



Happy Trails



The Wildhorse Ranch Rescue Newsletter — Fall 2007

Wildhorse Ranch Rescue

P.O. Box 415
Gilbert, AZ 85299
(866) 926-8007

A registered
nonprofit 501(c)(3)
organization

Mission Statement

*To save horses and mules
from abuse, neglect,
slaughter and premature
death.*

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Kim Meagher

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Roger Cardillo

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Joy Harvick

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Rhona Melsky

Feed Team Manager
Skip DeNardo

Event Manager
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Happy Trails Newsletter

Editor
Rhona Melsky

Farrier Devin Himes Helps WHRR's Herd Put Their Best Hoofs Forward

Devin Himes, a local certified farrier, in June contacted Wildhorse Ranch Rescue to donate his services. Devin was searching the Internet, found WHRR and contacted board member Rhona Melsky. He said he wanted to help.

Farriers are the important people who trim horses' and mules' hoofs. Hoof care is extremely important for equines, and it is important to keep up with the process every six to eight weeks. Without proper hoof care, horses can go lame or develop problems leading to more serious conditions.

Not only is farrier work strenuous and hard on a person's back, it can be more difficult when working with horses who have issues. But Devin has taken on the challenge and come to truly care for WHRR's herd. He has been doing an amazing job.

Devin tries to make it out to the ranch whenever he can to work on a horse or two. To date he has trimmed most of the horses and mules at WHRR and has done an exceptional job.

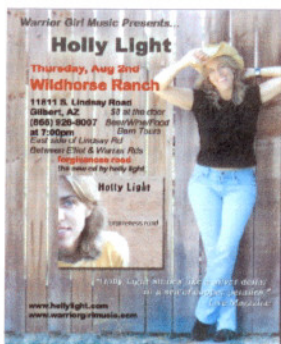
"I love all animals and always have," Devin said. "I love the animals so much and I know nobody likes to work on older or problematic horses. They take more time and patience. But they still need to be done, so I figured I would do what I could to help out. There isn't a much better feeling than gaining the trust of an animal that doesn't trust anyone. And you can only earn it with love and patience," he said.

Devin is a caring person and a great asset to WHRR. He and his girlfriend, Tracy, just welcomed a brand new baby girl named Trinity. Everyone at WHRR is grateful to Devin, and we congratulate him and Tracy on their new bundle of joy.

For more information on Devin and his farrier services, you can contact him by e-mail at cowboydevin@msn.com.



Devin Himes with friend Hemi



WHRR Kicks Off Patio Events, Opens Gift Shop

After a long respite, Wildhorse Ranch Rescue in August kicked off its Patio Party Benefits and Concerts at the ranch at 11811 S. Lindsay Road in Gilbert (between Elliott and Warner Roads).

Live music events featured film and television recording artist Holly Light who on Aug. 2 performed her acoustic music. On Aug. 18 local bands Arc of the Aurora and Isle of Essence performed.

WHRR is gearing up in the coming months for more live music events that will benefit the rescue. In addition it will open its gift shop at the ranch in September 2007. Please check the Web site, www.mudpony.com, for store hours and for upcoming events.

Emergency Contact Information

In an event you suspect animal cruelty, in Maricopa County, please call **The Maricopa County Animal Cruelty Hotline** at (602) 876-1681. In other counties, please check with your local Police Department.

To receive FREE 24-hour emergency care for accident animal victims, contact **Animal Emergency Services** at (602) 971-0001. Please keep these numbers handy.

Remember! All donations to Wildhorse Ranch Rescue are tax-deductible!

Letter from the Editor

This past June marked three years of being involved with Wildhorse Ranch Rescue. It's been a wonderful three years filled with many ups



and downs. But there's no place I'd rather be.

Three years ago in June my editor at the *Scottsdale Times* asked me to call Kim Meagher to write a story about her horse rescue. I had no idea what I was in for.

Having always loved horses, I was excited. I asked my husband, current board member Roger Cardillo, to join me and take the photographs for the story.

My life changed that day. Kim took us into the barn and introduced us to Chief. We heard his story of past abuse, and Roger and I began to cry. I had no idea about the plight of our majestic horses—the abuse, the neglect, the slaughter of our great American icons.

When Roger and I left to go home, I said, "I have to help these people and these horses." I never looked back.

Since that day, I tell everyone about WHRR. And legislative issues about horse slaughter in the U.S. became my mission.

Later that year, I was nominated to the board of directors. I promised to do whatever I could within my personal power to help WHRR and its mission.

More than a year ago, Roger and I also joined the feed team and learned more about horses than we ever could imagine. There's still a lifetime of knowledge to learn.

Roger and I came to WHRR as the "parents" of Lucy, our Cockapoo. Our family has grown to include Desi, a terrier/poodle rescue; Ben Bunny, our rescue rabbit; and Chip, a mustang who WHRR saved from the auction when he was roughly 2 weeks old. Roger adopted Chip for me as a surprise gift this past December. Chip is the best gift I ever received. We're in training now with Gary Woods, an amazing horse trainer.

My life has changed since being involved with Wildhorse Ranch Rescue. Even though there are weeks we struggle to pay for food for the herd or deal with a horse that has issues, or nights when I cry myself to sleep over the sadness of the homeless horse world, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else. We have an amazing volunteer team, and we'd be nowhere without them. We all are there for the same reasons—for the horses and mules. It's truly a labor of love.

Rhona Melsky
Officer, Board of Directors
and Feed Team Volunteer

M s . M i s u n d e r s t o o d

By Lyra Beke,
Feed Team Volunteer

When I started coming out to the ranch last year I met Ginger. I didn't have an instant connection with her, but this was only because I was closed off to her. I made the mistake of instantly classifying her as another "crazy Thoroughbred."

I made no progress when I tried picking out her hoofs; and as soon as she got a whiff of that hoof oil I could see the whites of her eyes. She seemed to want nothing to do with me. But as time went on I slowly began spending more time with her out of necessity.

I applied antiseptic to her countless wounds, and I would sneak her extra feed because she was so thin. I also came to realize that, like me, she loved Diamond very much. That little connection really opened my heart to Ginger. I had to find out what



Beautiful Ginger

was making her such a nervous wreck.

First I got her out of the far paddock where the alpha mare, Charlee, was turned out. This minor change had significant impact on Ginger's mood and thus her behavior.

Ginger is still low on the totem pole as far as the pecking order goes. However, in the inside paddock the alpha, Maddie, is pretty laid back. The second order of business was stall placement. We're still working on this, but it is evident that Ginger is significantly calmer if she has Diamond next to her. Lastly, I wanted to show empathy for Ginger.

Over the past few months I persistently sought Ginger's friendship, but we always seemed to butt heads. But it was simple: Ginger didn't trust me because I didn't trust her. I don't know what happened in the past to make her so defensive with humans, but as soon as I gave her my trust she did a complete 180. Her behavior changed like night and day. I have grown to love and respect her; and she is opening up to me.

How or why we forget important lessons is beyond me, but at least we have horses to remind us. Someone can "earn your trust," but it's really you that decides whether or not to give it. The more I get to know Ginger, the more I realize she's just hypersensitive and somewhat obstinate, but so am I—and my boyfriend still loves me.

Ginger Has Lifesaving Surgery

Ginger, Wildhorse Ranch Rescue's beautiful Thoroughbred, on Aug. 17, 2007, had lifesaving surgery.

Kelly Johnson, a feed team volunteer, who was on her morning shift that day, found Ginger lying down, thrashing, and pawing at the ground.

Knowing something was terribly wrong, Kelly contacted Skip DeNardo, feed team manager. The veterinarians at Arizona Equine Medical and Surgical Centre were immediately contacted. The vets, including Dr. Tresha Robinson; Skip; Kim Meagher, WHRR's founder and chair; and Maria DeNardo, event manager and feed team volunteer, all rushed to the scene.

It was determined that Ginger had extremely serious internal problems. While at the ranch, Dr. Robinson administered pain killers and sedation and tried to help clear out the blockage. Ginger was given enough meds so she temporarily could withstand the pain, as she had to be rushed to the hospital because her life was in jeopardy.

Dr. Rick Howard performed Ginger's surgery. Thankfully Ginger came through the surgery well. For a week, she was in critical condition and care. However, her full recovery will take approximately three months when she arrives back at WHRR.

The approximate cost of Ginger's surgery is \$15,000. Please help by donating online at www.mudpony.com. Your support is greatly needed and appreciated.

WHRR thanks Dr. Rick Howard, Dr. Tresha Robinson and the staff at Arizona Equine. A big thank you also goes out to Kelly Johnson, Skip, Kim and Maria.



Ginger during surgery.

It's Better to Give ...

Actor Viggo Mortensen, Renowned Authors Donate Books to WHRR

They say the art of writing is a gift. And it is and proves to be for Wildhorse Ranch.

Three well-known authors with a love for animals showed their generosity this year by donating autographed



Pomerance, her husband and 'family.'

copies of their books to WHRR. In addition, actor Viggo Mortensen donated copies of his book, "The Horse is Good."

Best-selling author Mim Eichler Rivas donated copies of her book "Beautiful Jim Key: The Lost History of the World's Smartest Horse." It is the true story about an exceptional horse named Beautiful Jim Key at the turn of the 20th century. This amazing horse could read, write, spell, do math and debate politics due to the love and training he received from his owner and trainer Dr. William Key, a self-taught veterinarian and a former slave and veteran of the Civil War. Dr. Key believed in treating all animals with humane kindness.

"I know that if Beautiful Jim Key were alive today, he would spell the word 'H-E-R-O-E-S' as a way of describing the humans and horses who are part of Wildhorse Ranch Rescue," said Rivas. "As Dr. William Key showed us by teaching Jim to spell and do math, through kindness and patience, the power of humane work can truly change the world. I am so proud to salute you," she said.

Author F Lee Sixta donated signed copies of four of his titles including "The Sedona Covenant" and "Fortune's Voyage." Sixta lives in the Phoenix area with his wife Vickie. They both love the outdoors and jog and hike together. The Sixtas also are devoted to animal causes.

Diane Pomerance, Ph.D. is a renowned author of books featuring animal-related themes. She donated signed copies of all her titles to WHRR. Titles include "Animal Companions: Your Friends, Teachers & Guides," and "Animal Companions: In Our Hearts, Our Lives & Our World."

"It is such a privilege for me to help Wildhorse Ranch Rescue Inc. in any way I can. I truly applaud the wonderful work and achievements you have and will continue to make to rescue the magnificent horses, wild mustangs and mules, etc. from neglect, suffering and abuse and to provide them with the love, care and respect they so deserve," Pomerance said.

Pomerance is a certified Grief Recovery Specialist and created the Pet Grief Counseling Program for the SPCA of Texas. She and her husband live in North Texas with their 18 rescued and adopted canine "kids."

All proceeds of the sale of any of the named books will help to feed and care for the horses and mules at WHRR. Their books are available at the Wildhorse Ranch Rescue Gift Shop or online at www.mudpony.com.



Jeff Hull of The Feedlot, with friend.

The Feed Lot Donates Senior Feed to WHRR

Wildhorse Ranch Rescue this past summer was selected by The Feedlot Warehouse Superstore, North Phoenix, to be one of its charities in a new program to help horse rescues.

The Feedlot, a local feed company, donated 35 bags of Senior Feed for WHRR's resident horses and mules. The Feedlot is kicking off a program where local feed companies help local horse rescues by making a donation of food. Senior Feed comes in 50-pound bags. The approximate value of the bags is about \$400.

Jeff Hull, owner of The Feedlot, is a very generous man who was happy to be able to help WHRR, said Jose Palacios, a feed team member at WHRR. Jose volunteered to pick up the 35 bags of senior feed and bring them back to the ranch.

Bridle & Bit, a horse publication, plans to run a story on the new program, featuring WHRR and The Feedlot, in hopes of encouraging other feed stores to help other rescues.

A big thank you to Jeff Hull at The Feedlot, Jose Palacios, and *Bridle & Bit*!

A Sad Farewell

We were very sad to learn of the passing of Dorothy Donnelley Moller. Dorothy was one of WHRR's dedicated supporters. She especially took an interest in Chief, our severely abused, blind horse. Dorothy also loved the mules. At times, she would send us information on the mules from the Grand Canyon area. She had a great heart and was truly generous to our herd at Wildhorse Ranch Rescue. Dorothy, we will miss you and your monthly letters.

*—With much admiration and respect
Kim Meagher, the staff and board at WHRR.*

Can you help?

*If you are interested in volunteering,
Contact Skip DeNardo at
feedteammgr@wildhorseranchrescue.com.*

Helping Hands ... er hoofs!

Charlie's Bar, Phoenix, Chooses WHRR as Charity

Wildhorse Ranch Rescue was chosen as a charity by Charlie's, a country and western men's bar in Phoenix. Once a month since January, typically on a Tuesday night, Charlie's holds a fundraising event for the rescue featuring the Gold Diggers' show.

All the folks at Charlie's are amazing, as they do work for numerous 501(c)(3) charities throughout the Valley, from children's and women's charities to HIV-related causes as well as WHRR. From January to date they have raised more than \$17,000 for local charities.

Maria DeNardo, event manager and feed team member at WHRR, runs the WHRR Charlie's shows,



Maria and Skip DeNardo

which include a Silent Auction and sometimes a raffle. Silent Auction items include beautiful baskets created by Maria. As an artist with an eye for detail and design, Maria takes donated items and creates amazing baskets that are similar to baskets seen at high-end retailers.

WHRR volunteers donate items or help prepare baskets

as well. Volunteers also have been successful in garnering donated items from local retailers, such as gift cards from Einstein's Bagels, items from Starbucks and Trader Joe's, and even hotel stays.

Running an event at Charlie's isn't easy. Maria and volunteers are on their toes until about 2 a.m. They are just plain busy. At night's end, it's easily time for a foot bath.

The Gold Diggers are anything but! They are a talented group who give their all to put on an amazing show. It pays off, as they are inundated with tips throughout the night. What is most incredible about them is that they give up all their tips to the charity of the night.

Charlie's and the Gold Diggers raise from \$300 a night to as much as \$2,000 a night for WHRR. To date they have helped WHRR raise more than \$7,000. Every bit that is raised is used for the feed and care of its rescue equines.

All the great folks at Charlie's deserve special attention and a serious round of applause for their huge hearts of gold. From the owners and employees to the patrons and the Gold Diggers, including Pussy LeHoot, Claudia B, Holly Woods, Ebony and Barbara Seville, Charlie's does an amazing job. WHRR is ever so grateful. And a huge thank you to Maria for all the hard work she does every month.

Soap, Suds and Lots of Water: WHRR Car Wash a Success

Wildhorse Ranch Rescue teamed up June 16, 2007 with 24-Hour Fitness in Gilbert for a Car Wash Fundraiser that brought in

a total of \$900.

Bonnie Rinta, the previous sales manager at 24-Hour Fitness, found WHRR on the Internet and wanted to help raise funds; she suggested a Car Wash Fundraiser.

Rhona Melsky, an officer on WHRR's board of directors and a feed team volunteer, was the team lead for the fundraiser. A total of 18 volunteers were on hand that day. They braved the heat and were determined to help bring in the much-needed funds for WHRR's rescue equines.

To help promote the event and show its support for WHRR, 24-Hour Fitness gave away free 30-day passes to anyone who received a car wash. Thanks to Rinta; Joe Cordes, assistant sales manager; and the entire staff at 24-Hour Fitness, along with the volunteers, the Car Wash Fundraiser was a hit.

In fact, it was such a success that 24-Hour Fitness, Gilbert will sponsor a second Car Wash Fundraiser for WHRR. Check www.mudpony.com for details.



Herd Receives TLC from Dr. Chatham, Volunteers

This past summer was trying for some of WHRR's herd.

In June feed team volunteers noticed a serious open wound on ex-racehorse Charlee's chest. Dr. Lee Chatham, DVM, came to the ranch, prescribed meds and advised WHRR on her care.

Thanks to the entire feed team for making sure Charlee received her meds and wound care, she fully recovered.

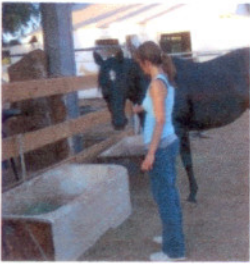
In late July, Charlee had another serious accident. Ida Meadors and Jose Palacios, of the feed team, came by the ranch and found Charlee lying down baking in the sun; her left rear leg was swollen almost three times its normal size.

Rhona Melsky, Roger Cardillo and Laura DeSantis, all of the feed team, rushed to the ranch. Dr. Chatham was called and arrived immediately. Everyone feared Charlee had a broken leg. However, X-rays proved her leg was not broken or fractured. However, the injuries were serious, and she was under strict intensive care administered by the volunteers.

Dr. Chatham in July also came to the ranch for JoJo, a retired U.S. Forest Service mule. JoJo had a serious infection on his face due to the summer heat and the overabundance of flies. Chatham came to the ranch and prescribed meds and the proper care for JoJo. Thanks to all the care JoJo receives at the ranch, his face is almost completely healed.

WHRR has an amazing volunteer feed team and wonderful veterinarians like Dr. Chatham. A big thank you to all!

Volunteer Corner *by volunteers*



Paula with Maddy

Volunteer Corner is a piece written by a WHRR volunteer.

In the following segment, a feed team member talks about her experiences at WHRR.

I have only been working at the ranch a short period of time but have truly fallen in love with these magnificent animals.

I have been trying each week to get to know Maddy better. In the beginning I could give her a quick pat and she would back off. She now lets me pet her and talk with her much longer each time I volunteer. I'm trying to earn her trust, as I have heard about her past and have a soft spot for her.

I have learned a lot in a short time about horse care. Hope, another feed team volunteer, has taught me so much.

Dunny has the funniest smile when he's scratched on his belly and he likes his hip massaged! I look forward to each Sunday knowing I will get to care for and play with these special animals. Once I turned around and Chip had his head and foot on the metal bar trying to squeeze through! He is quite the horse Houdini trying to escape!

—Paula Kelliher, Sunday night Feed Team Volunteer

WHRR Rescue Dog Finds a Home 🐾

In July Nik Stabek and Shannon Aston of WHRR rescued a cute black dog from the streets. They chased the homeless dog across five lanes of traffic until they caught him and brought him back to the ranch for safekeeping.

The young male dog had no ID and no microchip. After determining there was no owner,



Jackie and Porter

WHRR began to spread the word to find him a home.

Luckily Jackie Daidone-Haroon and Luqman Haroon, both of the WHRR feed team, took the dog to foster him.

Jackie and Luqman fell in love with "Rooney," now named "Porter," but were unable to keep him permanently. Luckily, their friend Brian also fell in love with Porter and decided to adopt him. Luqman took Porter to get his vaccinations and neutering at the Humane Society.

After Porter healed, Brian arrived with a truck filled with new toys and a huge water bottle dog bowl.

Jackie and Luqman are in contact with Brian and said that Porter is doing very well and is very happy. "He is a great dog that we were lucky to have here for the short time that we did," said Jackie. "Although I miss him, I'm really glad he got a great home with someone who will take good care of him and give him all the love that he deserves."

There's nothing like a happy ending.

From the Horse's Mouth 🐾

It's Not Easy Being Green

By Chip

Hi, my name is Chip and I'm a 3-year-old Mustang who was saved after a roundup and then sent to the auction. The nice people from Wildhorse Ranch Rescue saved me when I was only a 2-week-old foal.



I was just a baby and kind of undernourished at the time. I first was brought to Rockin 7B Ranch in North

Phoenix, which was part of WHRR at the time. I was nursed back to good health, and I lived there until last October when I was brought to WHRR in Gilbert.

When I first got to the Gilbert ranch, I'll admit I was a bit of a terror. I was real buddy-buddy with Maddy and we'd tear up the place. We'd run around and buck without a care in the world. We kind of scared some of the other horses and mules. I had never been trained or ridden. I just wanted to have fun.

The humans at WHRR thought I was a real "Dennis the Menace" and decided I needed some schooling and discipline. So they turned me out with the "girls," and that meant I would answer to Charlee. She's the lead mare in the far turnout area—a humongous Thoroughbred! She runs the whole show, and you don't want to get on her bad side! I didn't like it at first. Charlee and Diamond really put me in my place, especially when I got out of hand. It's not easy being the low horse on the totem pole.

Anyway, I am a lovable guy and don't mean anyone any harm. I'm still young and I just like to play. I do love all the volunteers at the ranch and they love me 'cause I'm cute! What I really like to do—don't tell anyone—is put my foot in the water buckets and knock them over. The feed team gets a kick out of that. I also like when they spray me with the hose. It feels so good when it's hot.

Now I'm not a WHRR horse anymore. I was adopted in December. My new mom's name is Rhona Melsky. Her husband, Roger Cardillo, adopted me as a surprise gift. When they came to the ranch on adoption day, momma had no idea and, boy, she cried like a baby! I guess my full name is Chip Melsky Cardillo. Mom and dad are on the board of directors and the feed team at WHRR. They love horses and all animals. They brought their dogs Lucy and Desi, my new adopted brother and sister, to meet me. That was fun! Desi was scared, but boy do I love Lucy. She liked me too. I have a rabbit brother named Ben, but I haven't met him yet.

Mom and dad board me at Gilbert. I'm glad because I'm with all my friends and the volunteers who just love me.

Every Thursday night, me, mom and Gary Woods have training classes. Gary is a great guy and really knows us horses. I sometimes give him a hard time, but he knows what he's doing. I'm learning, but it's really mom who needs the training. She's doing OK though. I overheard Gary say I may have a saddle on me sometime this fall. What the heck is a saddle? Can I chew on it?

**Visit Wildhorse Ranch Rescue online at
www.mudpony.com.**

**Wildhorse Ranch Rescue****A registered nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization****P.O. Box 415****Gilbert, AZ 85299**

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