



EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

P.O. Box 842 • Sonoita, Arizona 85637-0842 • (888) 364-2829

www.empireranchfoundation.org



Riding The Empire

Under the most beautiful skies Arizona has to offer, more than 100 riders, ranging in age from 9 to 84, headed out under the direction of trail boss Steve Boice to experience the beauty of the lands of the Empire Ranch and Las Cienegas National Conservation Area.

Arriving at Ranch headquarters in the early morning, the sights and sounds of horses, mules, wranglers and riders were vivid reminders of what the start of a roundup must have been like. Instead of

working cowboys, this time the riders included long time ERF supporters and more than 40 new members thrilled by this introduction to this historic site. For many, it was their first visit to the Empire Ranch.

Riders returned mid-day from the morning ride, thirsty and hungry, and filled with exuberant accolades for the memorable experience. Volunteers had lunch at the ready, and shortly afterwards, riders headed out toward the cottonwoods and Empire Gulch for the afternoon ride, while others stayed to enjoy company or listen

to tours provided by Gerald Korte, former Empire cowboy and ERF president.

Earl Kern, the most senior of the riders, noted he hoped to ride for another decade, while the youngest, Cole Carlton, said "When are you doing this again?"

Many thanks to board members Steve and Faith Boice for organizing the trail ride; to Ed Smedley, head cook; to Bandit Outfitters' Justin Show and his team of wranglers; and to a dedicated group of ERF volunteers who helped make the 2010 Trail Ride such a success.

(photos continue on p. 2)

Every Member Counts!

Thank you for your membership in the Empire Ranch Foundation! Our members' support is key to preserving and protecting the Empire Ranch we cherish today, and to ensuring that future generations can continue to enjoy this historic treasure.

We're delighted to have completed the repairs of the lintel at the south end of the Zagan; now there is unobstructed passage through the oldest sections of the Ranch House and a million dollar view! Read more on page 3.

With your help we continue to make steady progress on our preservation and

restoration goals. Working with our partner, the BLM, we're now focused on restoring and preserving the Adobe Haybarn, the structure most in need of immediate repair. A phased approach will allow us to complete sections of the restoration, as funding is available. We plan to undertake phase one this year.

Volunteer Day participation continues to grow in enthusiasm and impact. More than 6,000 hours were contributed last year, on tasks including corrals repair, adobe patching, window and door treatments, landscape and room interpretation. Please join us for a fun and rewarding experience!

Our education program, *Wild About the Grasslands!*, is in its fourth year and has enriched the lives of so many children. Perhaps your child or grandchild will participate this year—see p. 3 for the offerings.

Please renew your membership or join today! (See reply form and details on page 4.) With your help we can fulfill our mission to protect, restore, and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape as an outstanding western heritage and education center. Every member counts, and we're counting on you!

With sincere thanks,
Carla Kerekes-Martin, President

Published by the Empire Ranch Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of the Foundation is to protect, restore, and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape as an outstanding western heritage and education center. Donations to the Foundation may be sent to: P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637-0842.



[p. 1] Morning trail riders gather up; [above] Afternoon ride to the cottonwoods and Empire Gulch; [right] Trail boss Steve Boice [top], Faith Boice (l), Cook & crew (r) [center]; Lunch and talk [bottom] (photos: C. Auerbach, G. Auerbach, A. Bunting)

Art That Dazzled

The 10th Annual Empire 100 Western Art Show & Sale, sponsored by Empire Ranch Foundation and Northern Trust was a great success with over a third of the art sold! More than 400 supporters of the Empire Ranch and special Northern Trust patrons enjoyed this year's opening reception.

Many prominent artists, new to the Empire Show this year, joined the popular past participants in the dazzling exhibit.

We hope to see everyone back for next year's show. It will open for previews on January 10, 2011, with a gala, invitation-only reception on January 13. Information about next year's entries will be posted on the Foundation's website in August.

We want to give a special round of applause to Ginger Hambly, event chair, to our friends at Northern Trust, who make this event possible!

New ERF Board Members Elected

The ERF board of directors unanimously elected the following three new board members on March 27, 2010.

Dick Theibert of Tucson, retired in 1984 from a distinguished career in higher education as athletic director at Brown and Hofstra Universities, assistant to the president at William Woods College, and assistant executive director of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics. He later worked for many years with the Ford Foundation. Retirement has allowed him to return to a passion for painting; his watercolors have been featured in galleries in Kansas City, Durango and Tucson.

Peggy Theibert of Tucson holds a law degree from the University of Missouri at Kansas City. She is a member of the Missouri and Arizona State Bar Associations, and a retired member of the Nebraska State Bar Association. She served as assistant

dean of students and/or director of housing at William Woods College, Missouri; Chadron State College, Nebraska; and Fort Lewis State College, Colorado. Her career also included work in secondary education and banking. In her retirement, she enjoys traveling, reading, sewing and cooking.

Patty Wands of Sonoita worked 25 years with the National Park Service. She finished her career at Saguaro National Park in Fire Management and as the manager of the mule program, hiring packers that provided support to fire and trail crews living in the back country. She is active with the Santa Cruz County Cowbells, Elgin Community Club and the Fair and Rodeo Association. She is a long time member of the Empire Ranch Foundation. She currently works for Emergency Management Services International and has her own music promotion company.

Preservation Successes!

On February 18th the screw-jacks supports under the south lintel of the Zagan were removed after a celebratory rope cutting ceremony. Finally, this central passageway, with heavy traffic and high visibility, is free of the unsightly shoring!

The lintel is comprised of two large beams that span the south opening of the Zagan, and carry the adobe masonry wall above the opening. The repair, completed in February by SRI and subcontractor Eric Means Design, involved re-distributing the weight above the lintel by installing, out of view, a steel truss in the wall above it. Tie-rods were then inserted to support the lintel from above. The project was funded by BLM, reserving Foundation funds for the next major preservation effort at the Adobe Hay Barn.



Zagan temporary shorings go away at last! Attic wall opening up high reveals the hidden steel now supporting the wooden lintel beams. (photos: C. Auerbach)

The door to the Cowboy Kitchen, a favorite of artists and photographers, was reassembled and strengthened, then rehung. The work was needed after several instances when the stiles, rails, and panels came apart. The beautiful antique paint patina was preserved, and artfully replicated where new wood elements had to be added. The work was done by John Weiss, a local historic woodworker who has done much of the rehabilitation work at nearby Kentucky Camp.

(continued on p. 4)



Empire Gulch becomes a recreational exploration for WATG! campers. (photo: N. Steklis)

WATG! Summer Adventure Camps

This year three *Wild about the Grasslands!* (WATG!) Summer Camps will be held at Empire Ranch Headquarters during June 2-12, 2010. This highly acclaimed ecology and ranching heritage program sponsored by ERF and the BLM, is one of the nationally recognized Hands on the Land National Network of Field Classrooms. The three camps are also funded in part by a grant from Fred W. Stang Foundation.

Summer Day Camp I (June 2-4, 9:00am-3:00pm) is for children ages 9-11 years, who will discover the importance of the Cienega Creek to the Las Cienegas National Conservation Area (LCNCA), Tucson, and the Empire Ranch, including how this precious water source supports a diversity of plants and wildlife, and its significance to the people who depend on it. They'll engage in activities such as macro invertebrate study, observing wildlife, nature journaling, and ranching traditions. The early registration fee of \$108 (or \$135 after May 10th) includes campers t-shirt, embroidered cap, and journal. A 10% discount is offered for siblings.

Summer Day Camp II (June 7-11, 9:00am-4:00pm) designed especially for young teens ages 12-15 years for a fourth year. Through extended hikes and field study experiences campers discover the forces that shape the natural and cultural landscapes of the LCNCA and learn to be stewards of our public lands. They will learn about ranch life in southeastern Arizona, and use Global Positioning System (GPS) devices for science and recreation. Activities such as wildlife-tracking, adobe brick-making, birding, geocaching, letterboxing, nature journaling, and creat-

ing nature inspired art are included. The early registration fee of \$156 (or \$195 after May 10th) includes campers t-shirt, embroidered cap, and journal. A 10% discount is offered for siblings.

Summer Overnight Camp (June 11, 4:30pm - June 12, 1:00pm) is for teens ages 14-17 years, who want to experience camping at the historic Empire Ranch Headquarters. They will enjoy an evening of activities focused on Dutch oven cooking, wildlife spotting and tracking, cowboy music, and observing the night sky. The next day they will have fun exploring the desert grasslands through geocaching and letterboxing, or the use of maps, GPS, and compass to find hidden treasures. Students will practice responsible outdoor recreation as they participate in a geocaching stewardship monitoring project on the LCNCA. The early registration fee of \$76 (or \$95 after May 10th) includes campers t-shirt, dinner, breakfast, and healthy snack. A 10% discount is offered for siblings.

Enrollment is now open. Limited full or partial financial aid scholarships are available. Round trip transportation from Old Vail Middle School to Empire Ranch Headquarters is available for a fee. Carpooling may be available for other students. Call (888) 364-2829 or email admin@empireranchfoundation.org for more information. Registration and scholarship applications are available at: www.empireranchfoundation.org

SAVE THE DATE!



**Historic Empire Ranch
10th Anniversary
Roundup & Open House**

**Saturday, October 23, 2010
10am to 4pm**

- o Cowboy Arena Events
- o Western skills, lore & storytelling
- o Ranch House tours
- o Kids Corral
- o Western Author's Pavilion
- o Historic Buggies & Wagons
- o Music, Auction & Raffles
- o Expanded Western Barbecue

Public Invited!

Preservation *(cont'd from p. 3)*

John also finished the door for the partition wall that leads from the Rear Hall near the Family Kitchen to the Stone Corral. For that effort, only the two stiles and a single rail were left, so much of the work is a reconstruction. Work on the rest of the partition was undertaken by volunteer Rick Dirks, along with Ranger Ron Mitchell and Chris Schragger of the BLM. After wood elements were repaired or replaced, the glass panes were reset. The result is a much safer wall that maintains this unique feature of the Ranch House.

The same crew met on several days to complete repairs and replacement of the wood exterior of the Tack Shed. Whenever possible, original or historic materials were salvaged and re-used. New wood elements were treated to blend in with the original wood - but not to match it, as current preservation standards recommend that new materials be distinguishable from original. This work, addressing wood deterioration above the structure's foundation, has made the Tack Shed usable for storage and interpretation into the future.



Volunteer Rick Dirks and youngest trail rider Cole Carlton, in front of repaired tack shed wall. (photo: A. Bunting)

Mesquite Control

—Then and Now

"No day on this [Empire] ranch is completely lost if we kill a few mesquite." With this exhortation Frank Boice, Sr., encouraged stockmen attending the 1955 meeting of the Society of Range Management (SRM) not to wait for "miraculous" remedies for brush invasions on their ranges. Rather, he recommended that ranchers "...each year put a part of the earnings of the ranch into controlling brush", and that researchers "...get the feeling of urgency that is so clearly indicated and hurry, hurry, hurry..." to find solutions.

A leader in the cattle industry and manager and owner of the Empire Ranch (1929-1956), Frank Boice served as Arizona Cattle Growers Association president (1935-1936), and American National Livestock Association president (1942-1943). He was delighted to address the SRM on mesquite control, saying: "At home I am considered somewhat of a nut on the subject ...and I don't object in the least." He considered the mesquite invasion on the Empire Ranch a serious threat to its "continued beauty and productivity," and described a recent project to clear a 300 acre pasture by grubbing out or treating with diesel oil approximately 7,000 mesquites—over 20 plants per acre.

Fast forward 55 years, and we find the BLM engaged in a similar mesquite removal project on the LCNCA, only this one will span over 23,000 acres. Several approaches have been used since the project began in 2007; the most effective appears to be mechanical grubbing followed by herbicide application.

Working Calendar

[Location: Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829]

June

- 2-4** *Wild About the Grasslands!* 3-day Summer Camp I (for ages 9-11 years), 9am to 3pm
- 7-11** *Wild About the Grasslands!* 5-day Summer Camp II (for ages 12-15 years), 9am to 4pm
- 11-12** *Wild About the Grasslands!* Summer Overnight Camp (for ages 14-17 years), Friday 4:30pm to Saturday 1pm
- 19** Volunteer Day, 8am to Noon
Call 888-364-2829 to volunteer

July

- 17** ERF Board Meeting, 9am to Noon

August

- 21** Volunteer Day, 8am to Noon
Call 888-364-2829 to volunteer

September

- 18** ERF Board Meeting, 9am to Noon

October

- 16** Volunteer Day, 8am to Noon
Call 888-364-2829 to volunteer
- 23** *10th Annual Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House*, 10am to 4pm

—Wish List—

The Foundation is in need of the items below for program use. If you have items to donate, or know of possible community resources for them, please let us know.

Gardening tools, gently used pop-up shade and camping tents, large ice chests, 5-gallon insulated water jugs

2010/2011 Membership Reply

Yes, I want to help save the Empire Ranch for future generations!

Name: _____

(Please enter name(s) in your preferred format for acknowledgments.)

Street/P.O. Address: _____

City, State, ZIP : _____

Phone: (____) _____ Email: _____

Check enclosed Charge to: MC Visa Discover This is a new address

_____ / _____
Credit Card Number Exp.Date. Signature

This donation is also in __memory/ __appreciation of _____

This is a gift membership from: _____

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION

- \$35 Homesteader
- \$50 Total Wreck Miner
- \$100 Wrangler
- \$250 Vaquero
- \$500 Jefe
- \$1,000 Patron
- \$2,500 Majordomo
- \$5,000 Cattle Baron
- \$10,000 Territorial Governor
- \$_____ Other

Please Mail To: Empire Ranch Foundation, P.O. Box 842, Sonoita, AZ 85637

The Empire Ranch Foundation has an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit classification; donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

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