

# EMPIRE RANCH FOUNDATION NEWS

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

[www.empireranchfoundation.org](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org)

## We're Almost There

Wow! What a great year we had and what a great group of members, donors and volunteers we get to work with! A BIG THANK YOU to all who donated to our "Shut the Barn Door" Appeal, which will put the sliding barn door back on the Adobe Haybarn.



(photo: S. Reichardt)

To date we have \$2,745 toward a goal of \$4,000—and it's not too late! You can still become part of history with your donation! If you would like to donate, place your check in the enclosed envelope with "Shut The Barn Door" written in the memo section of your check or the dedication section of the envelope. We will make sure your name gets on the donor fence! The door has leaned against the barn long enough—let's help put it back on!

Thank you for supporting one of the most beautiful places on earth!

Faith Boice  
ERF President



## Christmas Snow Blankets the Empire Ranch



A very special present arrived on Christmas Day—about six inches of snow! The Empire Ranch is at an elevation of 5,000 feet, so it snows a few times each year. This snowfall was magical because it fell on December 25th and lasted throughout the day. ERF's intrepid volunteer photographer and board member, Sally Reichardt, ven-

tured out early to take photographs before any footprints marred the pristine beauty. Many thanks also to her husband Bryce who cleared the snow from their driveway and car and drove Sally to the ranch.

*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.*

## Meet the 2017 ERF Leaders



*ERF Board convened for orientation meeting in January (photo: S. Reichardt)*

The following officers and members of the Board of Directors were elected at the November 19, 2016, board meeting.

•**Faith Boice** of Vail was elected to a second term as President. Faith is the owner of Boice Bookkeeping, LLC, and the great granddaughter of Frank and Mary Boice who managed and owned the Empire Ranch from 1929-1969.

•**Peggy Theibert** of Tucson was elected to a second term as Vice President, and to a third term on the Board of Directors. A retired attorney, Peggy is especially interested in ERF's education and history and archives programs.

•**Kimberly Patterson** of St. David was elected to a second term as Secretary. She has an online education program focusing on developing training programs for the hospitality and tourism industries. She is also an ERF docent and loves to share the important history of the Empire Ranch.

•**Gene Raymond** of Elgin was elected to a fourth term as Treasurer and to a second term on the Board. Gene is a retired U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel who held supervisory and engineering military and private sector positions. He has extensive expertise in managing the finances of non-profit organizations.

We are pleased to welcome six new Board members:

•**Harry Alexander** of Tucson wants to bring his passion for history to the ERF Board and to help "get the word out" about the Empire Ranch. He has worked for United Press International, for numerous radio stations in Tucson, and around the country as news director. Harry has helped promote ERF events and has served as an emcee for the Cowboy Conversations at the Roundup.

•**Carol Boice Barleycorn** of Tucson grew up on the Empire Ranch from 1951 to 1976. She is the daughter of

"Pancho" and Sherry Boice. She has 30 years of bookkeeping and retail experience and currently works for Intuit. She's an avid photographer and loves camping, hiking, and the great outdoors. She was a member of the original ERF Board in 1997 and is looking forward to serving again.

•**Beth Borozan** of Tucson has extensive experience in communications and public relations in Arizona and California. A native Tucsonan, she attended the University of Arizona and Northern Arizona University and is currently Chief of Staff to Steve Christy, District 4 Pima County Supervisor.

•**Jim Cosbey** of Sonoita has forty years of experience in the financial industry and has served on many non-profit boards in the education and community development arenas. His current involvements include the Patagonia Union High School; Santa Cruz County Fair and Rodeo Association (SCCFRA) and its Foundation; and the Sonoita Horse Races Committee.

•**Dave McNamara** of Elgin recently moved from Wisconsin after a 30 plus year career at MGIC Investment Corporation. Dave is a member of the Ambassador Team that cleans the Ranch House between volunteer work days, is an ERF docent, and readily volunteers for events at the Empire Ranch.

•**Therese Perreault** of Tucson is a community artist working in photography, digital storytelling and career development for artists. She is especially interested in the ERF docent program, and using words, images, and arts to tell the Empire Ranch story.

David Yubeta was elected to a third term on the Board. Steve Boice, Bunker deFrance, Sally Reichardt, Kathie Schindel, Bill Schock, and Tim Vail, will be continuing on the Board.

We are very grateful for the outstanding contributions of our outgoing board members. Emil Franzi served on the Board (2007-16), established and chaired the *Western Movies at the Loft* series, and publicized ERF events through his Voices of the West radio show. Carla Kerekes Martin served on the Board (2007-16), as Treasurer, Vice President, and President. Ron Martin served on the Board (2006-16), as Second Vice President and President. Antony Sedgwick served on the Board (2014-16). Carla, Emil and Ron will join the ERF Advisory Committee.



## Time to Saddle Up!

**Saturday, April 1, 2017**

### Annual Spring Trail Ride at the Historic Empire Ranch.

Ride through the spectacular scenery of Las Cienegas NCA. Unplug from today and ride into yesterday. Riders of all levels, ages 8 years and up, will enjoy this special day of riding, exploring and meeting new people! There are two rides to choose from—a morning ride beginning at 9am, or an afternoon ride starting at 2pm. If you are brave, choose both! Trail bosses Faith & Steve Boice, will be guiding you across the beautiful grasslands of what once was their home.

Enjoy riding, a cowboy lunch, Western music, tours of the ranch house and the Heritage Trail, storytellers, raffles for prizes, group and individual photographs and more. Member's fee is \$100 for horse rental and lunch, or \$30 if you bring your own horse. Non-member's fee is \$150 for horse rental and lunch, and includes an ERF membership! Don't want to ride? Come have lunch and enjoy the activities for \$20 per person. Deadline to register is March 24, 2017. A registration form is in the newsletter. You can learn more at [www.empireranchfoundation.org/events](http://www.empireranchfoundation.org/events) or email [admin@empireranchfoundation.org](mailto:admin@empireranchfoundation.org)

## Gifts in Remembrance

The Empire Ranch Foundation gratefully acknowledges gifts recently received

### *In Memory of:*

John Paul Andree, Les Armour,  
Fred Baker, Bob & Mary Bowman,  
Freida Dansberger, Eugene Dembowski,  
Snuff Garrett, Bessie Nix George,  
Earl F. Glen, Jr., Marion Hyland,  
Carey Ingram, Dusty Vail Ingram,  
Rockwell E. Jackson, Patti Kelly,  
Joseph Loblillo,  
Sandy & Virginia Wilkinson,  
Jane Woods

### *In Honor of:*

Margaret King Atkerson, Emil Franzi,  
Susan Vail Hoffman, Jim Kelly



## Preservation Efforts in 2017

The Empire Ranch will be taking on a new look for 2017, and it will be accompanied by several changes in the approach to preservation efforts. The biggest difference will be the long-awaited stabilization work on the historic Ranch House. This effort will require the building to be closed to the public and fenced off for most of the year, probably in late February or March. Prior to that, arrangements will be made for removal and storage of interpretive signs and materials, as well as assorted equipment and furnishings.

The contractor (SRI, Inc. of Tucson) is currently developing the design for the stabilization work. The process during this phase includes review by BLM, and consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office. While the design is being revised and approved, preliminary work includes production of adobe bricks, using material from a previous quarry site.

While the Ranch House is unavailable, preservation efforts will focus on other structures at the Ranch headquarters. These will include ongoing repairs to corrals, gates, and fences, including the Covered Feed Trough; rehab and interpretation of the Mechanic/Blacksmith Shop at the south end of the South Barn; repair of the floor in the room at the north end of the South Barn; and exposure of the floor surface of the Adobe Haybarn, followed by leveling the surface so that it can be covered and used for future events. If the Foundation can raise the necessary funds, ERF may be able to contract for re-hanging the rolling door on the south side of the Adobe Haybarn.

Planned improvements to the Visitor Contact Station/Huachuca House include reconstruction of the front porch to make it safe and ADA accessible, and installation of a "split-duct" HVAC system. In order to safely complete the work, it is likely that the facility may be unavailable for 2-3 weeks during improvements.

Finally, rehabilitation of the Grove House is expected to get underway. The first step will be Hazmat mitigation, sometime this spring. Once that is complete, BLM will undertake structural repairs and design rehabilitation of the interior for adaptation to an Interpretive Center for Environmental Education.

## Cowboy Christmas at the Empire Ranch

Over 100 old and new friends came out to the Empire Ranch on December 10, 2016, to enjoy Cowboy Christmas at the Empire Ranch. Volunteers decorated the Victorian Addition of the Ranch House from top to bottom and the results were spectacular. Visitors enjoyed docent-led tours and stories from Bunker de France (Western movies and cowboy poetry) and Gerald Korte (his experiences as an Empire Ranch cowboy). Santa's helper (Marty Maynard) posed in many group pictures, especially with a troop of visiting Boy Scouts. Business was brisk in the ERF Gift Shop. Everyone enjoyed the hot chocolate, coffee, and homemade cookies baked by ERF volunteers. It was a fun and festive day, the perfect start to the holiday season.



*Cowboy Christmas visitors freely toured, visited, and munched. (photos: S. Reichardt)*

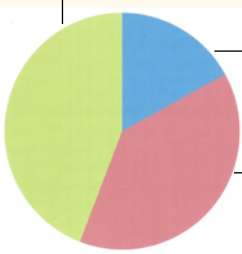
### Empire Ranch Foundation Financial Summary: January through December 2016

#### Income by Source of Funds: \$117,603

Outreach Events &  
Other - 44% (\$51.9K)

BLM Grants  
17% (\$20K)

Donations  
39% (\$45.7K)



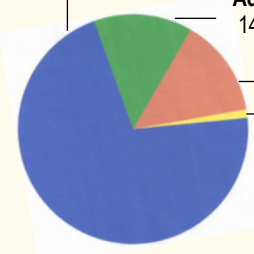
#### Expenditures, by Use of Funds: \$130,570

Outreach & Education  
71% (\$92.8K)

Administration  
14% (\$18.1K)

Fundraising  
14% (\$18.1K)

Preservation &  
Adaptive Reuse  
1% (\$1.6K)



Income during FY16 totaled \$117,603—44% from outreach events and other sources, 39% from member donations, and 17% from BLM grants. Expenditures during FY16 totaled \$130,570—71% for outreach and education programs; 14% for fundraising; 14% for general administration; and 1% for preservation and adaptive reuse projects.

Not reflected in these figures is the more than 6,100 hours of labor contributed by ERF volunteers, valued by BLM at \$140,773 for grant matching purposes.

End-of-year assets totaled \$150K, comprising \$58.5K in BLM grant funds (fully obligated); \$25K in the Vail endowment and \$6.1K in other ERF restricted funds; \$25.9K in ERF unrestricted funds obligated for preservation, education, and interpretation; and \$34.5K in ERF unrestricted unobligated funds.

## Working Calendar

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

### March 2017

**11&25** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.

**18** *ERF Board Meeting*, 9 am to noon. All welcome!

**24** *Spring Trail Ride* registration closes.

### April 2017

**1** *Spring Trail Ride*, 9am-4pm. Ride through the rolling hills and spectacular scenery of Las Cienegas NCA

**8&22** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.

**15** *Volunteer Work Day*, 8am-2pm. To-volunteer call 888-364-2829 or visit [empireranchfoundation.org/involved](http://empireranchfoundation.org/involved)

### May 2017

**13&27** *Docent-Led Tour of the Empire Ranch*, 11am-12pm. Free, open to all, no reservations req.

**20** *ERF Board Meeting*, 9 am to noon. All welcome!



*Adobe Haybarn interior (above) and north view of South Barn and windmill (below) . (photos: S. Reichardt)*

## 2017 Opportunities and Challenges

The stabilization of the historic Empire Ranch House (see article p. 3) will see the accomplishment of a long-held goal of ERF and BLM. The project also creates challenges for all when a construction fence precludes access to the most visited and cherished building at Empire Ranch Headquarters.

Challenges create opportunities, and the Foundation is responding by focusing on the other historic structures at the Headquarters. A new docent tour features visits to the Adobe Haybarn and the South Barn, with stops to learn about the covered feed troughs, the Tack Room, the gas pump and more. The structure and rooms of the Ranch House will be described from the exterior, and a slide show available in the Visitor Contact Station will illustrate what the rooms looked like as of December 2016.

Plan to come out and learn something new about the Empire Ranch!