Horse Shows, Rodeo events, Horse drawn wagon & sleigh ride businesses and by supporting other non-profits such as the Roaring Fork Hounds Pony Club, Aspen Riding Academy, and our equine therapy programs in the Roaring Fork Valley.

WindWalkers - http://www.windwalkerstrc.org/
Smiling Goat Ranch - http://smilinggoatranch.com/
Ascendigo - https://www.ascendigo.org/
RIDE – https://www.coloradoride.org
Surmount Counseling LLC - https://surmountcounseling.com/

Roaring Fork Hounds Pony Club
Strang Ranch, Carbondale, CO
https://www.facebook.com/RoaringForkHoundsPonyClub/

www.strangranch.com

ASPEN
RIDING ACADEMY

WHAT IS THE ASPEN RIDING ACADEMY?

Founded in 2018, Aspen Riding Academy (ARA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that creates opportunities for children and adults to enjoy horseback riding and spending time with horses. Aspen Riding Academy's vision is to provide a group of safe and happy "school" horses for the sole purpose of educating new and advancing riders, and riders that do not or cannot own horses. **ARA strives to make sure that anyone in Aspen and the Roaring Fork Valley, regardless of financial ability, can have the opportunity to be with a horse.** At Aspen's city owned equestrian facility, Cozy Point Ranch, ARA's horses will support the following programs:

- Group and Private Lesson Program
- Aspen Equestrian Team – Affiliated with the Interscholastic Equestrian Association (IEA), a non-profit equestrian team for 4th grade through 12th grade students

I would like my donation made in honor of_____

Scan here to go to Aspen Riding Academy's fundraising campaign online

Please make checks payable to
Aspen Riding Academy Inc.
Checks can be mailed to:
PO Box 604, Woody Creek, CO 81655

Aspen Riding Academy is a 501c3 non-profit organization. Tax ID # 83-0587019

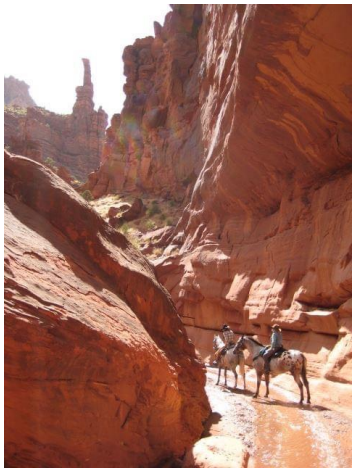
aspenridingacademy.com **970.379.9481** **lisa@aspenridingacademy.com**

www.aspenridingacademy.com/donate

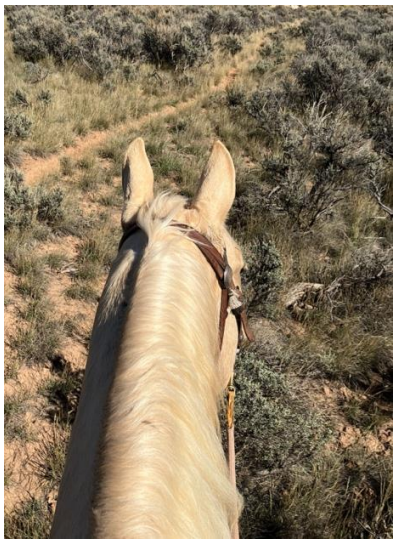
TRAIL RIDES – 2022

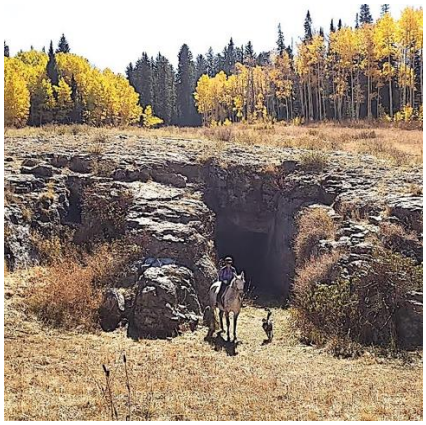
RFVHC members enjoyed trail riding 2022 Spring – Summer – Fall on the Sutey Ranch, the Crown Jewel Horse Trail, the Glassier Equestrian Trail, on our White River National Forest Wilderness Trails, on the Colorado's Western Slope and far afield.

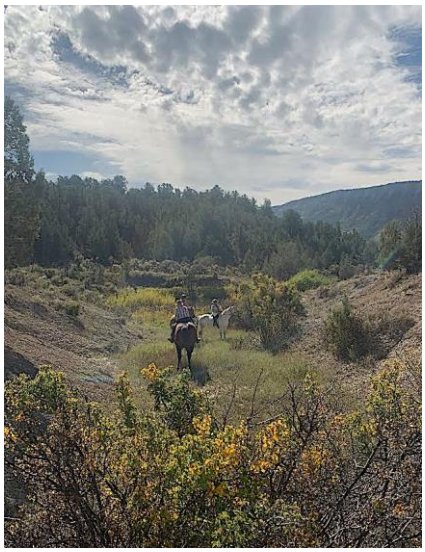
What lies behind us and what lies before us are tiny matters compared to what lies within us.



Two roads diverged in a wood, and I -
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.







No memory is ever alone; it's at the end of a trail of memories, a dozen trails and each have their own associations.

Louis L'Amour

THE TOWN HORSE

Every morning in Frankfurt, Germany, you might catch a glimpse of Jenny, a horse who goes on a long walk every morning, all by herself. She has been taking the same route every morning for 14 years, ever since her owner, now 79 years old, became unable to ride. She enjoys greeting all of the familiar faces along the way, and she stops and gets treats and pettings from some of her favorite humans. The locals treat her like a celebrity and happily clean up after her.

A piece of paper is attached to her halter that reads, “My name is Jenny. I didn’t run away, I’m just walking. Thank you.” But the police get calls frequently from people who don’t know about the arrangement. The town is very familiar with the horse and the owner, and there have been no incidents in 14 years. A local veterinarian gives her routine checkups and continues to find her to be healthy and showing no anxiety about her unique lifestyle.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – OFFICERS

President:
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NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Rodeo/ Western Heritage

Shannon Weeks – Shannon is 25 years old from Carbondale, CO. She has been involved in the rodeo community for over 7 years and has participated in barrel racing for 11 years competitively. A graduate from Colorado Mesa University in 2020 with a degree in Business Administration & Marketing, Shannon participated in FBLA-PBL a professional collegiate business organization, where she won awards for marketing, management and business communication. Keeping her hand in the competitive rodeo arena, she was an active member of the CMU Rodeo Team. She also represents two

BOARD OF DIRECTORS – Chairmen and Committee Heads:

Communications Chair:
Holly McLain –
970-948-2151
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Membership:
Interested in working with a great non-profit ? Contact one of us!

Western Heritage Chair
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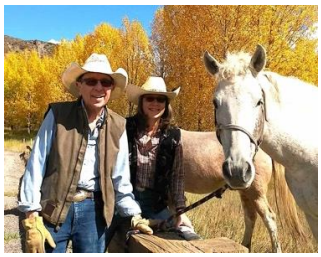
ms@sopris.net

Trails Chair & Secretary:
Susan Cuseo –
970-963-1164
scoutqzo@gmail.com

Education and Equine Health Chair:
Sam Johnson DVM -
720-838-3269
drj@glenwoodvet.com

businesses - the Monat Beauty (vegan products line) and BEMER (Bio-Electro-Magnetic-Energy-Regulation) therapy sessions for horses.
Shannon works for “WindWalkers”, an equine assisted therapy center, Missouri Heights, Carbondale, CO. as the Executive Assistant. In her spare time she enjoys training her barrel horses and spending quality time with her family. The RFVHC welcomes this new young board member, who brings fresh perspectives to our organization.

Arnie Mordkin – Has been a Snowmass Village resident for 28 plus years, when he established “ Snowmass Law” at that time. Snowmass Law provides top-notch council and legal representation for clients charged with criminal offenses. Arnie has been involved with horses, starting in upstate New York as a nine years old boy. As many young horse lovers have done, he worked at stables in exchange for riding horses. His connection to horses and our Western Rodeo Legacy has taken him all over the West with season passes to Cheyanne Frontier Days rodeo, The National Finals Rodeo, Las Vegas, NV, and he is the Snowmass Rodeo Slack Announcer annually. He also helps the Snowmass Rodeo with the Kid’s events; the calf catch, mutton busting and he is involved with the exciting rough stock performances. Horses, our Western Heritage and the Snowmass Rodeo are of paramount concern to protect and preserve for future generations. The RFVHC welcomes Arnie Mordkin to our board, as a champion for the cause.



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Instagram & Trails:
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Marketing (Interim) and Facebook:
Karin Reid Offield –
561-301-7818
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Amish snowplowing – What a good horse!

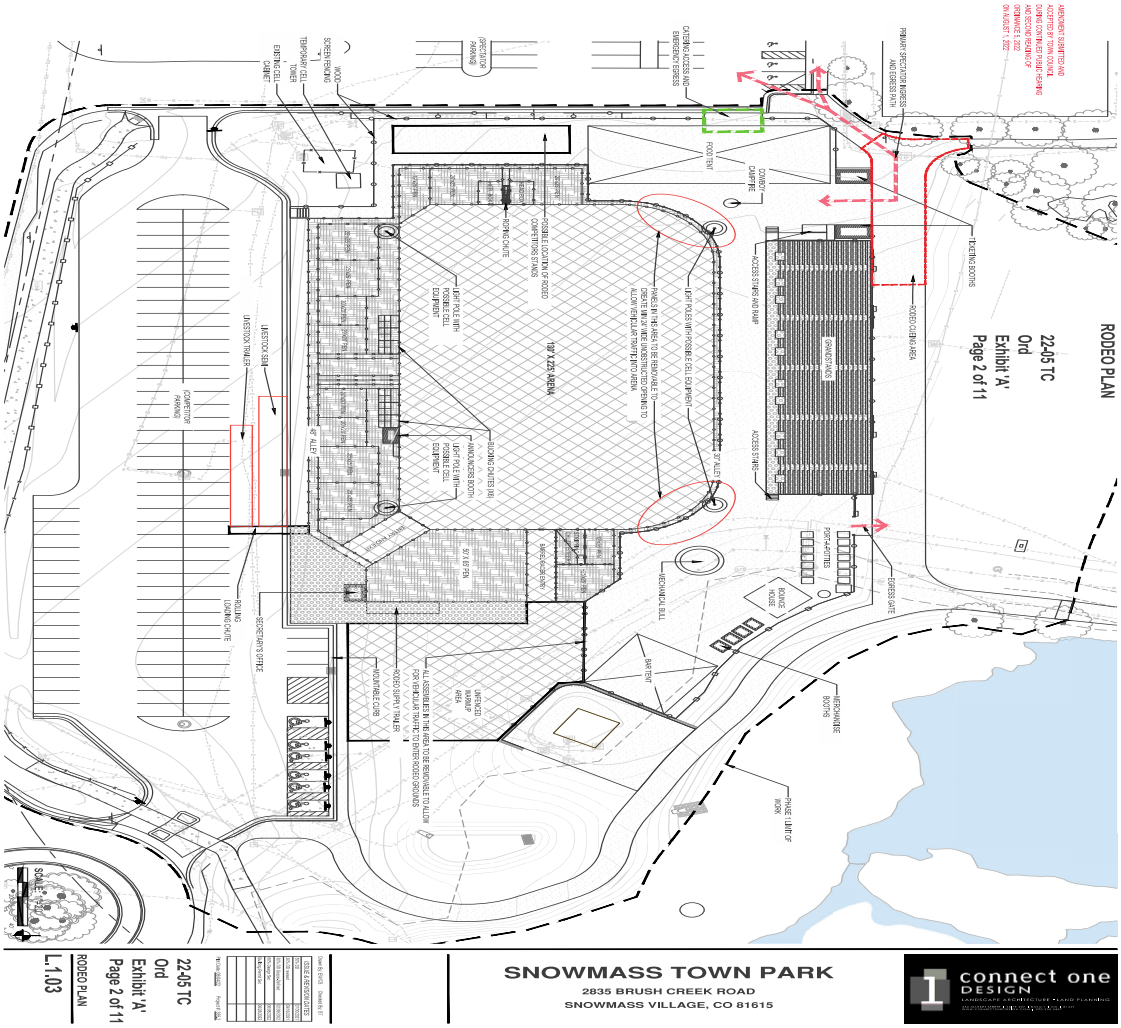
The horses know the way to carry the sleigh.

Winter Solstice – All is calm – All is bright
A time for comfort and joy

SNOWMASS RODEO

Below is the current Snowmass Rodeo approved plan for 2024

The 2023 Snowmass Rodeo will be held at the existing facility, as is, because the wetlands next to the rodeo grounds must be incorporated into the entire Town Park Plan and the wetlands plan has not yet been approved. For more wetlands information:
https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/uploads/1/1/1/9/11199712/lets_protect_the_wetlands_-_smff_photos_essay.pdf



Click link to enlarge map: (then click the image to enlarge)
https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/uploads/1/1/1/9/11199712/town_council_approved_rodeo_layout.jpg

RFVHC worked with the TOSV – POSTR board & SWHA board to secure the following elements for contestant safety and proper rodeo function:

- Contestant warm up area
- Barrel racer run in entry gate
- Barrel racers separate exit gate
- Adequate livestock pens
- Contestant bleachers

This design includes TOSV Recreation Department storage facility under the main Grandstand.

THE RODEO CONTESTANT & SPECTATOR PARKING IS INADEQUATE!

TOSV must provide parking for the 45 to 48 competitor's trucks & trailers and enough spaces for the Snowmass Fire Department's approved 2000 spectators that either arrive by bus or by automobiles.

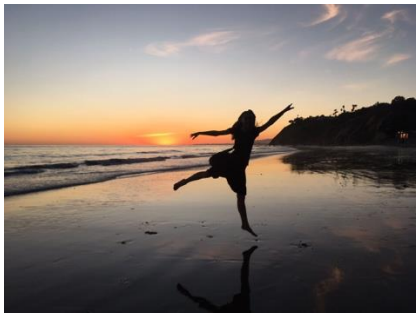
IN MEMORIUM – PAM FISHER - 1961 – 2022

Horsewoman extraordinaire – musician and free spirit

Pam grew up in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Horses were always a part of her life. Her beloved stallion, Sea Lion, was listed as one of the only TB stallions in North America to be considered for an eventing breeding program by Internationally known Tom Reed, Internationally known Irish Warmblood expert. Pam and Sea Lion were long listed as alternates for the US Three day Event Team for the 1996 Summer Olympics.

They won the following awards: 2013: USEF/PHR Regional Advanced Eventing Champion and USAE area VI advanced Champion, USEF/PHR National Ad- vanced Reserve Champion Advanced level, Regional Champion Gold Coast Jumper show, 1M20 Champion. 2012: USEF/PHR Regional Advanced Champion, Narional Reserve Champion Eventing, Area VI Zone Intermediate Level Champion. 2011: USEF/PHR Eventing Zone Intermediate Champion 2010: USEF/PHR Eventing Zone Champion Intermediate and Advanced and Eventing National Reserve Champion Horse of the Year Advanced level. 2009: Level 3 Jumper Champion Tucson Winter Classic.

Pam came to Basalt, Colorado and built Ruffian Stables, now known as Highland's Ranch. She was part of the fabric of our equestrian community and the music scene in the Roaring Fork Valley. She was dedicated to healthy healing for humans and animals through naturopathic medicine. Pam was riding one of her horses. She dismounted, because she did not feel well. Pam suffered a heart attack and passed, while doing something she loved.



Pam & Sea Lion

She will be missed.

SPRING 2023 - TACK SALE AND SWAP
TO BE HELD AT RUMBLE RIDGE
Collect your tack and horse/stables items.

English & Western –

Saddles, bridles, halters, bits, stirrups/leathers, girths, blankets, coolers, sheets, saddle pads, saddle blankets, spurs, lunge lines, grooming equipment, fly spray, antique stable memorabilia, tack trunks, horse turnout boots, support boots, bell boots, chaps, saddle bags, RFVHC ball caps, purses and more.

Join Today –

https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/membership-page.html

Everyone is welcome – but must renew or become a RFVHC member to participate.
Bring your own table and chairs with your equipment. Each tack sale participant makes all of their own income. The RFVHC wants to have your support as members and offers this service to strengthen our equestrian community. **Start today to save up your sale items.**

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When your love and passion for horses gets into your veins, they usually stay there for life.

Every day this 91 year old Man would sit on the back of his Boulonnais horse on the way to pasture. This is a story that represents a man's lifelong love of horses to be treasured for generations to come.

With the power of social media- he has been found!!! His name is EMILE DESJARDIN (FRANCE 🇫🇷)

Rachel Flynn Equine Photography

RUDOLPH THE RED NOSE REINDEER -

Wow, I had no idea about the origin story of Rudolph the Red-Nose Reindeer! If you aren't familiar with it either, read below:

As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for Montgomery Ward, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year old-daughter, Barbara.

One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names.
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But he wanted to give his daughter hope, and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a homemade picture book.

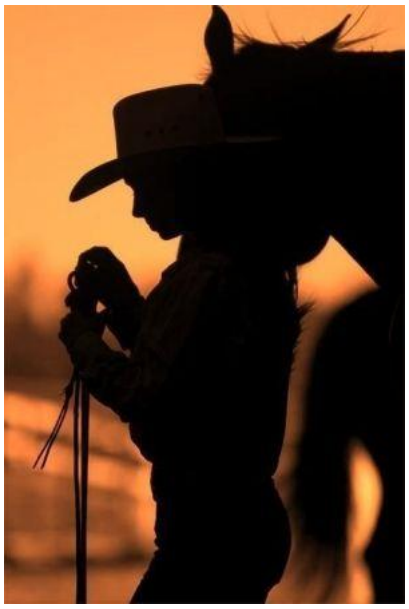
In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter. A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their debt-ridden employee. Over the next six years, at Christmas, they gave away six million copies of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a millionaire.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named Johnny Marks, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from Bing Crosby on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached Gene Autry. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "Here Comes Santa Claus" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games" that she insisted her husband record the tune.

Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "White Christmas." Since then, Rudolph has come to life in TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards and even a Ringling Bros. circus act. The little red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by Bob May and immortalized in song by Johnny Marks has come to symbolize Christmas as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says, "He'll go down in history.

Hay Bank Relief – During these dark winter months, the RFVHC has partnered with End of the Trail Rescue to receive donations of hay and feed for distribution to horse owners in need. With your kindness & donations, we can support horses and mules in the Roaring Fork Valley, helping them through the long winter months. Thank you. https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/hay-bank.html
Contact: RFV Hay Bank Manager Alicia Nolfi, DVM at 970-275-2370 or
email alicianolfi0517@gmail.com End of the Trail Rescue (EOTTR) https://eottr.org/

We also support the Carbondale **"Wild West Rodeo" & Ranching Families – our living Western Heritage.**



Sportsmanship ~ Stewardship ~ Leadership through Horsemanship

Stewardship: The Act of protecting and being responsible for something worth caring for and preserving.

Ranchers still use horses to feed their livestock

Our young equestrians are the future for **sustaining the traditions and customs of Land Stewardship, Western Heritage and horseback riding in the Roaring Fork Valley.** Help support them and the RFVHC by becoming a member, renewing memberships or donating to our horse related non-profit partners.

Thank You –

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year.
Kindest Regards & Best Wishes from the RFVHC

Join Today
https://www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/membership-page.html

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

rfvhc.colorado@gmail.com

www.rfvhorsecouncil.org/ * www.facebook.com/keephorsesontrails *