

Boyd Ranch Mule Ride

Time is Running Out! Are You In?

January 2017 Issue

If you haven't submitted your application for the 2017 Boyd Ranch Mule Ride, you best not wait much longer. There are very few spaces left!

Returning riders have first priority, and an email will be sent to those who have not yet submitted their application. We can't hold spots until the last minute, however.

The ride is limited to 50 riders. This limit keeps the rides small and the crowd friendly.

We don't like sending out more than 10 or 12 people on any one ride. Plus, in every exit survey we've given, riders have commented on how great the ride was because it was small and friendly.

KEEP IT THAT WAY, they all say.

This year, because we are hiring a caterer, there can be no refunds after February 14. So, if you must cancel, give plenty of notice so someone on the waiting list can attend.



FAMOUS ASS QUOTE:

I THINK THOU ART AN ASS.

William Shakespeare

The Comedy of Errors, 3.1

Don't Forget!

If you are coming from out of state, your vet will want to know the exact address where the mule will be staying. So, here it is.

The Boyd Ranch
34475 Scenic Loop
Rd. Wickenburg, AZ
85390.

Our mailing address is different. Mailing is

An application and waiver is again included in this newsletter. If you need these items mailed to you please contact me and I will send you the information.

There will be one more newsletter after this one, giving all the last minute details, including directions.

Boyd Ranch Mule Ride
P.O. Box 3495
Wickenburg, AZ 85358

AND

See page 7 here for our yearly memory maker. Order before Jan. 15



Don't miss out on Tom Watt's early morning Cowboy Coffee. Guaranteed to curl your hair or make it grow on your chest!

Guest Speaker: Steve Edwards!

Mule man Steve Edwards will be our guest presenter this year. Steve will be offering his program at 4:00 on Thursday afternoon, probably in the arena area.

I think just about every mule rider knows who the popular mule trainer out of Queen Creek Arizona is, or at least they've heard of him. Many people have taken Steve's clinics, bought his tack, and ride his mules. Steve's columns appear in Mules and More Magazine also.

Steve will be talking about "Why Does My Mule Do That?" I know I have a question or two for him, and I'm sure many of you do too.

Steve's experience with mules is impressive, even though he wasn't "born in the mule saddle." He's learned a lot the good, old fashioned hard way with countless hours in the saddle riding all over the southwest. In addition he's packed for the Park Services in Yosemite as well as the National Forest Services in Arizona. He's also packed at the Grand Canyon.

Steve's had the remarkable experience of working on a project for the Phoenix Zoo where he trained zoo workers to present information and programs on mules, their history and abilities!

And what's even more impressive, or equally so at any rate, Steve was instrumental in establishing the first



"We offer clinics on understanding and training mules, donkeys and their owners. With the focus on partnership with the mule, we teach people how to drive wagons, pack mules, and trailride."

Steve Edwards (Photo from website: Muleranch.com)

Mule Training Apprenticeship Program in an American College!
This 2-year, 16 credit program allows students to earn a Certificate of Achievement in Mule Training.

Steve understands mules, and his goal is to help mule owners understand their mules. He explains that mules are not just smart, they are detailed in their thinking.

Steve will stay Thursday evening for dinner and will be happy to talk with one and all, and hopefully he'll spend the night and be available in the morning hours also before he leaves for another event. We're pleased to have him here!

You can read more about Steve on his website: Muleranch.com

WATCH OUT!!

Watch for the next newsletter! It will have the final schedule, ride information, driving directions and all kinds of very dramatic, critical, and mysterious information.

It will be sent out right around February 15. Be on the lookout!

And, for Pete-sake watch out that you don't forget your driving directions. Cell phone service at the ranch is spotty at best. DON'T

COUNT ON BEING ABLE TO GET HOLD OF ANYONE for help. Have your directions in hand! And, Google gives the wrong location of the ranch, so don't count on our good friend Mr. Google.

Watch out! There are also a few snakes out in March. BRING A FLASHLIGHT SO YOU CAN SEE WHERE YOU'RE GOING AT NIGHT. Falling on or walking into cactus, rocks, and trees, and

stepping on snakes is not allowed.



People Here to Serve You

Most people attending this event are unaware of the number of people who are involved in seeing that the ride happens, and that things go well.

First, we have a new caterer this year who's going to take good care of all of us. Bryan Knight and his crew are from Yuma, Arizona.

Our trail guides are literally indispensable. The short ride guides are the terrible Toms (Coffield and Watt). Medium rides are led by Bonnie Pollock and Cindy Widner. And that butt-achingly long ride that everyone loves is led by Scott Stewart. Cheri Noel (Stewart) also helps with this ride. These guides make this ride THE BEST RIDE IN THE STATE.

Next we have our incredibly friendly, chatty barkeeps! You'll

enjoy Dee Pollock and Hunt Spear as they maintain law and order and serve 'em up.

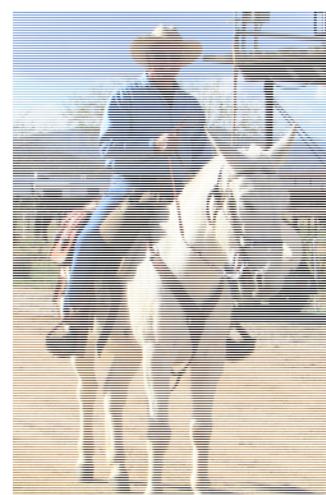
Kim Johnson, one of our wonderful caretakers, provides the sumptuous hors d'oeuvres, leads the poker ride, and also keeps the bathrooms spotless and well stocked with supplies. Jack, our other great caretaker, makes sure that just about everything else is running smoothly.

Tom Watt, Mr. Cowboy Coffee, is up earlier than the chickens to get his cowboy coffee percolating away. He'll happily greet you and loves to talk! He also is in charge of the camp fires at night.

We have many other board member volunteers who help in any way they can. These include Karen and Art Barber, Maureen Serrano,

and chairman Joe Stevens.

Finally, I couldn't organize this ride without the help of my husband Tom. Pure and simple, he keeps my attitude adjusted, my nerves calmed, and keeps me going. Besides leading rides he also runs the Mule Ramble, and he helps in literally ALL AREAS. The ride absolutely could not happen without his help.



APPLICATION for BOYD RANCH MULE RIDE: March 9 - 12, 2017

(Early arrival allowed on March 8 after 1:00 p.m. Dry camping only)

(If needed, duplicate page for additional riders.)

NAME _____

NAME _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____

Contact phone number: _____ email: _____

In case of emergency, notify: _____ Phone: _____

How many mules will you be bringing: _____

(Every horse attending must have a mule friend.) How many horses, if any? _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ Amt. Enclosed _____

Fees: \$260 per person for four days (includes overnight) No fee for 3/8 - dry camp.

If you cannot attend all four days, the fee is \$65 per day per person.

Mail check or money order, waiver, and application. Make check payable to Boyd Ranch Mule Ride.

Applications and waiver will also be on website: www.boydranch.org

Reminder that all *out-of-state* equines must have a Coggins Test and Health Certificate. (State requirement, not ours.) Paper work will be checked upon arrival.

Mail application, check, and waivers to:

The Boyd Ranch Mule Ride

% Moonlight Mesa Associates, Inc.

P.O. Box 3495

Wickenburg, AZ. 85358

ANNUAL BOYD RANCH MULE RIDE

PARTICIPANT'S RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY, ASSUMPTION OF RISK, AND INDEMNITY AGREEMENT

BY SIGNING THIS AGREEMENT, YOU ARE GIVING UP CERTAIN LEGAL RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO RECOVER DAMAGES IN CASE OF INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE. READ THIS AGREEMENT CAREFULLY BEFORE SIGNING IT. YOUR SIGNATURE INDICATES YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND AGREEMENT TO ITS TERMS.

This is an agreement between the Undersigned, and Desert Caballeros Western Museum, The Boyd Ranch Community Equestrian and Nature Park, (d/b/a DC Boyd Ranch), and their owners, officers, directors, members, managers, employees, agents, representatives, volunteers, sponsors, sanctioning organizations, affiliates, partners, joint venturers, successors and any and all other persons or entities otherwise involved with organizing or putting on the Event (collectively, the "Releasees").

I, _____ (hereinafter the "Undersigned") on behalf of myself, my personal representatives, heirs, next-of-kin, spouse and assigns HEREBY:

1. Acknowledge that horseback riding is a dangerous activity and involves RISKS that may cause SERIOUS INJURY AND IN SOME CASES DEATH, for reasons including, but not limited to (a) the unpredictable nature and irrational behavior and reactions of EQUINES, regardless of their training and past performance; (b) the potential for collisions with other participants or animals; (c) hazards related to the outdoor environment of the Event, such as surface and sub-surface conditions (including trails, creeks, bridges, roads, wildlife, trees, rocks, and other obstacles whether they are obvious or not obvious), animals, insects and inclement weather; (d) the potential of other participants to act in a negligent way, such as failing to maintain control over the animal or not acting with his or her ability; and (e) temperature, weather extremes and the unavailability or delay of medical attention in the case of injury.
2. Represent and warrant that I am at least 21 years of age, I understand the risks, hazards, and dangers described above and other risks associated with horseback riding, and related activities, I understand that these activities may require good physical conditioning and a degree of skill and knowledge, and I believe that I have good physical conditioning and the degree of skill and knowledge necessary for me to engage in these activities safely.
3. Knowing the above facts and in consideration of your acceptance of this form and/or my presence at and/or participation in the Event, I voluntarily assume the risk and danger of injury or death inherent therein. I hereby RELEASE, DISCHARGE AND PROMISE NOT TO SUE the Releasees for any loss, liability damage or cost whatsoever arising out of or related to any loss, damage or injury (including death) to my person or property.
4. Release the Releasees from any claim that such Releasees are or may be negligent in connection with my riding experience or ability including but not limited to training or selecting horses, maintenance, care, fit or adjustment of saddles or bridles, instruction on riding skills or supervising riding activities.

5. INDEMNIFY, AND SAVE AND HOLD HARMLESS the Releasees from and against any loss, liability, damage or cost they may incur arising out of or in any way connected with any event, my use of a horse and any equipment or gear provided therewith or any acts or omissions of employees or agents.

6. Agree to abide by and follow any instructions given or rules established by Releasees or any of their employees, agents or volunteers with regard to my participation in any event, use of a horse or any equipment or gear provided therewith.

7. The Undersigned expressly agrees that the foregoing release and waiver of liability, assumption of risk and indemnity agreement is governed by the State of Arizona and it is intended to be as broad and inclusive as is permitted by Arizona law, and that in the event any portion of this Agreement is determined to be invalid, illegal, or unenforceable, the validity, legality and enforceability of the balance of the Agreement shall not be affected or impaired in any way and shall continue in full legal force and effect.

8. Acknowledge that this document is a contract and agree that if a lawsuit is filed against any of the Releasees for any injury or damage in breach of this contract, the Undersigned will pay all attorneys' fees and costs incurred by the Releasees in defending such an action.

9. THIS RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY IS VALID IN PERPETUITY, AND APPLIES TO ALL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATED WITH THE EVENT. I HAVE READ THIS DOCUMENT. I UNDERSTAND IT IS A PROMISE NOT TO SUE AND A RELEASE AND INDEMNITY FOR ALL CLAIMS.

Printed Name: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____

Want a Hat? (They aren't free, but they are *very* Mulish.)

Order by emailing me before January 15.

You snooze, you lose. You'll be sad.

