

EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

www.empireranchfoundation.org

Thanks for Your Friendship and Support

Howdy folks, as I near the completion of my three years as President of the ERF, I'm sitting under the beautiful cottonwood trees on the Heritage Discovery Trail, one of my favorite places to recollect. As I look towards the Ranch House I wonder what Walter Vail and his partners thought about the first nights they were here. They arrived in a place they didn't know, deep in the "wild West." They faced the challenges of buying, raising and selling cattle, drought years, and forging new relationships. And they endured to create one of the premier ranches in the West.

It's amazing that almost 140 years later it's still a working ranch and the historic buildings are not only standing but available to visitors. Your membership, other financial, and in kind contributions have made all the difference in helping the Empire Ranch Foundation preserve a piece of the ranching heritage.

We hope you'll respond to our enclosed request for your year-end support. Please contribute today to help us continue to preserve the Empire Ranch for generations to come. If you replied to our earlier membership appeal, your contribution now will be added to your existing membership level. If you have not yet sent a donation this year, now is the time!

One last parting thought from my spot under the cottonwoods. I am proud to have been part of the preservation of the Empire Ranch, and grateful for the friendships made.

Thank you and happy trails...
Ron Martin, ERF President



A Legacy of Western Heritage and Fun

In November 2000 the Empire Ranch Foundation hosted the first Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House. Attendance was estimated at 500, and as President Steve Boice noted, "More important than the exhibits, activities, and planned fun, however, was the wonderful spirit and heart of the community participating and enjoying their Arizona heritage—the real heart of the Empire Ranch." That spirit and heart was also evident at the 15th Roundup & Open House attended by almost 1,500 visitors on November 7th.

The fast-paced arena events included cattle handling and horsemanship demonstrations by Joel Eliot and Co., the Tombstone Ghost Riders cowboy mounted shooting exhibition, and precision military riding by B Troop, 4th U.S. Cavalry (Mem.). Performers on the Main Stage included storyteller Glenda Bonin who told tales of Dusty Vail's childhood on the Empire Ranch, and musical entertainers Way Out West, Janice Deardorff, the Cadillac Mountain Bluegrass Band, and the Sonoran Dogs.

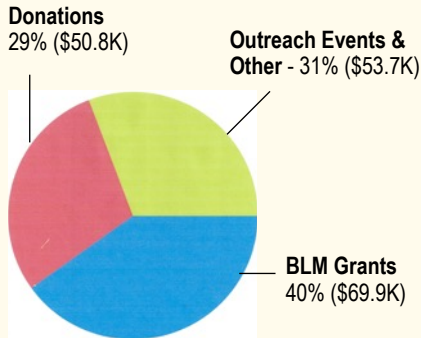
The ever popular Cowboy Conversations featured presentations on movie making from Don Collier, Rodd Wolff, Marty Freese, and Bunker de France; Doc Holliday by Van Fowers; and tales about lawman Jeff Milton and guns of the old West by John Larkin. Conversations on Empire Ranch history included stories of Walter Vail told by Van Fowers; Vail family vignettes by Susan Vail Hoffman; the Gardner/López connection to the Empire Ranch by Edward Gardner;

(continued on p. 3)

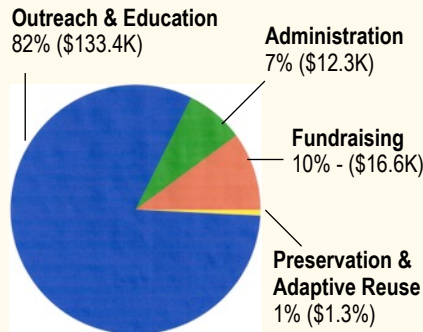
Published by the Empire Ranch Foundation, a not-for-profit organization, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management. The purpose of the Foundation is to protect, restore, and sustain the Empire Ranch historical buildings and landscape as an outstanding western heritage and education center. Donations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

Empire Ranch Foundation Financial Summary: July 2014 through June 2015

Income by Source of Funds: \$174,417



Expenditures, by Use of Funds: \$163,569



Income during FY14 totaled \$174,417—40% from BLM grants, 31% from outreach events and other sources, and 29% from member donations. Expenditures during FY14 totaled \$163,569—82% for outreach and education programs; 10% for fundraising; 7% for general administration; and 1% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects.

Not reflected in these figures is \$225,000 expended directly by the Bureau of Land Management for the seismic strengthening of the Adobe Haybarn, and the more than 6,525 hours of labor contributed by ERF volunteers, valued by BLM at \$150,532 for grant matching purposes.

End-of-year assets totaled \$196.6K, comprising \$74.8K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$25K in the Vail endowment and \$5.4K in other ERF restricted funds; \$42.7K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation, education, and interpretation; and \$48.7K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.

New Roof for Feed Barn



Feed Barn after 2013 storm (upper), and as it looked in 2007 when used for Roundup movie house (lower). (photos: BLM & C. Auerbach)

Soon after the dust settles from the 2015 Roundup, repairs to the Feed Barn/Mechanic's Shop will begin. Forceful winds tore off much of the original roof in 2013, and the remaining splintered rafters and loose sheets of metal and the north gable were removed for safety reasons. Nearly all of the corrugated metal roofing was salvaged for re-use.

This building served as an equipment repair facility and as storage for salt, bone meal, rolled barley for the horses in winter, cottonseed cake for weaned calves, and the stake truck. It has rolling wooden doors on the north and east sides, with frame walls sided in corrugated metal on the exterior, and twelve-inch horizontal planking on the interior, supported by a formed concrete foundation with 2-foot stem walls.

The planned repairs and reconstruction include hidden reinforcements to improve structural stability of roof and walls overall and provide adequate strength to support the large rolling door.

The replacement of the Feed Barn roof has been a long time coming. It has taken considerable coordination for the ERF and BLM to come up with funding, design and engineering specs, and a contractor with experience in working on historic ranch structures, to complete the rehabilitation. But by 2016 visitors to the Empire Ranch will see a structurally sound, functional building that retains its historic look and feel – thanks to everyone who donated time, effort, or funding to this project!

Welcome Melissa

Melissa Warren started as the new Field Manager for the Bureau of Land Management's Tucson Field Office on October 19th. She assumes the leadership role for stewardship of over 600,000 acres of public land throughout Southern Arizona, including Las Cienegas National Conservation Area and Empire Ranch.

Melissa is a longtime Arizonan who brings an extensive background in lands and realty. She began her career with the BLM in 2002, with positions in the Safford Field Office and Arizona State Office in Phoenix. She was the supervisory Land Law Examiner for the BLM's Idaho State Office in Boise (2013-2015), and served as acting Tucson Field Manager during the summer of 2015.

In addition to her regular duties, Melissa also has been a BLM instructor for lands and realty issues for the past nine years.

Coming back to the Southwest is very exciting for me," said Warren, "and I look forward to working with our outstanding partners to make positive things happen for public lands in Arizona."

Empire 100

In 2016 our new event, *From 1880s to Steampunk* (see announcement p. 3), is substituting for the 2016 *Empire 100 Western Art Show and Sale*. We are taking this year to retool a wonderful event to make it even better. So don't be discouraged, we will be working on bringing the *Empire 100* back in 2017.

Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received
In Memory of:

John Paul Andree • Les Armour
Jimmie Beville • Mary Vail Boland
Earl F. Glenn, Jr. • Noble F. Higgerson
Dusty Vail Ingram • Patti Kelly
Ferne Kemp Lewis • Joseph LoBrillo
Olive Petunia

Ed & Mary (Brownie) Vail
Edward Newhall Vail
Sandy & Virginia Wilkinson

In Honor of:

Jim Kelly • Carla Kerekes Martin
Ronald D. Martin • Bill Schock

Roundup (cont'd from p. 1)

a review of how the Boices came to the Empire from Steve Boice; and cowboy life experiences during the 1940s by Gerald Korte.

Western Skills experts included Ben Claridge (leather carving), Carolyn Dummer (Dutch oven cooking), John Larkin (guns of the Old West), Kevin Berry (saddlemaking), Old Pueblo Gunfighters (quick draw), Bill Schock (branding), Dick Schorr (reata making), Chris Schrager (adobe brick making), and Louis David Valenzuela (wood carving). Everyone enjoyed the ranch livestock displays of the Horse'n Around Rescue Ranch, Jabez Horsemanship, Therapeutic Ranch Animals for Kids, the S&N Ranch miniature horses, and activities in the Kid's Corral, staffed by the Mustang, Rafael and Rattlesnake 4-H clubs.

Hungry visitors enjoyed the Brush-fire BBQ served by the Elgin Sonoita Cowbelles, Arbuckles' cowboy coffee, and other treats. The Mega Basket Raffle area was a beehive of activity with folks trying to decide which basket to bid on. ERF's non-profit partners and seven Western authors were kept busy all day answering questions.

We are so grateful for the contributions of our volunteers and presenters who make this annual event possible, for the support of the BLM, and for the financial support of the Roundup sponsors, underwriters, and raffle donors.

Roundup Sponsors & Raffle Donors

Jéfe Sponsors (\$500+): Anonymous • Arbuckles' Coffee Roasters • Arizona Inn • Steve & Patricia Hazen • Susan Vail Hoffman • Roberts & Associates, PLC • Schouten & Sullivan, CPAs • Tucson Rodeo Parade Museum • Westin La Paloma Resort

Vaquero Sponsors (\$250-\$499): Best Finishing • Dillard's Department Store • Family of Dusty Vail Ingram • Jack Furrier Western Tire & Auto • Red Door Spa at the Westin La Paloma • Santa Cruz County Fair & Rodeo Association • Leonor Schorr • SIMG—David Steele • Sonoita Inn and Steak Out Restaurant • Stewart Title & Trust • Tanque Verde Guest Ranch • The Last Stand Guest Ranch • The Sonoran Dogs • Tucson Guns and Western Artifacts

Wrangler Sponsors (\$100-\$249): 1st American/Century 21 • Agustin Kitchen • Marianne Blake • Briar Patch Marketplace • Buffalo Gals of Sonoita, Anthony Carden • Del Bac Whiskey/Hamilton Distillers • Dickman's Meat and Deli • Mac Donaldson • Flemings Restaurant • Hilton East • Keif-Joshua Vineyards • Latigo Leatherwork • Anne Lawrence • Longhorn Steakhouse • McGraw's Cantina • Old Chicago Pizza • Old Tucson • Jeanne Peterson • Proper Tucson • Seis Restaurant • Sonoran Glass School • The Shooting Bunch – McGraws • Tri-Fam • Joanne Triplett • Tucson Trap and Skeet Club • Westward Look Resort

Friends (\$99 and under): Agro Land & Cattle Company • Arizona Hops and Vines • Alison Bunting • Dave's Custom Upholstery • Bunker de France • Hi Falutin Restaurant • Marge Pape • Pima County Southeast Clay Target Center • Poco and Mom's • Pueblo Vida Brewery • Doug Pyne • Serendipity Hair Salon • Sonoita Vineyards • The Café • The Loft Cinema • The Vineyard Café • Wildflower FRC



Engaging arena events, educational exhibits and presentations, kids activities, and music galore blended to make a uniquely memorable Roundup day.
Photos: K. Pye and S. Reichardt.

Coming on January 30!



From 1880s to Steampunk*

In August 1876, Walter Vail and Herbert Hislop purchased a 160-acre homestead that became the heart of the

Empire Ranch. Plans are afoot for a yearlong celebration of the 140th Anniversary of the Empire Ranch in 2016.

We are kicking-off the celebration with a new event:

"From 1880s to Steampunk"

January 30, 2016

Savoy Opera House

Trail Dust Town in Tucson.

Save the date for a traditional saloon party complete with Old West gambling tables, music and dancing girls, a Whiskey tasting, and authentic saloon fare. Doc Holliday will be on hand for a "historical" game of poker or Faro. Plus we will have a contest for the best Cowboy, Victorian, and Steampunk outfits.

We look forward to reconnecting with our current and past members and attracting new members that may not know about the Empire Ranch through the 1880s to Steampunk event. The night will be full of surprises and, we expect, a few rowdy moments, all for a great cause—to help preserve and restore the historic Empire Ranch and pass on all the varied history and culture of the ranching industry to future generations.

Generous sponsorship packages, including company logo on gambling chips, event program and stage — and year-round promotion at all Empire Ranch Foundation events for the 140th Anniversary are available. Please contact Bobbie Young at admin@empireranchfoundation.org or a Board member for details.

More information about the event is available on the Empire Ranch website. Tickets go on sale December 1, 2015. See ya in Tucson on January 30, 2016 pardner!

**"Steampunk" is a popular form of science fiction that combines Victorian-era western fashions and ideals with the futuristic steam-powered gadgets of the time. A good example of Steampunk is the Wild Wild West movie and TV series.*

Working Calendar

Location: Meet at Visitor Contact Station, Empire Ranch Headquarters, unless otherwise noted. To volunteer, or for more information, call (888) 364-2829.

December 2015

- 12** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.*

January 2016

- 9, 23** *Docent-Led Tours of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.*
- 16** *ERF Board Meeting, 9 am to noon. All welcome!*

January 2016 (cont'd)

- 30** *From 1880s to Steampunk!* Come join us at the Savoy Opera House for a rousing evening of old fashioned casino games, whiskey tasting cowboys, and more! See article p. 3, and watch for your invitation.

February

- 13-27** *Docent-Led Tours of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.*
- 20** *Volunteer Work Day, 8am-noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829.*

March

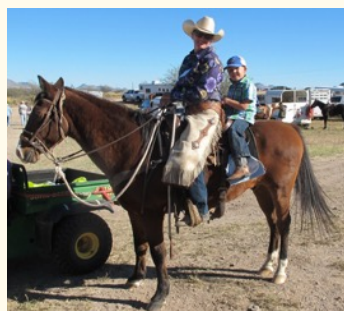
- 12, 26** *Docent-Led Tours of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.*

March (cont'd)

- 12** *"Run the Empire" 6am. 10K and 5K Run on the beautiful Empire Ranch. More information to come!*
- 19** *ERF Board Meeting, 9 am to noon. All welcome!*

April

- 9, 23** *Docent-Led Tours of the Empire Ranch House, 11am-12pm, free, open to all, no reservations req.*
- 16** *Volunteer Work Day, 8am-noon. All welcome! RSVP 888-364-2829.*



2015 Empire Ranch Roundup & Open House

